

New leader settles into role at Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

An experienced leader will serve as the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce.

Amber Rankine started in her new position in Windham earlier this week and she succeeds Robin Mullins in leadership role of the chamber.

“With a robust background in regional economic development, she previously served as the Executive Director at the Greater Fort Kent Area Regional Chamber of Commerce,” said Jonathan Priest, chair of the SLRCC Board of Directors. “Amber brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community growth.”

Priest said that Rankine is eager to build new relationships in the community and is hoping to make a positive difference locally through her work with the chamber.

“She is eager to collaborate with local businesses and stakeholders to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in the Sebago Lakes Region,” he said. “Please stop in at the chamber and introduce yourself to her at any time.”

As President and CEO of the chamber, Rankine will work in collaboration with the SLRCC’s Board of Directors and will be responsible for all facets of the organization’s performance. Her primary objectives include implementing strategic initiatives to promote the economic prosperity of the Sebago Lakes Region through promoting, marketing, and advocating for the interests of the membership, developing a strong membership base, and supervising all Chamber of Commerce staff.

“Sebago Lakes Region has always been my happy place,” Rankine said. “From the time I could walk we gathered here every summer as a family to visit a camp on Watchic Lake. Since then, most of my im-



Amber Rankine is the new President and CEO of the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce. She formerly led the Greater Fort Kent Area Regional Chamber of Commerce as Executive Director. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

mediate family has all migrated to the area and my family has had a desire to live and thrive in the area alongside

of them.”

Rankine said that her goal in this new role will be to become a positive support for business and community engagement and to bring to the two together collaboratively.

“In order to do this job well it is imperative to have a good knowledge of the businesses and the community as a whole, so I have a lot of learning to do to get to that point,” she said. “I most look forward to the growth and learning this opportunity will afford me as well as the unique offerings I can bring to it.”

She was born and raised in Eagle Lake, Maine and attended the University of Maine at Fort Kent where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management.

Married and the mother of three children, Rankine said her family is so excited about this transition to living in the Lakes Region.

“My husband has always been a super supportive man and has been able to thrive in any location he desires,” she said. “My children are ready and excited about the amazing opportunities a place like the Sebago Lakes Region can afford them.”

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Raymond Story Walk connects books with nature

By Kendra Raymond
STAFF WRITER

What do you get when three dynamic community organizations join forces? The answer is something remarkable and in this case it’s the brand new and much-anticipated Story Walk located at Tassel Top Park in Raymond.

Generously funded with a donation from the Friends of the Raymond Village Library, the project was developed in conjunction with Raymond Parks and Recreation, Tassel Top Park, and Raymond Village Library. Each group recently posted the big announcement on their social media pages: “Raymond Story Walk is complete!”

Raymond Village Library Director Richard Dowe said he is excited about the opportunity and explains how the project developed.

“The collaboration came about through a shared interest in creating more family-friendly, educational opportunities in the community. It was a joint effort between the Friends of the Raymond Village Library, the Raymond Village Library, the Parks and Recreation department and the crew at Tassel Top Park,” he said. “The idea was sparked by the library’s ongoing mission to promote literacy and community engagement, and Tassel Top Park provided the perfect location to



The new Raymond Story Walk at Tassel Top Park is a collaborative project between the Friends of the Raymond Village Library, Raymond Parks and Recreation, Tassel Top Park, and the Raymond Village Library. A total of 16 stations have been placed along a park trail to relate a story which will be changed every few months. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

blend nature with reading.”

Town of Raymond Parks and Recreation Director Joseph Crocker said he thinks that the collaboration is a great idea and wants to spread the word to local families about this new opportunity.

Deb Hutchinson of the Friends of the Raymond Village Library said she is pleased to announce the news saying, “This is an exciting accomplishment for the town of Raymond!”

Dowe mirrored that sentiment, noting the tight-knit sense of com-

munity it supports.

“The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive!” he said. “The story walk was funded by the Friends of the Raymond Village Library and has been a long time coming! We are excited to offer this activity for everyone who lives in and visits Raymond. Special thanks to Karen Alden, Barry Alden, and Cole Heanssler of Tassel Top Park who set up the Story Walk.”

With all this hype, you may be asking, “So exactly what is a story walk?” Dowe explains it best.

“A story walk is an outdoor reading experience where pages of a children’s book are displayed along a designated path,” he said. “Families or groups can walk through the trail, reading the story page by page while enjoying nature. It combines literacy, physical activity, and family engagement, promoting both reading and outdoor exploration.”

Families, nature, and reading – that could just be the perfect combination. Coincidentally the current book for the Story Walk gives a nod to the unique connection with nature.

Dowe said that the library team chose the book and will continue to rotate titles from time to time.

“Currently, the book is ‘Over and Under the Snow’ by Kate Messner and illustrated by Christopher Silas Neal. This book was selected because of its appeal to children and its ability to engage readers with an outdoor theme,” said Dowe, “It’s an endearing story about a daughter and father cross country skiing and has facts about the different animals they spot along the way. The book will change periodically, hopefully twice a year, to keep the experience fresh and

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INSIGHT

What's in a name?

The process of creating a nickname for professional athletes has always fascinated me.

Some are derived from physical characteristics such as football's William "The Refrigerator" Perry, so named for his size or Ed "Too Tall" Jones for being an overly large 6-foot-9 defensive end. Then there's baseball's Walt "No Neck" Williams stemming from a typhus injection he received as a baby that left him with an overtly short neck, Mark "The Bird" Fidrych for his resemblance to the Sesame Street character Big Bird, or Rusty "Le Grande Orange" Staub, who was so dubbed by French-speaking fans of the old Montreal Expos who admired his flaming red hair.

Basketball has Dennis "The Worm" Rodman who earned the name for the way he wriggled around when playing pinball, Larry "The Hick from French Lick" Bird, who grew up in French Lick, Indiana, and David "The Admiral" Robinson whose nickname pays homage to the time he served in the U.S. Navy. But my all-time favorite nickname for an athlete is for a minor league baseball player you might not have heard of. Billy "Old Hardrock" Scripture had that nickname hung on him supposedly for his penchant for munching on rocks with his strong teeth. It wasn't true, he preferred chewing the horsehide off baseballs.

Earl Wayne "Billy" Scripture had been a star high school quarterback, wrestler, and baseball outfielder at Princess Anne High School in Virginia and earned a baseball scholarship to play at the college level for Wake Forest University. He led his team to consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference titles and was honored as a NCAA All-American before being drafted by the Baltimore Orioles to play professionally.

Working his way up to the Orioles' top farm team, the Rochester Red Wings in 1968, Scripture was admired for his on-field hustle and never-say-die attitude. He personified toughness, refusing to acknowledge pain when hit by a pitch in his jaw. According to Scripture, his practice of chewing on baseballs began as a nervous habit while sitting in the dugout at the old Silver Stadium in Rochester and watching his friend and teammate, Merv Rettenmund, batting during games.

Instead of chewing bubble gum, tobacco or sunflower seeds, Scripture would use his teeth to loosen up the heavily stitched seams and then proceed to rip the cover off baseballs. It was a unique talent that drew the scorn of dentists but bonded him forever with teammates and fans.

His ascent to the major leagues stalled because of Scripture's inability to hit a curveball and by 1972, his playing days were at an end without ever reaching the majors. He was offered a minor league managing position by the Kansas City Royals and skippered teams in the Midwest League, the Gulf Coast League and the Southern League. In 1978, Scripture managed a minor league team for the Pittsburgh Pirates in the Western Carolina League, and he returned as a manager one last time in 1984 to guide the Nashua Pirates in the Eastern League.

Among the players he managed who reached the majors are outfielder Bobby Bonilla, pitcher Dave Dravecky and infielder Ron Washington, who currently serves as the manager of the Los Angeles Angels.

To impress young ballplayers with his toughness, he once climbed a light tower to do chin-ups, or he would let the pitching machine bounce fastballs off his chest. But nothing compared to Scripture demonstrating for sportswriters while managing the Jacksonville Suns in 1975 how to chew the cover off a Spaulding baseball. He explained that his frustration intensified as a manager, and he would chew baseballs to alleviate gametime stress.

"Only lost one molar so far, and that's a whole lot less expensive than an ulcer operation," Scripture told reporters. The trainer for the Royals, Mickey Cobb, said that Scripture was oblivious to pain and before a spring training game, he noticed Scripture had 19 blisters on one hand from hitting fly balls for outfielders. Cobb said Scripture walked into the dugout and poured rubbing alcohol over the blisters and refused any Band-Aids for them. Later that same day, he saw Scripture having other coaches hit fly balls to the outfield so he could demonstrate to players the best way to run head-on into a chain-link fence.

After leaving baseball, Scripture spent a lot of time training labrador retriever dogs. He was a duck hunting guide and would compete in trap shooting competitions. He became so proficient at it that he became a director of trap and skeet shooting clubs in Indiana, Nevada, Texas, and Florida.

In 1968, I remember going to a Rochester Red Wings game against the Toledo Mud Hens and when the game ended, a few players stood by the dugout signing autographs for fans. I approached Billy Scripture and asked him if he would sign my program for the game.

"Why would you want a silly autograph when you can have something of mine even better," he asked me.

Giving him a puzzled look, Scripture handed me a tiny knawed-on piece of a baseball. It sat for a week on my bedroom dresser before my mother tossed it in the garbage as if it were trash.

Who knows what it might be worth today? < ~ Ed Pierce

Today in HISTORY



OCTOBER 4

1535 – The first complete English translation of the Bible is printed in Switzerland.

1582 – The Gregorian calendar is introduced, replacing the Julian calendar and is eventually adopted by most countries over the following centuries.

1648 – An all-volunteer fire department is established in New York City by Peter Stuyvesant.

1881 – Edward Leveaux of England receives a U.S. patent for the player piano.

1895 – The inaugural U.S. Open golf tournament is held in Newport, Rhode Island.

1927 – Carving work begins on Mount Rushmore in South Dakota.

1957 – The Soviet Union launches the first man-made satellite, Sputnik I, into orbit around the Earth.

1994 – South African President Nelson Mandela is welcomed to the White House in Washington, D.C. by U.S.

ON THE SPOT

If money wasn't an issue, what would you add to your home?

"In ground pool."
– Cheryl Freese

"Garage and pool."
– Shannon Bowen

"Windows and counter tops replaced."
– Megan Angela

"Flooring."
– Suzanne Gallagher Ferrari

"Pool and hot tub."
– Laura Burrill Fletcher

"Whole house generator."
– Mon Kee

"We are seniors. Retired. Husband is recovering from a stroke, oh how we could use a garage!"
– Chris Brigham

"A full-size bed, mattress and box spring, quilt and sheets."
– Mari Marden

"A sprinkler on the roofline at the back side of the house instead of a gutter. It would 'spray' the mold removal stuff, and then spray it all off from the top down!"
– Denise Buhelt Dyer

"A garage with a new SUV in it."
– Norma Eckman Farides

"Screened in front deck and more windows."
– Sabrina Golebiewski

"Indoor plumbing."
– David Warchol

"Screened in porch."
– Ernesta Stevens Kennedy

"Garage with a studio apartment above it."
– Courtney Tardiff

"Redo the siding."
– Connie McInnis Polomski

"A garage."
– Rob Juergens

"A pool."
– Ruthie Jackson

"A carwash that you drive through every time you enter the driveway."
– Rhonda Fenderson

"Front deck and new door."
– Amy Currier

"A heated driveway!!"
– Brian McCarthy

"New tile floors."
– Wendy Oliver Libby



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Hundreds turn out for fun with history at the Windham Historical Society's Harvest Festival on the Village Green

► **By Walter Lunt**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

It was mostly sunny and the temperature hovered on both sides of 70 degrees – one of those perfect fall days that greeted between 400 and 500 attendees at the Windham Historical Society's 2nd annual Harvest Festival which featured three music groups, community booths, local vendors, antique autos, relay races, games and tours of the Society's historical museum buildings, including Windham's 19th century "Old Grocery" mercantile store, the Windham/Little Falls library, Windham Center Library and the replica of Windham Center's one-room schoolhouse.

A throng of lively ukuleles opened the festival in the Village Green gazebo. The Sebago Lake Ukulele Association played an array of popular and historical tunes that were easily recognizable and set the tone for a fun and interesting day.

Later, the Windham 8th Grade Band kept things upbeat with several numbers, including one by John Phillips Souza.

Throughout the five-hour festival, a multitude of patrons could be seen milling about, talking, and enjoying the dozens of events and booths while reconnecting with friends and neighbors. One family "from away" told a museum docent, "We just moved back (to Maine) and this makes it feel like a

real home town." Another commented, "What an impressive turnout. People (are) casually milling about, coming together, and celebrating their hometown history."

In addition to the community booths, which included Friends of the Presumpscot River, Maine Insurance Benefits Group, Windham Public Library, Windham Adult Education and Age Friendly Windham, seventeen vendor tables attracted scores of visitors who pored over a vast array of creations including crafts, fabric art, totes, crocheted and needle-felted items, books, photos, paintings, and jewelry. Many folks were observed carrying away bags of treasures from the white elephant sale area.

But make no mistake, one of the most popular spots at the festival was the food booth: hamburgers, hot dogs, cider, and baked goods.

One of the most poignant moments of the day, as relayed by a docent at the South Windham/Little Falls library museum, one patron was brought to tears by the memory of the small library building of her youth – the books, the scent and fond remembrance of a special librarian she loved.



Visitors tour the 2024 Harvest Festival held on the grounds of the Windham Historical Society on Saturday, Sept. 28. The event included an antique automobile show, food, vendors and a performance by the Saco River Jazz Band. The festival showcased historical artifacts and the society's buildings on the grounds at Windham Center. PHOTO BY WALTER LUNT

"Quite moving," said the docent. Another reminder of what we do here. And why we do it.

Similar sentiments were heard throughout the day. It was opening day for the Windham Center Library, following years of structural and code issues with the building. It was the town's first public library and was formerly located across from Corsetti's Store at Windham Center. Several visitors recalled checking out books there before it closed in the mid-

70s. One commented, "Quaint and beautiful, I'm delighted that you saved it."

Among the busy museum buildings were the Old Grocery and one-room schoolhouse where the docents elaborated on the historical contents and practices of the 1900s. It was observed that those tour guides did not go on break all day.

The musical high note of the day came at the end of the day as the highly entertaining Saco

River Jazz Band enthralled festival goers with the music and the history of the late 1800s, followed by the booming big band sounds of the 40s and 50s. Toe-tapping and knee slapping were observed throughout the performance. Said one patron following the band's rendition of In the Mood, "I could close my eyes and see Glenn Miller leading them."

As one Windham third grader once said of the historical society's efforts, "We had fun with history." <



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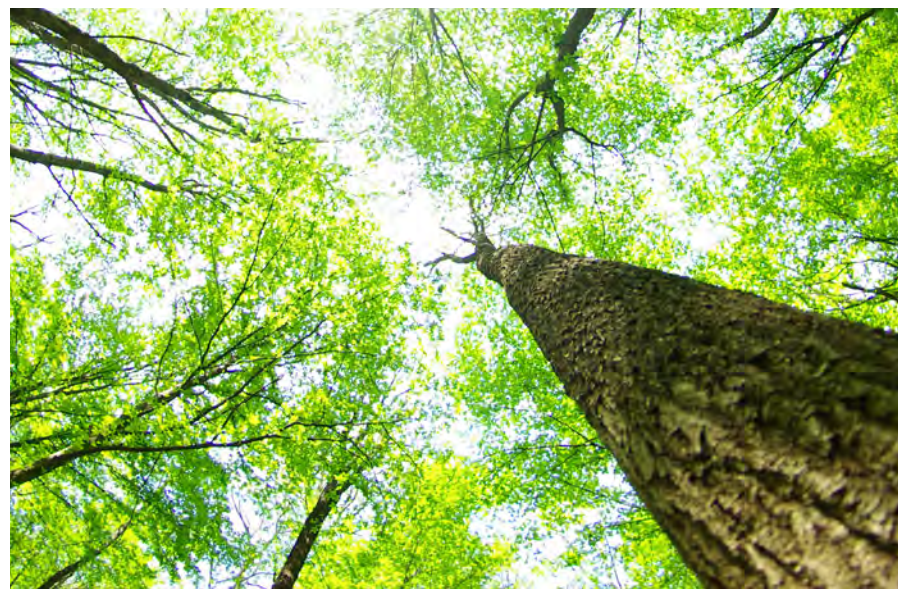
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2024 Candidate Profiles / Q&A

Senate District 26



TIM NANGLE
Democrat
Age/Occupation: 58
 - Help desk technician.

Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: Two terms on the Windham Town Council and was elected to the 131st Legislature in the Maine Senate.

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

“LD2101 - This bill will allow for cities and towns to restrict or revoke the issuance of any municipally issued permit, which include building, plumbing or electrical permits and certificate of occupancy for property owners who have an ongoing shoreland zoning violation. Further, cities and towns will be able to place a lien on the property until any fines, court

costs, fees are paid in full once those costs have been determined. Also, it requires the landowner to disclose the existence of an unresolved shoreland zoning violation to any potential buyers. Shoreland zoning statutes and rules are already in place but are often difficult to enforce; LD 2101 law will facilitate municipal enforcement of the law and allow for more transparency for homebuyers. This law has already assisted Raymond in getting compliance from a property owner who had an egregious violation.”

What do believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

“Housing, Housing and Housing. The high cost of housing has impacted renters and buyers all across the state. That’s why I supported expanding the affordable rental and ownership options, protecting mobile home park residents from eviction after a new owner takes over so they can stay in a place they’ve called home for years. I was also proud to support the Stable Homes program, which will offer emergency rental assistance to individuals at risk of eviction. Finally, I supported LD1422 to help students

facing homelessness and a budget that invests \$100m in other housing programs to create low income and workforce housing around the state.”

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

“Property taxes continue to go up in many communities in our district and across the state. Property taxes are the result of a combination of three things: a municipal budget, a school budget and the county budget. It is imperative that residents get involved in their municipal and state budgeting processes. Residents can attend the budget hearings, ask questions and make their values known; by encouraging state investment in programs at the municipal level, we can ensure that the municipality is not shouldered with an unfair burden that they pass to the taxpayers. It’s also important that the state ensure that the property tax burden is not inequitably distributed and does not become unaffordable for Mainers. This past legislative session, I supported, and we passed a bill to expand the Property

Tax Fairness Credit, which will help older Mainers stay in their homes, by expanding eligibility and increasing the maximum benefit.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I chose to run for State Senate as I’ve always liked helping people. I was part of Windham’s Town Council for six years. During that time, I worked to improve the town’s infrastructure, to protect water quality in our lakes and streams and to reduce the property tax burden on seniors in town. While in the Senate, I was able to help more people. This legislative session, we were able to provide \$100 million of investment in affordable and workforce housing, increased the annual income tax deduction for retirees, expanded eligibility for Medicare savings programs, protected older Mainers from utility shutoffs in extreme weather, and invested \$26 million to keep long-term facilities open and \$5.1 million to support the six Maine Veterans’ Homes. If reelected, I hope to build upon these accomplishments by continuing to increase access to af-

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Clayton Haskell
 Town Council At-Large
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Virginia “Ginny” Woodman
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 Wife/Mother/Grandmother/
 Great Grandmother
 Retired Registered Nurse

Mark Cooper
 ME House 107
 Small Business Owner
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Kenneth “Kenny” Cianchette
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 28 Year Army Veteran
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Demitroula “Demi” Kouzounas
 U.S. Senate
 Veteran
 Small Business Owner

Ronald “Ron” Russell
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 (At-Large) Town Council - Clayton Haskell
 (West) Town Council - William Reiner

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CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 4*

fordable healthcare and housing, particularly for low-income, aging, and veteran Mainers.”

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“I’m committed to continuing to advocate for the state’s funding of schools at 55 percent. Further, I believe that investments in EMS services should be maintained, and that we need to expand mental health care services across the state.”

What do you like the most about your district?

“The people. Windham and Raymond are tight-knit communities that lift up and support all residents, offering access to wonderful schools, recreation opportunities, and thriving local businesses. In my conversations with residents, I am always impressed by their resilience and willingness to help their neighbors.”



KENNETH CIANCHETTE
Republican
Age/Occupation: 36, owner Erik’s Church of Windham
Previous Elected Experience: none

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

“Mainers need relief, and we are

one of the highest taxed states in the union. The tax burden, unfairly, is put onto hard working Mainers and those who have retired from our workforce but continue to live in Maine. We need relief for both groups, and so I would propose eliminating income taxes on earned income, which simply means eliminating tax for working in our great state and creating protections for resident seniors on their property taxes, so the cost of living doesn’t continue to outpace the fixed incomes that should sustain their quality of life. Our leaders, if competent, should be able to figure out other ways to run the government without bankrupting our citizens.

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

“The most pressing issue in this race is the runaway costs of living in our state. Financial hardships on people and families directly contribute towards a litany of problems, some more serious, and personal, than others. This includes substance and physical abuse, mental health issues, and rationing of medicine. Contrarily, financial prosperity leads to subsequent positive consequences such as a healthier lifestyle, generosity, and compounding wage growth with positive economic prospects. We have many issues in our State that need to be addressed, but the best value for our effort starts with ensuring working Mainers can build a strong and prosperous life for the future. We can, simultaneously, work on innovative new ideas, technologies, and strategies to advance our state’s standing in education, infrastructure, energy genera-

→ see **CANDIDATES** Page 6

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I know the people I once represented are tired of the “us versus them” focus politicians have embraced. It’s time you become the focus again.

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*Maine HAS done better,
 Maine CAN do better,
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My firm beliefs include:

- ✓ We should eliminate taxes on all working Mainers. Proper tax policy, including shifting some of this cost to out-of-state visitors, will achieve this without harming vital programs.
- ✓ We must preserve our State’s natural beauty with responsible land use
- ✓ We can prioritize clean energy generation that creates affordable energy for all
- ✓ I support a woman’s right to choose as a matter of law.
- ✓ Education must be focused on preparing our youth for life, and we must support great educators to do so.
- ✓ We must make childcare affordable and available.
- ✓ It is our civic responsibility to ensure that our seniors and veterans can maintain an enjoyable quality of life as they have given us incredible gifts

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→ CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 5*
tion, and more.”

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

“Property taxes are only necessary to function our government’s designed budgets. Wasteful spending must be eliminated first and foremost, just like Mainers have had to do with their own budgets at home. Next, we need to mitigate property taxes for all Maine residents through a more favorable homestead exemption. Third, we need to unleash responsible development to grow the tax base so that when costs increase, commercial and industrial development can help keep the mill rate low in municipalities. Fourth, we must put in protections for our retired seniors, over and above the homestead exemption, so that they may be able to affordably live in

retirement and forecast their expenses, rather than waiting for the bill to show up.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I believe our form of government is the greatest thing that mankind has ever created. The caveat is that, in order for this government to function properly, we must have our best and brightest in the elected positions. Employees of the government must be accountable to the people through our elected representation. I would say that my hope is to reaffirm these notions, by inspiring other legislators to recognize that all departments of the State report to the Legislature, and that it is our duty as your representatives to hold them accountable. We serve the people, not our respective parties, and that is the only priority we must have. My belief is that if you always do the right thing, you can never go wrong. Based on the pushback

by the establishment on my campaign, it gives me confidence that they know that I am serious on my commitment to this and that they know that I am right.”

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“Budgets must be balanced. As a person who has run a small business, in particular a restaurant, during the most trying times in our nation’s history, I understand the importance of fiscal discipline. We have expenses that we must incur as a government for basic services, but we can, and should, eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse. Similar to business, the absolute last thing we should do is raise our taxes on people. If we can revamp our taxes, to reduce the burden and shift it to those visiting our State rather than residing in our State, I believe the economic activity will generate State revenues. Those new revenues can be used for sound investment in our education and workforce development, or other responsible programs to further our collective futures. We should not be funding pet projects, particularly while Mainers are struggling. This is a common theme with all of these questions, and it is clear that there has been a lack of response by Augusta on these critical issues.”

What do you like the most about the district you represent or are trying to represent?

“This is a great question. Although there is no singular right answer, I would have to say that what I like most about our district is the willingness to give and help. My team at Erik’s Church has raised a lot of money for many great organizations over the last few years, and those efforts were spirited by our community’s great volunteers and leaders in both business and organizations. Couple this with the amazing work so many organizations do in the region, whether they be

Camp Sunshine, Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals, Riding to the Top, Walk A Mile, the Veterans Center initiatives, Camp Hinds, or any of the countless other great organizations and places, the commitment by this community is unmatched. It would be my greatest honor to know I have the support of our generous community as we look to return to leading in Augusta.”

House District 106



DORIS POLAND
Democrat
Age/Occupation: 82, Retired from the Windham School Department
Previous Elected Experience/Terms in

Office: None

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

“I intend to focus on legislation that will ease the financial strain on middle class families and improve their quality of life. I want to work with the rest of the house on bipartisan solutions for working people to improve access to high quality public education, and to make healthcare and housing more affordable. My focus will be on listening to the people of this district and working on everyday problems that the people of Windham face. I will welcome contact from any person I represent regardless of how they have voted because, if elected, I will represent all of district 106 proudly.”

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

→ see CANDIDATES Page 9

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- ★ **Help Our Children Thrive** – by restoring academic excellence, getting politics out of the classroom, and respecting parents.

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→ STORY WALK *Cont. from page 1*

exciting for returning families.”

For those wishing to visit the Story Walk, head over to Tassel Top Park in Raymond, across from the shopping plaza on Route 302. Before you get to the gate, look for the parking lot on the left. There you will find the first page of the Story Walk. Dowe says that participation is open to everyone during the park hours.

“We would like to ensure the Story Walk is always freely available for the public to use. We encourage schools and other organizations to use the story walk whenever they want,” he said.

Looking ahead, Dowe said that the group’s hope to expand the Story Walk in the future. Plans are in the works to incorporate seasonal books. Eventually, they hope to include some interactive elements such as activities or questions along the trail.

To learn more about the Raymond Story Walk, visit www.raymondvillage.org/raymond-story-walk-at-tassel-top-park. It is also listed under the Programs & Events menu on the library’s website.

Story Walk fans are also encouraged to visit Raymond Village Library, Raymond Parks and Recreation, and Tassel Top Park on Facebook for updates. <

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Windham Chamber Singers prepare for popular annual 'An American Family Holiday' concerts

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

As the weather gets cooler and the leaves start to change colors, the Windham Chamber Singers are preparing for their annual An American Family Holiday concert.

Get ready to kick off the holiday season in style as the Windham Chamber Singers proudly present An American Family Holiday. The concerts will take place on Saturday, Dec. 7 at the Windham Performing Arts Center with two performances at 2 and 7:30 p.m.

This heartwarming event is set to captivate audiences of all ages and promises to be a memorable experience for families, friends, and music

enthusiasts alike. Tickets will go on sale at 8 a.m. Monday, Oct. 7.

For the concert, the Windham Chamber Singers are pleased to welcome back Daniel Strange, who is a Windham Chamber Singer alumnus and on the faculty at the University of Miami. Also returning will be crowd favorite Ashley Liberty.

This year's headliner will be singer/songwriter Travis James Humphrey.

He will bring his unique country sound and promises to raise the roof. Humphrey was born in northern Maine and served with the U.S. Air Force as a band member for eight years. He returned home to Maine in 2003 and has opened shows for B.B. King, Blackberry Smoke, Redd

Volkaert, Bill Kirchen, Roy Clark, Ricky Skaggs, Johnny Highland, Bill Chinnock, and many other fine artists, both as a solo performer and as a backing guitarist for other feature performers. Humphrey has released four studio albums.

"We are excited to share the stage with Travis and continue our tradition of bringing the highest quality performers to Windham," says Nickerson, who has been the conductor of the Chamber Singers since the group was founded in October 1988.

Nickerson said this year's concerts will honor many local traditions and will also introduce some new surprises.

Longtime concert host Kim Block will once again return as Master of Ceremonies.

"While the Chamber Singers have always performed a holiday show, the 'variety show' type format and the name of the show began in December 2001," says Nickerson.

An American Family Holiday is a holiday themed concert that brings in special guests to mentor and perform with students. It is modeled after the television variety shows from the 1960s and 1970s.

"The show began in the hopes of establishing a local tradition, not only for our singers but also for our audiences," says Nickerson. "We try to emphasize the family aspect."



The students are involved in every aspect of the show. They prepare, rehearse and perform the music, sell tickets, promote the show, decorate the stage, and sell advertisements.

"In short, they have ownership of the show which has helped us to build a tradition," Nickerson said.

He said he guarantees that this show will put you in the holiday spirit.

"While I am biased, I think it's an incredible show. There is so much talent on the stage and the collaborations makes it special and unique," Nickerson said. "We have strived to keep this show very affordable as well. This is the Chamber Singers' only fundraiser which supports our tour and operating expenses. I can't think of a better fundraiser than one that allows us to use our voices."

Tickets are \$10 to \$30 for reserved seating and can be purchased by calling 207-892-1810, Ext. 2875 or online their website at www.windhamchamber-singers.com

Nickerson recommends purchasing your tickets early, as this holiday extravaganza sells out quickly every year.

To learn more about the concerts, call 207-892-1810, Ext. 2906, Visit online at www.windhamchamber-singers.com or on Facebook under Windham Chamber Singers or on Instagram at [wcsingers](https://www.instagram.com/wcsingers).



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CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 6*

“The cost of living is squeezing the middle working class to a breaking point. We need to find solutions to help our families be able to afford gas, groceries, childcare, healthcare, housing, and still save for their future. Our retired families need to enjoy after a lifetime of hard work and service, without worrying about whether they will be able to afford food or medicine this month. Our young people need to feel that their investment in themselves, whether it's education, apprenticeship, or some other skills training, will bring them a future where they will be able to thrive and not just struggle to survive. I will work on legislation to address these issues and look to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share of taxes to fund necessary programs. You've worked hard for your money, and I will work hard to help you keep it.”

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

“First, we need to make sure that the state funding for schools continues and look for ways that we could possibly increase this funding to alleviate some of the property tax burden. I also want to look for ways to increase revenue sharing so that we can get back a higher percent of our sales tax collected to help offset the property tax burden. I have heard other candidates say they want to eliminate income tax, but that would only drive up property tax, so I am not in favor of this. I do believe we need to review our

tax structure and make sure that our wealthy Mainers are paying their fair share. There are a lot of factors that come into play with tax structures, but I will take constructive input from anyone and everyone and work towards creative solutions.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I have been in Augusta and Washington D.C. advocating on behalf of my disabled son and working families for most of my life, so I am not new to politics. In the past few years, the legislature has become more and more polarized, and I think we need more people in Augusta who will work across party lines to get the work done for the hard-working people of Windham. I have experience with this, and, as a resident for more than 50 years, I know how special Windham is. I am running because Windham needs someone in Augusta who will remind the other legislators what real life is like for working families, retirees, and small businesses, and to remind them that they work FOR the people, not for the wealthy or extremists.”

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“The budget is complex, but I want to prioritize school funding and revenue sharing as both of these will help ease the property tax burden for the towns. In recent sessions there were investments made to help with more affordable housing, more affordable childcare, and we were able to expand medicare which are all issues we need to continue to prioritize. There is also a need for more mental health and

substance abuse treatment. It's also no secret that Maine has an older population, and we are losing elder care options, so we need to find ways to increase funding for those programs. Small businesses face unique challenges, and I also want the budget to prioritize programs to help small business owners so that they can compete and thrive.”

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

“The people. Our town is physically beautiful, but I think the best part is who I get to share it with. I have had so many amazing conversations about everyday issues over the last few months. I love talking about ways I will be able to help in Augusta, but I also love getting to meet everyone's pets and learning about their families. We have so many diverse people in this district, and I love hearing so many different points of view. I have loved raising my family here, and I want to make sure that this contin-

ues to be a place that people love living and raising their own families in, whatever that family looks like. I want to continue these conversations past November and look forward to working with you to help Windham stay vibrant and special.”



BARBARA BAGSHAW
Republican
Age/occupation: 57, Current State Representative District 106
Previous elected experience/terms in office: Current State Representative District 106 serving on Education and Cultural Affairs committee. Elected in 2022.

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not

→ see **CANDIDATES** Page 10

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Having spent 2 years in the State Senate & 6 years on the Windham Town Council, Tim has a demonstrated track record of fighting for our people & towns.

PUBLIC SERVICE:

Tim served in the Portland Fire Department as a paramedic for 27 years, choosing to spend his career helping those in need.

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→ CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 9*
 currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

"I sponsored/cosponsored/signed on to 85 pieces of legislation with colleagues from both parties. Many of those recognized the achievements and contributions of Windham community members. I enjoy bringing statewide attention to what is special about the Windham community. Legislation on substantive topics included: school safety, educational reform, child welfare, shoplifting restitution, recall elections, funding for sexual assault services, child trafficking, child endangerment, religious freedoms, bodily integrity, voter I.D., infectious diseases, parental rights, curriculum transparency, internet access, heating assistance, school funding, student scholarships, tax relief, and protection of first, fourth and second amendment rights. The bill (LD 974) I cosponsored to establish minimum pay for Ed Techs and school support staff passed the House and Senate and has

been carried over."
What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

"Clearly it is the Legislature's failure to focus on the very real problems facing Maine citizens, especially the fact that Maine is becoming unaffordable for middle class families and people living on a fixed income. I will join the growing chorus of citizens demanding action to lower energy costs, lower income and property taxes and reverse declining student achievement. I am confident that growing awareness of these and other pressing problems will result in a change in direction this coming session and a commitment to help everyone achieve the American Dream, not just a privileged few."

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

"First off, we need to undo the damage that was done last session when the majority party eliminated the senior property tax freeze after only one year; eliminated scheduled

increases in the homestead tax exemption; and removed a bipartisan protection against rapid property tax increases. Not only did the legislature fail to lower the property tax burden it actually increased property taxes going forward. This is unconscionable at a time when affordable housing is a top problem and Maine is attracting thousands of welfare recipients to come here at taxpayer expense."

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

"I am community minded and try to bring that cooperative, can-do attitude to Augusta to hopefully focus on the everyday issues facing people back home. I want Augusta to be closer to the people and have grassroots ideas and values translate into policies that, at the very least, do not hinder creativity, innovation and prosperity. Government spends more and more money and continues to procure declining results. Stronger communities, local and civic organizations and small business growth is the answer."

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?


"Stop state spending that exceeds

taxpayer income growth. State government should not continue to grow larger than family budgets whose spending power has declined by \$16,000 since January of 2021. I believe that government excess should be returned to the taxpayers in the form of lower taxes, not one-time election year checks. Taxpayer money should also not be diverted to out of state solar companies that receive .20 cents per kilowatt hour for a product that costs as little as .05 cents to produce. High energy prices lead to higher prices at the grocery store and everywhere else we shop. I supported bipartisan legislation that would have lowered energy costs."

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

"I love Windham. I've lived here for most of my adult life. One of the best things about representing our community is sharing with my colleagues what makes our community special. People are kind and caring. We have a small-town atmosphere where we look out for one another and help our neighbors. Our family friendly atmosphere makes Windham a great place to raise children!"

→ see CANDIDATES Page 11



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CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 10*

House District 107



JANE PRINGLE

Democrat

Age/Occupation: 79, State Legislator, retired Primary Care Physician

Previous Elected Experience/Terms in

Office: 2012-2014, 2022-2024 State Representative, Windham

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

"I sponsored LD 796 which was passed into law and enacted in September this year. It deals with the Prior Authorization of Health Care which has been misused by some insurance companies to deny or delay medically necessary care, causing harm to patients. Insurance companies must report information about what conditions require prior authorization, how long it took to provide an answer, what proportion of prior authorizations were denied, how many were appealed and how many were overturned on appeal. This information will be reported to the Bureau of Insurance to be posted on the Bureau's website for patients and employers to see when choosing which insurance plans to purchase. It also allows patients to give their provider (doctor, nurse practitioner, therapist)

permission to make their appeals to the insurance company for them."

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

"Our most pressing issue is our changing climate. I will support and have supported legislation to increase renewable, clean energy, clean water and resilient infrastructure. I have the endorsement of Maine Conservation Voters and have a 100 percent score voting for legislation they support. My husband and I have installed solar panels and heat pumps at our home, and I drive a hybrid car."

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

"One action would be to increase revenue sharing from 5 percent to 6 percent to send more money back to towns to offset property tax increases. We've seen it to be successful in helping solve a lot of spending headaches for municipalities that have been forced to increase mil rates with the rate increasing over the past 4 years from 2 percent to 5 percent. State government is doing very well with an Aa1 credit rating from Moody's (this is the second highest credit rating that a state can have). And we have a record rainy day fund to prepare for any potential dips in the economy. Working families can use some help. So, if we can shift more of the money the state takes in back to the towns which can use it to offset property taxes, we should do it so that we can give Mainers a break."

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope

to accomplish if you are elected?

"I first ran for the Legislature in 2012 because I had spent a large portion of my career caring for working people who had no health insurance. As a Primary Care physician, I know that preventive care and early diagnosis prevent more serious illness and keep people able to work and avoid more expensive treatments. At the time the new Affordable Care Act allowed the states to expand Medicaid, but Maine's Chief Executive refused to do it. I hoped that I could help him, and my fellow legislators understand how we can save lives and save money by making health insurance available to everyone. We passed Medicaid expansion five times only to have it vetoed five times. I joined a coalition to get expansion on the ballot. It passed in the general election with close to 70% of the vote. It only became law

when we elected a new Chief Executive. I chose to run and serve again in 2022 because of concerns that our healthcare system was getting worse with continued rising costs and worse patient outcomes. I am running for re-election to keep working for a more equitable and affordable health care system and common sense, bipartisan solutions to our many complex problems."

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

"I am a fiscal conservative. I look for value in what I choose to spend money on. I believe in investing in people through education, vocational training, healthcare and public safety. I believe that we waste a lot of money on systems that don't work. We can learn from examples in other states

→ see **CANDIDATES** Page 12

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CANDIDATES Cont. from page 11

and other countries that get better results for less money. It may be counter intuitive but sometimes we need to spend money to save money.”

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

“Living in the Lakes Region provides a lot to like. There is much natural beauty accessible to many people. There are people with families that have been here for many generations and there are young families who come to Windham because they can afford to find an affordable home. There are many good people here who do wonderful things for each other.”



MARK COOPER
Republican
Age/Occupation: 61, Business owner as building contractor and farmer
Previous Elected Experience/Terms in

Office: None

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the gov-

ernor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

“One of my priorities is to revamp and reintroduce legislation pertaining to freezing/reducing property taxes for senior citizens. There was previously legislation to freeze property taxes for seniors. However, this legislation had some flaws and was repealed instead of taking time to make revisions. New legislation would have to include income limitations and cover primary residences only. Our most vulnerable citizens are our seniors on fixed incomes, and they should not be facing 5 to 10-plus percent property tax increases each year, especially after years contributing to our communities.”

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

“From visiting with constituents, the most common theme is cost of living and rapidly rising property taxes. Maine has been reported to have fourth highest tax burden in the nation. Voters are asking for relief at just

about every door I knock on. I plan to work hard on keeping spending down and holding Augusta accountable on where tax dollars are being spent. In addition, too many Maine families are facing increases in their electricity bills, and we need to address that issue as quickly as possible. On the local level Augusta needs to be accountable in meeting their financial obligations to towns.”

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

“Local property taxes are set by the town council and have to be approved by voters at the Town Meeting each year. More citizens need to be actively involved in the budgeting process and most importantly be there to vote at Town Meeting. From the state level Augusta needs to cover their mandated funding levels to municipalities. Anything short of the mandated required level puts that shortfall onto local property tax burden. There are an ever-increasing number of rules, regulations, and legislative requirements that impact local town budgets as well.

Overregulation and micro-management create increased expenses for all municipalities.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I decided to run for Maine House of Representatives because I have been frustrated with the way things have been for the last several years. The extreme policies that have led to higher spending, higher taxes, and higher electricity costs is not what Maine wants or needs. I feel I can be a part of the solution. I want to bring a balance of power and a common-sense approach to Augusta. As a small business owner, I have to be fiscally responsible, and I am fully committed to holding Maine Government to that same standard.”

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“Budget priorities include balanced and responsible spending. Fiscal responsibility is what Maine citizens want and deserve. There are Budget items that are mandated and must be covered. There are budget items that need

→ see CANDIDATES Page 13

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➔ **CANDIDATES** *Cont. from page 12*

to be covered and funded. There are items that are not essential that should be covered and then there are wish list items that should be prioritized and funded if there is room in the budget. We should not be funding 'wish list' and 'pet' projects over basic necessities. My priorities are funding mental health services, education, infrastructure, tax reductions for working Mainers, and providing a safety net for vulnerable citizens in Augusta. Voters I have met with have made it clear they have reached the breaking point of rising taxes and want changes made."

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

"I have lived in this district my entire life except for one year after college. I have thoroughly enjoyed living here and am proud to be a resident of Windham. The people in my neighborhood and district have always made it a wonderful place to live and raise a family! This district has always been relatively rural with a significant amount of open space. There are a significant number of multiple generation families here and that speaks well of the quality of life in the town. My grandson is the fourth generation of the Cooper family to attend Wind-

ham Schools and that is something I am proud of."



PATRICK COREY
Independent

Age/Occupation: 50, Self-employed Marketer and Artist

Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: State Representative, Maine House of Representatives, Four Terms: 127th, 128th, 129th, and 130th Legislatures

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

"I got a bill passed and funded that allowed spouses to get paid as natural caregivers. Prior to this change, anyone could be paid other than a spouse to provide direct care. For the patient, they weren't getting care they qualified for through Medicaid. Often the care was intimate in nature and performed by an inconsistent group of direct care workers. The continuum of care was lacking due to high turn-

over. Caregiving spouses could not hold down jobs based on these inconsistencies and weren't compensated for the work they performed. This bill allows people that would otherwise be in nursing homes stay home and near their families, keeping them together. Spouses of people with conditions like ALS, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or traumatic brain injuries are now paid for their work and have the dignity that comes with that."

What do believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

"Growing partisanship. When I entered Maine Legislature 10 years ago, I told people it was nothing like what they saw in national politics. This

changed in the following eight years I served. We've got two parties that are more concerned about either imposing their will on the other party or the wholesale rejection of the opposing party's ideas. Compromise no longer exists and a majority of our elected politicians have lost touch with the fact they have constituents to serve, and they should be creating solutions that work for the majority of those people. If elected I will continue to look at ideas based on merit, not who or where they came from. Moreover, I will challenge legislative colleagues that don't use the same approach. Our country is deeply divided, and our leaders have played a huge role in that.

➔ see **CANDIDATES** Page 14

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CANDIDATES Cont. from page 13

Let's work together to create government that works for everyone."

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

"Maine people pay a higher percentage of their incomes in property tax than any other state. The Legislature can do relief in the form of increasing the homestead exemption. Property taxpayers need to make it a priority. While serving, I saw will to create new programs and expand the baseline, but little interest in providing tax relief of any kind. Legislators need to focus on property tax relief and look for efficiencies to pay for it. For relief to be lasting, voters will need to hold candidates accountable, because a new legislature can easily undo property tax relief the previ-

ous legislature created. I will commit to pursuing property tax relief in the form of a larger homestead exemption for all property taxpayers and uphold it should I be re-elected. Voters also need to look to the Town Council and School Board to reduce the property tax burden."

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

"Over the years I served, my belief that it's possible for government to do good things grew. Partisanship and the polarization it creates are holding back government from serving Maine's people. I ran because I believe good governance is important and needs to be promoted. We should hold politicians responsible for breaking the public trust, promote transparency, be more inclusive through listening, and be responsive to the needs of Mainers. I have spent the last two year's working with Bill Diamond on Walk a

Mile in Their Shoes, a non-profit that gives a voice to Maine's children who encounter abuse, neglect, and death. I am disturbed by the lack of ability to be self-reflective, follow their own rules to protect children, and motivation to change by Maine's biggest department, DHHS. There needs to be accountability to Maine's children and the stakeholders that care for and protect our most vulnerable asset."

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

"I'm the only candidate that has served on the Committee for Appropriations and Financial Affairs giving me unique insight into Maine's budget. I have watched politicians spend budget surpluses to create new programs they claim will not expand the baseline, yet these "one-time" spends become expectations in future budgets. Surpluses, for all intents and purposes are the over collection of taxes. More revenue has been collected than has been budgeted for. My top priority will be returning surpluses to Maine's people. Maine has the fourth highest taxes. It's time we recognize the burden this puts on Mainers and find ways to give their money back. I would also like to look at the school funding formula and municipal revenue sharing. What Windham is getting back is not commensurate with the money our residents and businesses are putting in. Our rapidly growing community cannot look solely at property taxes any longer."

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

"I always enjoyed serving a community where there was a diversity

of political beliefs causing me to look closely at issues and finding solutions that help as many people as possible. Serving as president of Windham Neighbors Helping Neighbors, a non-profit heating assistance program, I've seen how generous and thoughtful my community is. It's a great community to serve and I hope to do it again."

House District 86



ROLF OLSEN
Republican
Age/Occupation: 68
- Licensed Insurance Agent
Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: 29 years

on the Town of Raymond Budget/Finance committee - 15 years as chair, 8 years on Town of Raymond Select Board - 3 years as chair.

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

"The question presupposes that new legislation is always the answer, I prefer the approach of first investigating existing legislation for deficiencies and making amendments. Case in point is the recently revoked tax relief for seniors, which needs to be relooked at and properly written and funded. The biggest issue is a responsible budget and that should be Job One."

→ see CANDIDATES Page 15

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CANDIDATES Cont. from page 14

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

“First and foremost is a responsible budget that focuses on prioritizing the most pressing needs of the state, without increasing the tax burden on Maine families. Secondly, we need to address the high electricity costs that are facing Maine families, as well as rising property taxes.”

What steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

“The first step is a responsible budget. We also need to look at promises that were made and never kept as in the sale tax rate which was supposed to have been a temporary increase but has turned into a legacy. The state needs to fully fund its mandated local municipalities, and we need to ensure that we are looking at bringing back the property tax relief program for seniors that was repealed. That program could have been fixed, rather than repealed.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I ran for the State House because I understand the impact of state-level policies on local budgets. I spent years serving my community on the Select

Board and the Budget Committee, and I understand the impact that rising property taxes have on residents in my towns. We need to hold Augusta accountable, and that means advocating for policies that will reduce the cost-of-living for working families. Whether it's the skyrocketing cost of housing, rising electricity costs, or simply buying groceries - Maine families need relief.”

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“First and foremost, we must ensure we do not do anything to increase the tax burden on Maine families and small businesses. Secondly, we need to ensure we are fully funding important safety net services for our elderly, disabled, children, and veterans. Third, we need to ensure we are funding a robust mental health system and making sustainable infrastructure investments to improve our roads and bridges.”

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

“I have lived in the district for almost 50 years, over that time we have seen many changes ranging from increases in population in the town to an aging population to more mandates from both the federal side and state side. These changes have resulted in more and more financial burdens on the local citizens. In addition to that have been more impositions on the citizens with what they can do

with their property. Even in the face of all this, we still have the feel of a small town, people are still volunteering when they can, the kids are getting additional recreational opportunities and there are beginning to be programs for the seniors. The towns still have the feel of ‘the way Maine should be’ and we need to keep this feeling alive!”



CRAIG MESSINGER
Democrat

Age/Occupation: 63, Semi-retired, Firefighter/Paramedic
Positions Held: Church volunteer, Former Raymond Deputy Chief, Former IAFF Union Official, Former Greenheart Student volunteer.

If an incumbent, please cite a bill you proposed or sponsored that was passed and signed into law by the governor and how it specifically benefits the residents of your district? If not currently serving in office, please detail legislation that you intend to propose and how it will benefit the residents of your district if enacted?

“As a lifelong firefighter I know that when you're fighting a fire there's no time to stand around arguing, you have to work together to get people

the help they need. There's too much arguing and not enough working together. That's why I'm running - to bring teamwork to Augusta to solve the problems we're facing as a state: out of control costs, ensuring our older residents can age with dignity, and equipping our youth to build successful lives here in Maine. I believe communication and listening is missing from our political environment today, which is why I always listen to both sides of a situation and don't base my decisions on a political party or an agenda.”

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

“One major issue that I have seen in our district, is the difficulty of working-class Mainers to be able to pay for affordable housing and child-care options. I believe that too many communities participate in what is known as ‘snob-zoning’ to keep affordable housing complexes out of their towns, and these communities should be held accountable. I would also advocate for larger companies and even communities to receive tax initiatives to open and operate Day Care facilities for their employees and/or eligible residents.”

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?
→ see CANDIDATES Page 16

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→ **CANDIDATES** *Cont. from page 15*
pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

"I believe that one of the most pressing issues facing all of us on the Local, to the State and at the National level is divisiveness. I believe that this divisiveness is tearing our Democracy into shreds, and we need to find ways to move past it. I pledge to work with all individuals and parties at the State level to find ways to better commu-

nicate to and listen to one another. Hatred, threatening and name-calling must stop being the norm."

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of your district and help them to keep more of their hard-earned money?

"We all hear time and time again from our constituents that they are barely able to afford the home that they are in, especially our elderly population and those that are on fixed in-

comes. I believe that we should reinstitute some of the tax relief programs that were in place for years and helped many people on fixed incomes with the ability to afford their property taxes. Most of these programs have for various reasons been eliminated, or are not implemented at this time. We need to have these programs in place to assist the most vulnerable members of our community, so that they can afford to live and "age in place" in the homes that they have often resided in for many years."

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

"I decided to run for the House of Representatives position when I was informed that the current person in this position is 'terming out' this fall. I have worked in Public Safety for almost 38 years and feel that I have a pretty good grasp of dealing with people in many different types of situations. I admittedly lack in the elected position arena, however, have a strong background in Labor relations and Union officer positions. I hope to bring common sense and listening skills to Augusta and work for the needs of the people of District 86."

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

"Maine's budget has always been a hot button topic, depending on which party occupies the Blaine House. We have had administrations that have added many social service positions and increased spending for social programs. We have had other administrations that have laid off these same positions and have vetoed each and

every bill that has been put forth by the legislature. I believe that there is common ground somewhere in the middle, to keep important programs running, people safe and the basic infrastructure intact to take care of people. Sometimes it costs more money to achieve these goals, sometimes it costs less, common sense should prevail."

What do you like the most about the district where you live?

"I love the district I live in, with a potpourri of lakes, hills and camps, we could not ask for much more! People come here to vacation, from all over the region and we should be proud of the gem that we call the Lakes region, please help to take care of it!"

RSU 14 Board

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JESSICA BRIDGES
Age/Occupation: 43, Radiologic Technologist at a nearby Urgent Care facility.
Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: RSU14 School Board of Directors for 3 years

Please detail specific items that you intend to propose for the RSU 14 Board of Directors to pass and how these items will benefit the residents, students and staff of the school district?

"I plan to continue to listen to residents, parents, teachers and students to make decisions that will benefit all students in our district. Policies continue to be updated following the Maine State Law and according to the Maine Department of Education.

→ see **CANDIDATES** Page 17

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CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 16*

I hope to continue my work on the curriculum committee where I can suggest programs and policy modifications that may be appropriate in curriculum and program areas. New program activities undertaken by the district, the implementation of new curricula, or piloting of new programs are topics of particular interest. I also would recommend the addition of MLL teachers with the influx of non-English speaking students, as well as making sure policies, such as the cell phone policy, are being followed in each school.”

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how do you intend to handle it?

“I believe the most pressing issue of this race is maintaining a balance as this is a non-partisan seat. This is not about Republicans or Democrats but rather what is good for all our students. These decisions should be made considering the facts and opinions from all sides. It is a great responsibility to take in all this information and compile it into a concrete decision of

what is best for all the students.”

What solid steps can be taken to increase participation by the public in RSU 14 district initiatives and to improve the quality of education for this community?

“One of our board goals last year was around increasing participation and communication with the community. With Parent Square, information run in the Windham Eagle, increased meetings for public participation surrounding topics of interest, I believe we have tried to reach out on several avenues to bring information to the public. We can always do better and are always open to ideas through email and public comment.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I made the decision to re-run for my RSU 14 Board of Directors seat for numerous reasons. First and foremost, as a parent of two school aged children; I have a vested interest in preserving and improving the quality of our school system. I have been involved in the school community, as a parent, volunteer, and a school board

member, and would like to continue my work on the curriculum committee; where we consider and make recommendations concerning broad policies of education and research, review major areas of curriculum development, regular/special education services, pupil assessment, long-term program review and program revisions. I believe in quality public education for our current and future students and in order to achieve this; our

district needs school board members to collaborate as a team to accomplish the district’s goals.”

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“The administration at RSU 14 works incredibly hard on proposing a budget for the board to consider. One priority is keeping the percentage increase as low as possible without neg-

→ see CANDIDATES Page 18

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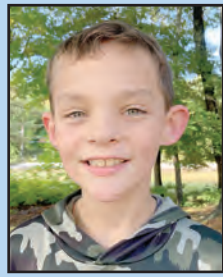
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STUDENT OF THE WEEK


Elliot Bridges



Grade: Third Grade **School:** Windham Christian Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Milroy **Favorite subject:** Math
Parents: Jarred and Bethany
Reason for selection: Elliot Bridges has earned Student of the Week because of his exemplary behavior and desire to learn. Elliot is very respectful of his fellow students and towards teachers of all grades at his school. His attitude is consistently encouraging to others and his love for the Lord is obvious during class discussions. Elliot has been attending Windham Christian Academy for a few years now and yet, has never shown a sense of entitlement or slacked in following the rules; he respects those around him and follows the rules for their sake as well as his own! Elliot has a genuine love for learning and, even if he isn't sure of an answer, he will try his best and give it a good old-fashioned guess.

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CANDIDATES Cont. from page 17

actively impacting the education of our students. These next few years we will be faced with having to start paying for the new middle school but using our resources and carefully focusing on what is important for the district I believe that we can collectively come to a consensus where we can keep the impact to the residents as minimal as possible while maintaining our standards for our children's education."

What do you like the most about the RSU14 school district?

"Every RSU 14 administrator, teacher, staff member, and transportation department employee that I have ever come into contact with is genuine and passionate about serving our community and enhancing the lives of our district's children through quality educational offerings."



VIRGINIA "GINNY" WOODMAN

Age/Occupation: 70, retired registered nurse

Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: None

Please detail specific items that you intend to propose for the RSU 14 Board of Directors to pass and how these items will benefit the residents, students, and staff of the school district.

"I would propose a curriculum review committee comprised of board members, concerned citizens and teachers to clarify what exactly is being taught in RSU 14. I believe we need to return to basics including simple skills like cursive and memorization of math tables. We need to bring back history and civics classes. A knowledge of where our present-day society evolved from is crucial to our nation's success. Computer skills are necessary, but young minds need to be stretched and exercised to include information they can draw upon when they don't have a computer at hand. The benefit to students includes increased self-confidence and self-esteem. Benefits to the staff include a measurable skill set. Benefits to the public include students who have the basic building blocks and self-reliance to become successful adults in their career choices and in day to day living."

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race and how to you intend to handle it?

"I think teacher satisfaction and retention is a key issue. There is no RSU 14 without teachers. We are blessed with strong, dedicated professionals who need to be supported with the resources they need and with the knowledge that they are valued. In my mind, communication is the key. I want to hear what the teachers need and their ideas on how we can try to provide it. I came from a family of educators and feel I have an understanding of how much teachers love their students and want them to succeed."

What solid steps can be taken to increase participation by the public in RSU 14 district initiatives and to improve the quality of education for this community?

"My underlying theme is communication. I am willing to organize round table discussions and informational meetings outside of the public school board meetings. It has been my experience that issues which seemed contrary to my beliefs or understanding might become some of my favorites when they are explained to me on a one to one or even group basis. Building relationships is key. The School Board, RSU 14 Staff, concerned citizens, parents and students are a team. Working together, brain storming, respecting each others' viewpoints, building trust are all vital to building a strong team and ultimately facilitating a successful outcome for our students."

Why did you choose to run for this specific position and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

"I've lived in Windham for 47 years and have three grown children who successfully completed their K-12 education here. I had great faith in the Windham school system. I was a room mother in the elementary school and loved the close contact I had with those teachers. It is my wish to give back and try to help iron out some of the issues that seem to be dividing our community. In any institution there is always room for improvement and I hope to be a means to that end."

What are your budget priorities and how will it impact the residents of your district?

"RSU 14 School Board has been entrusted with a budget that is built on individuals' finances. We have to be good stewards of those finances. In these difficult financial times, I feel we have to tighten our belts and live within our means just as we do with our personal budgets. The public wants to support strong education, but there is a limit to what we can ask folks to contribute and how high taxes can go. My perspective as a retiree on a fixed income may shed a light on what might be nice to have, but what in reality may be unnecessary to provide a solid education for our students."

What do you like the most about the RSU 14 school district?

"We have so much to be proud of in our district. We have Championship teams, the Chamber Singers, outstanding competitors on High School challenge programs just to name a few."

→ see CANDIDATES Page 19

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CANDIDATES *Cont. from page 18*

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FRANCES “FRANNY” ETHERIDGE

Age/ Occupation: 38, a wife, mother of three, and serves on the board of directors for a real estate investment firm in North Carolina. Previously homeschooled her older children before enrolling them in RSU 14.

Previous Elected Experience: None

Please detail specific items that you intend to propose for the RSU 14 Board of Directors to pass and how these items will benefit the residents, students, and staff of the school district?

“My initial goal will be to educate and familiarize myself with the many facets of operating a school district from school bus tires, cafeteria supplies, playground inspections, curriculum development, district security, staff benefits, and everything in between. I would like to advocate for the return of essential life skills like proper typing techniques and cursive writing, which are no longer widely taught but remain crucial for student development. Cursive writing is a gateway to understanding important historical documents, while typing is fundamental in today’s digital age. Reintroducing these types of skills will better prepare our students for

both academic and real-world challenges. Additionally, I will work on improving communication between schools and parents, ensuring they are informed and engaged in their children’s learning.”

What do you believe is the most pressing issue in this race, and how do you intend to handle it?

“The decline in academic rigor and overall educational quality is the most pressing issue. I have seen this decline in my own children and believe we must refocus on age-appropriate academic content that prioritizes core subjects like math, reading, and science. I will also encourage a partnership between parents and educators, helping families take an active role in their children’s social and emotional development. By promoting stronger relationships between schools and families, we can build a more balanced and effective educational system.”

What solid steps can be taken to increase participation by the public in RSU 14 district initiatives and to improve the quality of education for this community?

“To increase public participation, I believe in making it easier for parents to access school information and resources. Many parents juggle demanding schedules and clear, accessible communication is crucial to keep them informed and engaged in district initiatives. I would advocate for improved online tools, more transparent meeting schedules, and user-friendly access to curriculum updates. Additionally, I would work to enhance outreach efforts to ensure parents and community members know how they can get involved and contribute to improving educational quality in RSU 14.”

Why did you choose to run for this specific position, and what do you hope to accomplish if you are elected?

“I’m running because I am deeply invested in the future of RSU 14, not only for my own children, but for all

the students in the district. With three children in three different schools, as well as actively volunteering within their schools, I’ve had a unique opportunity to see both the strengths and areas for improvement. I hope to advocate for policies that prioritize students’ academic success, and I aim to ensure that our schools maintain a focus on learning that prepares students for life beyond graduation. Ultimately, my goal is to support our families and educators to create a system that works for every student.”

What are your budget priorities, and how will it impact the residents of your district?

“My budget priorities are centered on making sure teachers have the necessary resources to offer high-quality education, while avoiding unnecessary spending. I believe in allocating funds toward essential tools and programs that directly benefit students’ learning, such as classroom materials, teacher development, and student services. Being mindful of the district’s financial responsibilities, I would focus on balancing high-quality education with fiscal responsibility to avoid unnecessary tax burdens on the community.”

What do you like the most about the RSU 14 school district?

“What I love most about RSU 14

is the sense of community that exists within the district. I’ve seen firsthand how dedicated our teachers, parents, and volunteers are to ensuring student success. There is a shared commitment to doing what’s best for our children, and I believe that by fostering a collaborative approach, we can build an even stronger academic environment. This community-focused spirit is something I truly value and wish to continue strengthening.”

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Town Council
Q&A will
appear in the
Oct. 11, 2024 edition
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THE ROOKIE MAMA

THE ADVENTURES
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CROCK AND ROLL ALL NIGHT (AND SOCCER EVERY DAY)

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



– Michelle Cote, Columnist

Here we go, Crocktober – Slow cookers are the savory secret weapon to feeding my entire brood throughout this season.

Ladies of a certain age may recall the classic ‘Mall Madness’ game – Folks, what we’ve entered is truly ‘Fall Madness’ – We’ve buttoned down summer, deflated pool floats, and autumnal sports are gorgeously in full swing, with blazing reds and golds saturating all surrounding foliage that envelopes every soccer field gorgeously here in the Northeast.

But how do parents find time to cart their kiddos to said gorgeous sports fields during the already sparingly few hours separating the school day’s last bell from the dinner bell, which ultimately leads to homework and bedtime routine’s slow roll?

Well, friends, it looks like crock and roll is here to stay.

Slow cookers, to me, are the working-class alternative to hiring a personal chef who spends all day whipping you up a scrumptious stew as you work and tend to business as usual.

There are hundreds of slow cooker recipes to suit a variety of dietary needs, and mouthwatering options abound for entrees, desserts, beverage,

es, galore.

I’ve even made a decent yogurt – It’s easier than you’d think.

Some crock inserts can even be removed and placed in an oven for dishes that may need broiling or that certain crispy je-ne-said-quoi, such as a whole chicken flanked by potatoes, carrots, and all the mouthwatering flavors of fall spice and everything nice.

This, readers, is something I only learned of in the past five years. Always a rookie.

Slow cooker recipes are often as uncomplicated as you want them to be, can be prepared ahead of time – freezer meals for the win! – and literally dumped in as you run out the door.

Just don’t forget to switch it on – Set it and forget it.

Forget cleaning, too – For the truly lazy-man’s experience, one can purchase slow cooker liners and place them in your insert ahead of dumping in ingredients.

Then, you only need to remove and toss the bag after dining’s done; no need to soak and scrub the crock.

Your house will smell heavenly with a butternut squash soup or beef stew on, which is perfectly timed with windows snapping back shut after those hot summer nights are truly wrapped up ‘til next time.

Slow cookers also offer up nourishing dishes and soups that proactively combat those sniffles – or assist during recovery – because ‘tis that

season, too.

I also appreciate that Crockpots are a most fabulous way to utilize your remaining fresh garden abundance. While I blanch and freeze most excess harvest so my family can eat home-grown produce all winter long, there’s nothing like freshly grown goods and spices added in a hot, tasty dish.

Although I seriously have no idea how I’ll find enough varied recipes for all those summer squashes – Yikes.

Most of all, slow cookers offer up ultimate convenience. They use very minimal energy and were designed for mamas in their soccer season.

They’re low maintenance, cost effective, who could ask for anything more?

And if you do ask for anything more, buy a second slow cooker – I use two at once frequently, because that comes with the territory of having a large family and hankering for lots of the leftovers.

So, crock around the clock tonight – Enjoy your slow cooker era, an idea truly worth warming up to.

Consume hearty food – not precious time.

Just don’t forget to bring the crusty bread for dunking.

Who knows, you may have some free time to play a round of two of Mall Madness.

Columnist Michelle Cote lives in southern Maine with her husband and four sons. She enjoys camping, distance running, biking, gardening, arts and crafts, soccer and road trips.

SLOW COOKER HONEY GARLIC CHICKEN AND VEGETABLES

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (or thighs)
- 3 cups baby carrots
- 1 lb baby potatoes, halved
- 1 cup green beans, trimmed
- ½ cup honey
- ¼ cup soy sauce (low-sodium preferred)
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 tbsp ketchup
- 1 tsp dried oregano
- 1 tsp dried basil
- 1 tsp ground black pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- Slow cooker liner (for less mess!)

INSTRUCTIONS:

In the bottom of the crockpot, place the baby potatoes and carrots. Lay the chicken breasts (or thighs) on top. Add the green beans last so they don’t overcook. In a small bowl, whisk together the honey, soy sauce, garlic, ketchup, olive oil, oregano, basil, pepper, and salt. Pour the sauce evenly over the chicken and vegetables. Cover and cook on low for 6-7 hours or high for 3-4 hours, until the chicken is fully cooked and the vegetables are tender.

Once done, remove from the crockpot and serve alone or over rice, if preferred. The honey garlic sauce will have beautifully coated everything, making the dish sweet, savory, and delicious.

THE ROOKIE MAMA COLUMN PROUDLY SPONSORED BY MAINE OPTOMETRY

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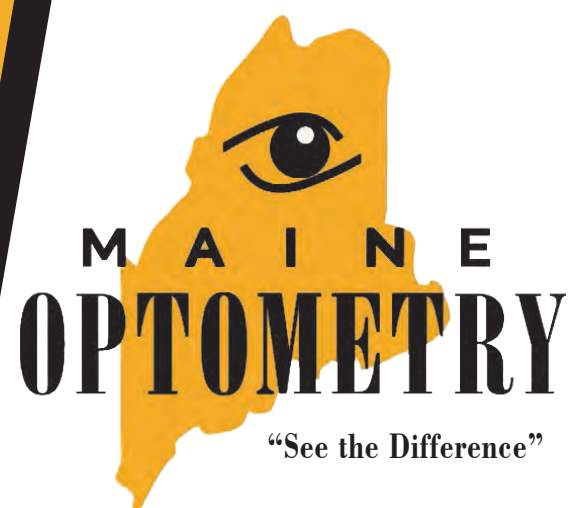


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LETTERS to the editor

Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to:
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Editor,

As an independent, my loyalty isn't to any party. I always vote for the candidate who best represents me/my interests. We love living in Raymond among the woods next to a lake. In the past few years, the environmental health of our beloved lakes region was at risk due to both actual and proposed construction projects that could have adversely impacted Sebago Lake and Thomas Pond.

Thankfully, Senator Tim Nangle stepped in and successfully helped to protect the forests in our town's rural residential neighborhoods as well as the water quality of our lakes. Despite many roadblocks over many months, he always found new ways to assist; never giving up!

I'm supporting the re-election of Tim Nangle because as a former police officer, paramedic, firefighter, and as our current senator, Senator Tim Nangle always goes above and beyond to serve and protect our community.

~ Jennifer Danzig, Raymond

Editor,

As Windham grows, so does the demand for leaders who possess a deep-rooted connection to the community.

Kenny Cianchette's political rise in local circles has been marked by an unwavering commitment to the issues that matter most to Windham residents.

Kenny's roots in Windham run deep. Through owning and operating Erik's Church Restaurant, he has provided jobs, built a strong local business network, and advocated for the kind of economic growth that keeps dollars in town.

His involvement in local events and his willingness to engage with residents on a personal level has endeared him to many. Whether it's listening to concerns about property taxes, road conditions, or the ever-pressing issue of development, he has consistently shown a commitment to understanding the needs of his neighbors.

Kenny has called for a balanced approach to growth – one that recognizes the need for new housing and development but doesn't sacrifice the town's rural character or strain its resources. His business experience has shown us the importance of forward-thinking investment, but he also understands that rapid, unchecked expansion can have unintended consequences. As a leader, he'll work with planners, environmentalists, and

community members to ensure that Windham grows in a way that benefits everyone, not just developers.

Our town is at a crossroads, and the decisions made in the coming years will shape the community for generations to come. Kenny Cianchette stands as a candidate who is not only deeply invested in Windham's present but also its future.

Kenny's candidacy offers a hopeful promise – with his leadership, Windham can continue to thrive without losing the qualities that make it so special. Please show up for Kenny on Nov. 5.

~ Theresa Brinkman, Windham

Editor,

I wholeheartedly support Barbara

Bagshaw's candidacy for State Representative because of her proven commitment to her community and her constituents. When I was at my wits end with a state-run agency this year, I called Barbara to help me cut through the red tape.

Barbara took immediate action. Shortly after my call to her, I received a call from the state. They finally started to treat me in accordance with Maine state law. She called me personally to make sure that the situation was resolved. Sometimes as a constituent, you feel like the government is against you. Barbara made me realize that I had an advocate.

→ see LETTERS Page 24

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Eagle SPORTS



Windham High football comeback rally falls short

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham's varsity football team showed they are continuing to get better and better each game, and although Windham scored a couple touchdowns late in its game on Friday, Sept. 27 at South Portland, it wasn't enough to get ahead of the Red Riots, who walked off the field with a 41-20 win.

"We lost a lot of guys (due to injury) and we had a lot of guys step up and play hard and continue to fight, give effort and that's what you got to have," said Windham varsity football coach Matt Perkins. "It's a tough game and we got a lot of young guys right now trying to figure it out; I thought they did a really good job tonight with composure. South Portland had six personal fouls on them, and I thought our guys handled themselves with class, held their composure and I'm very proud of that. We got to sustain our blocks, keep improving on tackling; being a young group, those are two things right now we got to fix. We had guys come in and made plays they hadn't made before, like Tucker Roy, who stepped up and made some tremendous catches and tackles. He's never really been in the spotlight of a varsity game, but he stepped up tonight and belonged, he really played well."

South Portland kicked off and it was first and 10 Eagles at the 30-yard line. Windham picked up eight yards. Then they picked up another eight yards. After they moved closer and closer to the goal line, it was a first down at South Portland's 42-yard line.

A completed pass to junior AJ Moody moved Windham to South Portland's 30-yard line. Windham ju-



(L to R) Windham junior AJ Moody is about to score a touchdown against South Portland on Friday, Sept. 27. Windham's defense brings down South Portland. Junior quarterback Karl Longstreth looks for an opening. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

nior Wyatt Washburn picked up seven yards. A pass completed to Washburn and it's fourth and one. Unfortunately, Windham was stopped short before scoring.

The WHS defense prevented South Portland from making progress in the first quarter. After one quarter, the game was scoreless.

In the second quarter, South Portland scored a couple touchdowns, but Windham players kept their heads up.

It was first and 10 from Windham's 41-yard line. Windham sophomore Parker Sperry picked up seven yards. It's third down. A 15-yard penalty against South Portland brought Windham to the 20-yard line for a first down. After a six-yard pickup, Windham junior Karl Longstreth made it into the end zone after a 15-yard run. The extra point was good and was 14-7

with South Portland leading.

South Portland scored again and led 20-7 at the half.

"We have seniors on the field who haven't played," said Longstreth. "We just played a team with 20-plus seniors who have been playing for four years. That takes a lot of experience out of us, we had a lot of injuries tonight – but we're going to keep pounding there's a lot of season ahead of us. Our passing game, I felt pretty confident. Our offensive line and our defense (need work). This next week we're going to take a hard, hard look at our defense and our overall offense ... we're going to keep moving."

In the third quarter, South Portland offense scored once, but Windham was not finished.

The Eagles took over at the 28-yard line in the fourth quarter. Windham made it to the South Portland's 40-yard line and it's first down. It's third

down and Moody caught a 21-yard pass and hauls it in to score; the extra point was no good.

Moody said the Eagles gave it all they got, did everything they could and he's very proud of the team.

With the clock running out, Windham freshman Patrick Davenport did not let South Portland defense stop him as he crossed the goal line on a 39-yard run.

"That was the first time I've ever touched the ball on offense," said Davenport. "It was a little nerve-racking going in, but after the first play, I saw a hole open and as soon as I got outside, I knew I was going to go. It felt so amazing, and I've dreamed about this forever. First game I ever started, and I scored, so I'm definitely happy, even though it was a tough loss. We worked really hard, we played all four quarters – we fired on all cylinders and played a pretty good game." <

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Aiden Heath

Age: 17 **Team:** WHS varsity football
Coach: Matt Perkins
Parents' names: Eric and Jessica Heath
Reason for selection: Right now, Windham High football is 0-4 and it would be easy to complain and point fingers, but Aiden Heath continues to work. He is a team-first guy, very selfless, an extreme worker, positive and a great young man. As the South Portland game was winding down, and the ball is on the ground, Heath's a big guy and he went full speed and dove on the ground for the fumble – and we're down by three touchdowns, that's tremendous effort. This is a guy who's refusing to give up. That's the type of characters we love. He puts forth effort and sets a good example of how to carry yourself as a person; it's really set the bar high for his team.

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Scarborough edges Windham boys' soccer in overtime

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham varsity boys' soccer held Scarborough scoreless for 80 minutes on Tuesday, Oct. 1 at Scarborough High School but less than a minute into overtime, the Red Storm got the ball in the net for a 1-0 win.

"We knew coming into this game we had a target on our back," said Windham senior captain Luke Cunniffe. "Being undefeated prided us, but we knew teams were going to come at us hard. Coming into this game we knew we had to give it our all because Scarborough is no-joke of a team. Today, the ball didn't bounce our way; we had plenty of chances to score. We lost a game but there are a few positives to come out of it – we showed we could play with big teams for 80 minutes, but the extra minutes just got us. Our defense, Lukas (Hammond) proves he's the best keeper in the state, Zach Noonan just leads us every game, we have so many solid players, but today wasn't our day. We were two evenly matched teams ... certain plays and certain things we could have adjusted on, but you can't change it now. The good thing about high school season is we have games back-to-back-to-back, so (the next game) will be a good chance for us to bounce back and prove we are a good team."

Windham started the game going hard after the ball. Windham's defense cut down Scarborough's offense.

WHS senior Sam Rogers took a shot at



Senior Levi Hayman stops the ball.



(L to R) Windham senior Luke Cunniffe fires a shot at goal on Tuesday, Oct. 1 during a boys' soccer match against Scarborough. Senior Sam Rogers goes full speed after the ball. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

goal that hit the post and bounced back. The Eagles pressured and hustled.

Windham senior goalie Lukas Hammond had a nice stop. Windham offense had several more shots at goal, but nothing landed.

"All game long we chased and didn't play to our capacity of what we can do," said Windham varsity boys' coach Jeff Neal. "We pride ourselves on winning 50-50 balls, challenging on first and second balls; we let them step in and win a lot of second balls. We pride ourselves on being a possession team that moves the ball around. We had a little bit too much ... individual play as opposed to making the easy pass and trusting the players and the system around us. Playing Scarborough – they're always go-

ing to battle, they're a perennial team. You go this long undefeated without giving up a goal and psychologically ... people are talking and ... everyone's going to bring their 'A' game. We can try to downplay it as a coaching staff, but it's still there. That's a lot of pressure and we didn't react or adjust to that; the good news now is it's done. As a coaching tool and a motivator, it could be the best thing for us. We've been having that discussion with the boys; giving up goals is part of the game. We're going to bounce back better, we're going to learn from it, we're going to grow from it."

The Eagles' didn't dip in the second half, but the offense struggled to score. Hammond recorded save after save.

Windham was aggressive and senior Carter Engelman took a shot at Scarborough's goal, just barely miss-

ing it.

At the buzzer, it had been 80 scoreless minutes but 56 seconds into overtime, Scarborough scored.

"Going into overtime I don't think we were really focused," said Rogers. "There's definitely a lot we need to work on defensively and mid-field-wise. I think we need to stay more composed in the back when the ball comes against good teams. If we are calm and can find feet off the ball, that way we can build up instead of just panicking and kicking it out of bounds and forcing a turnover, because that's when it gets dangerous. Winning our first balls in the air (was good). We're going to go into (the next game) positive and trying to make a statement. After (other teams) see this, they're going to think we are some easy team to beat – which is not true." <

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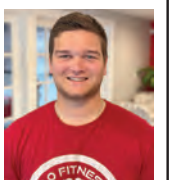
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→ **LETTERS** *Cont. from page 24*

As an owner of a small business, I take comfort in the fact that I have someone that understands the importance of small businesses to Maine's economy.

Barbara's experience in public service and education, combined with her deep understanding of local and state issues, positions her uniquely to address the challenges we all face.

Supporting Barbara Bagshaw means supporting a candidate who is genuinely invested in the well-being of our community. She is equipped to take informed, impactful action. I will be voting for Barbara in November. I hope you will too!

~ Abram Wilmot, Windham

Editor,

All politics is local – and for this community, politics occurs at the Town Council level. Your vote in the upcoming election matters – not because you are Democrat or Republican, but because you care about the direction that Windham is going.

I believe that Dave Nadeau is about moving the community forward. Dave's voting record reflects that commitment.

He supported the recommendation made by our present Town Clerk, Linda Morrell, that the position of Town Clerk should be an appointed position and not an elected position, in order that the town selects an individual who is "up to speed and qualified" for this demanding position.

Dave is concerned about community safety. That commitment to safety is the basis upon which he voted to award Great Falls Builders \$650,000 for the construction of a new North Windham Fire Station, the renovation of the current Windham Middle School and renovations to the Town Hall.

\$650,000 is a lot of money, and it brings up the issue of taxes. My taxes had gone up considerably and Dave recommended that I talk with the Town Manager. Following a conversation with Tammy Hodge-man, I am now eligible for some tax relief through a special program that the town is funding.

Dave supported the town's decision to the purchase of 700 acres now established as the East Windham Conservation Area. The Town of Windham collaborated with the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust and other state and federal agencies in the acquisition of land that is now conserved forever.

On the issue of bonds, Dave has proposed "layering bonds" as a way for the town to better manage the repayment of these bonds. Contact Dave directly at 207-892-7192 for more details.

I encourage all residents to vote for Dave Nadeau on Nov. 5.

~ Rosie Hartzler, Windham

Editor,

We endorse Rolf Olsen for the Maine House of Representatives. We have been acquainted with him for many years both professionally and socially. He is a successful small

business owner and has contributed hundreds of hours of service making Raymond a better and more efficient town. He has done a tremendous job in Raymond on the Budget Committee, the Select Board, Road Improvement Committee and the Economic Development Task Force. Raymond is one of the few towns in the state to enjoy a Triple A rating with Standard and Poor's. His experience can help to improve the state's ratings as well.

Most important from our perspective is that he has the experience and the skills to reduce the runaway cost for electricity and provide tax relief for seniors which is important for residents and for attracting industry to Maine.

Please vote and vote conservatively for Rolf Olsen for Maine House of Representatives.

~ Dennis and Sheila Frappier, Raymond

Editor,

Your Social Security is on the line this election. In Maine, 95 percent of retired Mainers 65-plus receive Social Security benefits and more than 360,000 individuals collect Social Security. I hope voters will keep Social Security in mind this election season.

Mainers rely heavily, even entirely, on their Social Security benefits. A recent AARP survey of voters aged 50 and older shows that 90 percent think that Social Security is very important to people's financial security in retirement. If Washington doesn't take action in 10 years Social Security could be cut by 20 percent.

A cut to Social Security can have

effects no matter your age. It's time for both parties Congress to come together and agree on a solution to fix the Social Security shortfall. Let's ask candidates important questions this election season such as, do you see a path in Congress for a bipartisan solution to protect Social Security?

~ Dr. Erica W. Magnus

AARP Maine Volunteer Advocate
Windham

Editor,

I am a sophomore at Windham High School. While I am not old enough to vote yet, I see how important local elections are to preserving this beautiful state and its culture.

After a lot of research, I have a consensus on how voters can protect this ideal. The candidate that I feel will protect Maine's future is Sen. Tim Nangle.

Tim looks out for our environment by writing and passing legislation that helps towns protect their shoreline. He also has continually supported laws that fund education to the fullest extent, and he has passed a Research and Development bond that, once approved by voters, will create new innovations and opportunities in the workplace. These are just some examples of the good Senator Nangle has done for Maine.

I have also been able to volunteer for Tim and can honestly say he is a genuine, compassionate person who always puts others before himself.

To protect the special citizens of Maine, I implore you to vote: Tim Nangle for Maine State Senate.

~ Ashlynn Cuthbert
Windham

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

**Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road
and Via ZOOM**

Wednesday, October 9, 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, October 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm** on the following matter:

SITE PLAN REVIEW & PUBLIC HEARING

APPLICANT: Port Harbor Holdings I, LLC

LOCATION: Map: 051 Lot: 2 Zone C/LRR1
1326 Roosevelt Trail

DESCRIPTION: Site Plan Amendment – Jordan Bay Marina

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 25, 2024, or at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86574751601?pwd=NFRcP9ok2IbSHgOiUYanaOyWwqRKVq.1>

Meeting ID: 865 7475 1601

Passcode: 6sh10r

Meeting ID: 865 7475 1601

Passcode: 914441

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86574751601>

TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETINGS

– SITE WALK 9:00AM –

Saturday, October 5, 2024

Meet at 55 High St. Public comment is not permitted at the site walk unless requested by the Planning Board.

- Andrews School Redevelopment
Tax Map: 37, Lot: 24 – High Street
Plan review for 18 senior housing apartments.

**– REGULAR MEETING 6:30PM –
Monday, October 7, 2024**

Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- Public hearing for 24-13 Cross Ridge Subdivision
Tax Map: 22: Lots: 20-5, 23-3, 23-3B, 23-6, 23-7, 23-8, 23-9, 23-10, 23-11, 23-12 - Lockland & Flintlock Drives.
After-the-fact subdivision plan review to create eight, single-family lots.
- Public hearing for 24-25 Andrews School Redevelopment
Tax Map: 37, Lot: 24 – High Street Plan review for 18 senior housing apartments.
- 24-27 Code of the Town of Windham, Chapter 185, Shoreland Zoning Table of Land Uses. Amendments for compliance with Chapter 120, Land Use, Articles 6 and 8 and Chapter 240 Wireless Telecommunications Facilities, section 185-8.

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.



Is a condo right for you?

► **By Nicole Foster**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Nicole Foster,
Broker/REALTOR®

A growing segment of the residential single-family real estate market is struggling to keep pace with the strong demand from buyers of all ages who are seeking the condo living experience.

A condominium, often referred to as a "condo" for brevity, is a unique type of residential property that is privately owned but located within a larger complex or community. Condos can take various forms: they might be situated within a multi-story building, share walls with neighboring units, or even be standalone structures often termed "house-a-minimum" allowing for different living experiences, catering to a range of lifestyles and preferences depending on its location.

Condos are particularly appealing to individuals seeking to simplify their lives, such as those looking to downsize after a larger family home

or first-time buyers eager to transition from renting to owning. Many find that condos provide an excellent opportunity to start building equity, as they are generally more affordable than traditional single-family homes. This affordability makes them an attractive starter home option for many, enabling buyers to invest in real estate for less money.

Living in a condominium typically entails fewer responsibilities compared to homeownership, fostering a more relaxed lifestyle with increased leisure time. This can be especially beneficial for those who wish to spend less time on maintenance and upkeep and more time enjoying their surroundings and pursuing personal interests.

One of the primary distinctions between owning a single-family home and a condominium lies in the ownership structure. When purchasing a single-family home, the buyer acquires both the dwelling and the land it sits on. In contrast, when you buy a condo, you own your individual unit but share ownership interest of the land and communal areas with all the other residents within the com-

plex. This shared ownership model often results in a collaborative living environment.

In terms of maintenance responsibilities, condo owners enjoy a significant advantage. In a single-family home, the homeowner is responsible for all aspects of property upkeep, including repairs, landscaping, and snow removal. However, in a condominium, many of these tasks are managed by the homeowners' association (HOA) or a property management company. This arrangement can be particularly appealing to individuals who wish to own real estate without the burden of owning and maintaining tools and equipment, such as lawnmowers or snow blowers.

The costs associated with condo living typically include monthly fees that contribute to the overall maintenance of the community. These fees can range significantly, often falling between \$100 and \$700 or more, depending on the amenities and services provided. Most frequently, these

fees are collected on a monthly basis, although they can also be charged quarterly or annually. For complexes with upscale amenities—such as swimming pools, fitness centers, or concierge services—the fees may be higher. It's essential for prospective buyers to inquire about what these fees cover and how frequently they are collected. Additionally, owners may be subject to one-time assessments for upcoming repairs or improvements within the complex, which can also impact their financial obligations. Owners usually have options regarding payment for these assessments, whether in a lump sum or through installment plans.

Living in a condo also means embracing a sense of community, which comes with adhering to the rules and regulations set forth by the homeowners' association. These guidelines can be quite comprehensive, covering a range of topics such as parking restrictions, quiet hours, clothes lines,

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 28

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Eagle ENTERTAINMENT

THE WINDHAM EAGLE PRESENTS...
 A REVIEW OF AN HBO MAX
MOVIE
 'Trap' (PG-13)

By Matt Pascarella
 STAFF WRITER

Runtime: 1 hour, 45 minutes
 During "Trap" I thought I knew what the twist would be, but I was wrong. It's hinted quickly that there is something up with Cooper, who has taken his daughter Riley to see popstar Lady Raven at a large arena. Police are looking for a serial killer, "The Butcher," and security is extra tight at the concert. While the Butcher's identity is unconfirmed, it seems like Cooper will stop at nothing to navigate around the FBI.



"Trap" stars Josh Hartnett, Ariel Donoghue, Saleka Shyamalan, Alison Pill, Hayley Mills, Jonathan Langdon, Marnie McPhail and Kid Cudi.

Cooper (Hartnett) and daughter Riley (Donoghue) are seeing popstar Lady Raven (Shyamalan) in concert. Once they get to their seats, Cooper notices there are police and cameras everywhere.

While buying T-shirts, he learns from vendor Jamie (Langdon) that a serial killer named "The Butcher" is supposed to be at the concert and the FBI has set a trap for him.

At this point Cooper looks intrigued, but not alarmed.

It doesn't take long for him to begin acting strange. Cooper averts Riley's attention every time he sees FBI agents blocking an exit or doing security checks.

He steals a security card from Jamie and learns the secret password to gain access to restricted areas. He breaks into a briefing session and steals some equipment.

I felt like the viewer was being led to believe one thing, but I wasn't 100 percent sure that the direction I was being pointed toward was correct.

He lies to Lady Raven's uncle, in order to get Riley onstage to sing with her, because that got them closer to an unguarded exit. The whole time he's observing his surroundings and forming a plan to leave the building.

At one point, a tour manager said, "your daughter's never going to forget today."

The look in Cooper's eyes at various points were chilling. He eventually shows his cards to Lady Raven. When she offers Riley a ride in her limousine, maybe she can stop Cooper before it's too late.

"Trap" follows a different line of actions than I initially anticipated. It was not as good as some of Shyamalan's more well-known movies, like "The Sixth Sense," "Signs," or my personal favorite "The Others," but if I stop focusing on the twist so much, I think overall this was a decent thriller/horror movie. Hartnett plays an unhinged character almost too well and the way he brings his daughter to a popstar's concert and then makes crazy suggestions in an effort to avoid the FBI is more than unnerving. His actions, while you don't really see them, are horrendous as well.

The movie leads you in a direction that makes you suspect Hartnett isn't the nice guy you see him as in the beginning of the movie. I found his erratic actions and suggestions to Riley, like when he suggests they should go down a stairway leading to the basement of the venue, to be very unsettling – which made me eager to see how all this was going to play out. Was I scared? Not really. If you're really curious to see where this went, I'd recommend renting it. Though if you are only somewhat curious, you can probably wait for it to become available on a streaming service you have.

Three and a half out of five stars.
 Now available to rent. <

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Defunct airline
 - 4. Beverage container
 - 7. A team's best pitcher
 - 10. Unit of liquid capacity
 - 11. It comes before two
 - 12. Male child
 - 13. Type of wheat
 - 15. One's mother
 - 16. Upper side of an organism
 - 19. United is one
 - 21. Extraction process
 - 23. A being with lesser divine status
 - 24. People living together in a community
 - 25. Luxury automaker
 - 26. This (Spanish)
 - 27. Semitic language
 - 30. Period for a defined purpose
 - 34. Wander aimlessly in search of pleasure
 - 35. Up in the air (abbr.)
 - 36. American marsupial
 - 41. Decadent dessert
 - 45. Aquatic plant
 - 46. About aviation
 - 47. Summer footwear
 - 50. Rugged mountain ranges
 - 54. With tin
 - 55. Cut on the surface of a hard object
 - 56. Wrapped in cloth
 - 57. Defensive nuclear weapon
 - 59. "American Idol" contestant Clay
 - 60. Midway between east and southeast
 - 61. Court decision "___ v. Wade"
 - 62. Born of
 - 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 64. Actress ___-Margaret
 - 65. Not even

- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Heat unit
 - 2. ___ Faulkner, American writer
 - 3. Guatemalan town
 - 4. Of funny things
 - 5. Actress ___ de Armas
 - 6. Agents of one's downfall
 - 7. Takes forcibly
 - 8. Body lice
 - 9. Large nest of a bird of prey
 - 13. Unhappy
 - 14. Popular holiday dessert
 - 17. Habitual drunkard
 - 18. Used of a number or amount not specified
 - 20. Complications
 - 22. Fail to win
 - 27. Before the present
 - 28. Musical genre
 - 29. Flurry
 - 31. 007's creator
 - 32. Indiana Pacer Toppin
 - 33. Midway between north and northeast
 - 37. Feeling
 - 38. Damage another's reputation
 - 39. Mottled citrus fruit
 - 40. Beauty product
 - 41. They man first, second and third
 - 42. Harness
 - 43. Herb
 - 44. Expressed concern
 - 47. Mississippi scientific area (abbr.)
 - 48. Consumed
 - 49. Nostrils
 - 51. Gathered fallen leaves
 - 52. Express good wishes
 - 53. Monetary unit of Brunei
 - 58. Japanese Buddhist festival

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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HOW TO SOLVE:
 Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Coping with grief, stress, hospitalizations and serious illnesses can be overwhelming for adults but even more complex for children trying to cope with obstacles in life. Play Warriors, Inc. in Windham helps transform those experiences into supportive, calming and nurturing situations by providing age-appropriate preparation, therapeutic play interventions, and coping strategies with opportunities for self-expression and connection.

Located at 840 Roosevelt Trail, second floor in Windham, Play Warriors was launched in Bridgton in 2019 and relocated to Windham in July. Owned and operated by Kimberly Leighton, MS, CCLS, Play Warriors offers child life therapy, therapeutic play groups and outings, peer support groups, no-cost integrative therapies, legacy items, and monthly CPR/first aid classes.

Child life specialists assess a child's level of understanding and address any misconceptions, with regard to what they are going through or are about to experience. Leighton states that play is a non-threatening and universal language for children and serves as a tool for building and forging relationships with them, sharing information, and providing opportunities for learning. "When children can begin to understand what is happening to them, it's less scary." She works with kids as young as two and into their tween years.



Leighton says she may be the only child life specialist in private practice in Maine. "I opened this business to bring child life therapy to rural Maine to help at-risk families and educate the public about the role of child life in community settings. "I really want to expand child life services in Maine. This summer I had the privilege to supervise four college students from outside the state. In the coming years, I hope to help Maine college students find this rewarding career as I did at the University of Maine Farmington (UMF) 20 years ago."

I hold a master's degree in child life therapy, and an undergraduate degree in early childhood education. Over the past 20 years, my professional journey has been dedicated to serving Maine families," Leighton said. "I have gained diverse experience, including owning and operating two large child-care centers in Gorham and Portland, teaching pre-K through Grade 3, and working for non-profit organizations supporting vulnerable families. Five years ago, I ventured into private practice to support a determined mom

help her daughter's home infusions. McKenzie Barker became the very first play warrior and is now the mascot for the company, appearing in ads and on t-shirts in her Play Warriors superhero costume and pink glasses. Kimberly worked with McKenzie to publish her very own book, "I Am a Pompe Warrior" about her life with Infantile Pompe Disease, soon to be available on Amazon.

Leighton said the best thing about her job are the families that she works with. "I'm passionate about what I do and believe in helping people and taking the time to listen. Watching them get back on their feet brings tremendous joy to my life as well." Leighton said.

She said that her late husband, Dr. Peter Leighton, a local addiction medicine physician, encouraged her to open Play Warriors. "He was my biggest supporter. A year after opening the business and right at the onset of the Covid pandemic, his brain cancer returned and he passed away only one year later," Leighton said. "During this time, our community supported our children in so many ways. It is my

hope to give back to others what we have received.

Now, three years later, Kimberly is inspired to help widows with widow coaching, and she is a newly certified grief yoga teacher. When Kim isn't at Play Warriors, she works part-time as a child life specialist at the Maine-Health Bleeding Disorders clinic and owns and operates a short-term rental company, Boho Ridge, Inc. "I like to stay busy. That is a coping skill that I'm working on!"

Pricing for Play Warriors is similar to that of counselors and other practitioners with a master's degree. Some services are reimbursable for children in foster care placement, and free for children in treatment for cancer and their siblings with help from a partnering non-profit, Lucy's Love Bus. Kimberly hopes to transition Play Warriors into a non-profit organization within the next few years. "I would love all of the services to be free for all families." Play Warriors is hoping that as the word gets out about the new location, other practitioners and volunteers join them in providing more pediatric therapeutic services, integrative offerings, classes, workshops, meal trains and more.

Testimonials posted on the Play Warriors website are exceptional. For more details, call 207-387-7366 or visit www.playwarriorsinc.com. Find them on Facebook and Instagram. <

Healing in Community

SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES IMPACTED BY ILLNESS, TRAUMA, GRIEF, AND LOSS.



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➔ REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 25

pet policies, guidelines for outdoor grilling, and regulations regarding the renting out of units—an important factor that can influence resale value. It is crucial for potential buyers to thoroughly review all governing documents to fully understand their restrictions and responsibilities as a condo owner.

Before purchasing a condo, it is critically important to assess the overall financial health of the condominium community. Prospective buyers should request access to the most recent financial statements and accounting records to ensure the community is well-managed and financially stable.

If you are contemplating purchasing a condo as your next home, be

sure to have a discussion with your lender. The financing for a condominium can involve additional considerations and requirements compared to a traditional home purchase and understanding these aspects will help determine if your loan would be suitable for a condo.

This article was brought to you by Nicole Foster, a real estate Broker with nineteen years of experience and a Windham parent. Follow on Insta @207nicolefoster or Facebook facebook.com/sellingmaine <

If you are a real estate professional or home service provider and are interested in becoming a columnist, email: Ed@TheWindhamEagle.com

➔ CHAMBER Cont. from page 1

According to Rankine, her previous work with the Greater Fort Kent Area Regional Chamber of Commerce was a rewarding experience.

“My previous chamber and its board grew and thrived substantially in comparison to previous years,” she said. “Opportunities to transition and grow were presented and with the right mindset and a committed board they will undoubtedly continue to do so.”

In her new position with the SLRCC, Rankine says she is bringing new ideas and a new perspective to the organization.

“I hope to shed a different light and outlook on the chamber,” she said. “Different paths and pasts can

present some wonderful insight into corporations to help create a broader scope and deeper delve into what is already working well or could potentially need improvement, especially when working effectively with a strong source of knowledge and history like the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber Board and its current director have.”

Thus far she’s been learning as much as possible about the towns and villages that the SLRCC serves and the chamber itself to be able to work effectively as the holiday season nears for the local business community.

“I truly hope to learn the culture, area, and background enough to make a difference and be a solid support to them moving forward,” Rankine said. <

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