

Historical fiction author prepares to discuss novels at Windham Public Library event

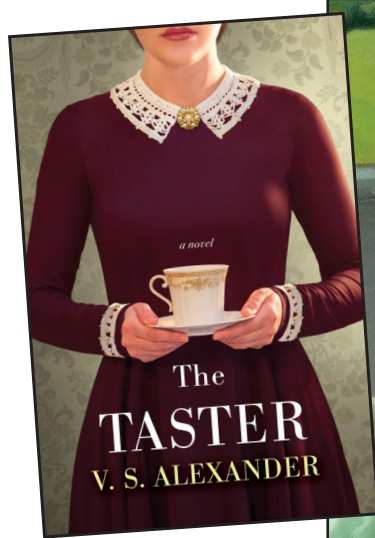
By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

A great writer can take readers to faraway places they may never experience themselves or tell stories that inspire their imagination. Michael Meeske of Windham is one of those rare writers whose work is not only commercially successful, but also provides some great storytelling.

Meeske, the author of 11 novels, has sold nearly a half-million books in the past seven years and he will be on hand from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6 at the Windham Public Library in a free event to meet the public and discuss his writing. Through the years, his novels have received critical acclaim from Publisher's Weekly, the Library Journal, and other industry publications and he's been a speaker at numerous writing conferences and events around the United States.

His novels for Kensington Publishing are under his pen name of V. S. Alexander and have been published in more than a dozen countries including Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Czech Republic, France, Italy, Mexico, the United States and Lithuania. A novel of his called *The Taster* has been optioned for a film.

During his appearance at the library, Meeske will discuss *The Taster*,



his novel about a food taster for Adolf Hitler, and *The Novelist from Berlin*, based on a true story of a writer during the late days of the Weimar Republic and the early days of the German Reich. He'll be talking about both of these heroines and their different lives under Nazi rule.

Originally from Kansas, Meeske is a natural at writing.

"I was a storyteller from an early age, but I didn't know it. I wrote a play – an extremely short one – plus



Author Michael Meeske of Windham who writes under the pen name VS Alexander, will appear from 6 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 6 at the Windham Public Library to discuss his novels *The Taster* and *The Novelist from Berlin*. SUBMITTED PHOTO

a couple of short stories about astronauts and visitors from another planet. It was kid's stuff. My last semester at the University of Kansas, I needed

a class, any class, to fulfill my credits," he said. "I enrolled in a fiction writing course taught by James E. Gunn, then President of the Science Fiction Writers of America. I didn't know who he was, so I went in with no expectations. Also, I knew how hard it is to write good science fiction, having read it for many years in my youth. Most everyone in the class had enrolled because of Gunn's reputation and stature in the writing world. I didn't write science fiction, and I got A's on my stories. He lit the fire."

After taking Gunn's class, Meeske said he had a burning desire to write, but his big break didn't come until much later in life.

"I'd have to say, I enjoy the creative end of writing more than any other part of the business – creating characters, moving them around, keeping the story fresh and exciting for readers which is

easier said than done," he said. "But I realize how far-reaching the editing process is, and how a good working

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Raymond publishes draft of new Comp Plan

By Kendra Raymond
STAFF WRITER

The Raymond Comprehensive Plan committee is staying on schedule producing the preliminary draft of the document just in time for the fall 2024 projected deadline.

Residents on the email list received a copy of the draft and it is also available on the town website. The announcement says, "The Raymond Comprehensive Plan team is happy to share the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan for your review."

The website explains, "Raymond staff, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and North Star Planning have been working together since May 2023 to update Raymond's comprehensive plan. This draft plan includes Maine State requirements along with goals, policies, action items, and a Future Land Use Plan based on what we've heard from the Raymond community through online surveys, workshops, informal polls, and the Committee."

The CPC draft features several top Priority Goals and Actions that emerged through surveys and workshops held over the past year. These include "Build a resilient Raymond, protect Raymond's natural and water resources, invest in road and traffic improvements, prioritize walking and biking around Raymond, and strengthen Raymond's sense of community."



A poster displays notes and suggestions for community services and facilities developed during a workshop used to formulate the Town of Raymond's new Comprehensive Plan. PHOTO BY KENDRA RAYMOND

CPC Co-chair Peter Leavitt took a minute to provide an update about the progress of this long-term and much anticipated project.

"The community feedback col-

lected by the Comprehensive Plan Committee (CPC) over the past two years is reflected in the plan's Mission Statement (page 9) and Priority Actions listed at the very beginning of the draft plan," he said.

Leavitt highlighted the priority actions at this junction as:

- Build a more resilient Raymond regarding extremes in weather and natural disasters
- Protect Raymond's natural and water resources
- Invest in road safety and traffic improvements
- Strengthen Raymond's sense of community

It is important to recognize that the priority actions are just a starting point. Leavitt explained, "While these are intentionally broad goals, the data and detail of the many initiatives necessary in achieving them are contained in the section of the draft entitled Goals, Policies and Action Items beginning on page 33. Each initiative is identified with a segment(s) of municipal government assigned to its implementation as well as an assigned timeframe for action, for example priority (As Soon As Pos-

sible), short term (one to three years), medium term (three to five years), and long term (five to 10 years)."

The document is comprised of three parts: the outlook for the future (including the vision, goals, and action items), data collection results (topics required by state law), and the appendices which include public engagement events and the Capital Improvement Plan for the town.

North Star Planning representatives Ben Smith, AICP, Kate Burch, and Sam Peikes lead the process with the assistance of Forrest Meader with Rhumbline Maps. The Comprehensive Plan Committee consists of a cross-section of Raymond residents including John Clark, Greg Foster, Kaela Gonzalez (co-chair), Peter Leavitt (co-chair), Frank McDermott, Shawn McKillop, Danelle Milone, John Rand, Jacqueline Sawyer, and Brad McCurtain.

The committee has been working together since August 2022 to guide the process, gather and synthesize data and feedback to create a vision for the future of Raymond.

The update reminds resi-
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INSIGHT

Yard sale confessional

I have a confession to make. For many years I avoided going to yard sales, garage sales, estate sales, thrift stores or flea markets because I saw no purpose in it and didn't understand why anyone would want to accumulate more of someone else's junk or castoffs. But was I ever wrong.

Slightly more than 20 years ago, my wife encouraged me to drive her to a community wide garage sale in Florida and in looking over a table, I discovered a perfectly good wristwatch priced at just \$2. Having \$5 cash on me at the time, I paid for the watch and used the \$3 change at the next house we stopped at to purchase complete sets of 1988 and 1989 baseball cards which were priced at \$1.50 each.

When the weather was nice, visiting yard sales became a favorite Saturday morning activity for us. There were some things we could afford, and some we passed on. Not having small children, I avoided any neighborhood sales with piles of baby clothes or toys stacked in the driveway. My wife being an avid reader, she always stopped at sales that featured boxes of books. I preferred visiting ones with practical things I could use for our home, such lawn furniture, shovels or hedge trimmers.

And best of all, many of these used items up for sale came without a hefty retail price tag.

Once when we told my mother that we were spending a Saturday morning driving around looking for garage sales, she shook her head and gave me a quizzical look.

"I don't understand why you would want to go rummaging through some else's used underwear," she told me. "I wouldn't be caught dead anywhere near one of those places."

She didn't know it at the time, but the chair she was sitting in at our home when she said that came straight from a yard sale. So were the napkins and glasses at the dinner table we ate at.

Through the years my wife accumulated an enormous selection of like-new children's books for her classroom by visiting yard sales. Some of the books were priced at a fraction of what they would cost if purchased at a store.

Many pieces of furniture in our home have been rescued from a yard sale or a thrift shop, repainted and repurposed to fit our décor. We've found bookcases, several wardrobe cabinets, a kitchen clock, a bicycle, an antique soup tureen, a dresser and a like-new microwave oven that way.

For years I would buy most of my clothing at a department store and pay full price. But after seeing a generous selection of gently used pants and shirts and jackets at a thrift store, my thinking changed. I still buy some new clothes as needed but if I can find pants in great condition at a thrift store for \$4 that fit me well, I'd much rather do that than pay \$48 for new ones.

I can go through my closet right now and find several winter coats, five or six sweaters, some dress shirts and pairs of pants that came from a yard sale or a thrift shop.

Our beloved Scrabble game that swivels came from a garage sale. So did a pink serving dish in our cupboard that resembles one my wife's grandmother had when she was a child.

Yard sales and garage sales have also been a way for us to get out of the house and to do something together on weekends. I've found it's also an excellent way to meet people who live in our community and to learn more about streets and the geography of where we live.

Now that we have grandchildren, my wife is always on the outlook for inexpensive clothes for them at these local sales. Sometimes a sale at a local church will include homemade baked goods.

This summer at a church sale near our home I found a huge selection of record albums priced at \$1 each with many of them still in the original retail shrink wrap. At a flea market nearby, I purchased a DVD set of Season 3 of the old television series "The Fugitive" for just \$3.


The exciting thing about visiting a yard sale or a garage sale or an estate sale is that you never know what you will find there or what kind of deal you can make. Sometimes near the end of the sale, items will be greatly reduced in price just to get rid of them. Or you can offer what you can afford and many times, your offer will be accepted.

After the sales are over, sometimes leftovers will be set at the end of the driveway in boxes for free to anyone who wants them. The same thing happens when people are moving and can't take everything. My wife and I just found a sitting room chair in perfect shape from neighbors who were moving while we were out walking our dog, and it had a free sign on it.

I'll never know why I never went to a yard sale when I was younger, but I confess that I'm hooked on it now. <

~ Ed Pierce

Today in
HISTORY



NOVEMBER 1

1512 – Michelangelo's paintings on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel in Vatican City are exhibited to the public for the first time.

1755 – At least 60,000 people are killed in Portugal by an earthquake and its aftershocks and ensuing tsunami.

1800 – John Adams becomes the first U.S. president to live in the White House after it is completed.

1848 – The first medical school for women opens in Boston, Massachusetts before it later merges with the Boston University School of Medicine.

1870 – The U.S. Weather Bureau makes its first meteorological observations using 24 locations that provide reports via telegraph.

1879 – Inventor Thomas Edison applies for his first patent for a high-resistance carbon filament.

1952 – The U.S. explodes the first hydrogen bomb on Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

ON THE SPOT

If you were to break a world record, what would it be for?

"Right now, it would be for the most oak leaves on my front lawn. Either that or Acorns. Never ending." – William Reiner

"USATF 100-meter dash for my age group." – Stephen Signor

"Cooking for others." – Julie Mallett

"The vast number of projects I have sitting around that need to be finished!" – Lisa Becker

"Not for me but I'll tag Cathy Wessel in her decades-long goal of being the person who dies with the most fabric (or scraps) in her possession." – Emily Anne Morey

"Books read in a year." – Rob Juergens

"How many animals I've owned." – Rhonda Fenderson

"Hours spent playing basketball in a week with my friends." – Mitchell B. Robinson

"Driving kids back and forth to youth sporting events." – Dennis Young

"Listening to music." – Tawny Lamabe-Punto

"Accumulating items in my garage for an upcoming garage sale that never seems to happen for one reason or another." – Deirdre Schulte

"Ordering take-out on Friday nights." – Lois Fuller

"Looking for the perfect and affordable living room furniture to furnish my home." – Lollie Gomez Nunez

"Tattoos and piercings." – Jennifer Orrantz

"Trips to Walmart and Home Depot in a single week!" – Dean A. Smalley

"Laundry or time spent cleaning up in my kitchen." – Chris Macklin

"Being subjected to the barrage of political advertising on television in a single setting over the course of an evening when I just wanted to watch a hockey game." – Ron Labourque

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EDITORIAL POLICY The Windham Eagle newspaper has a mission to be a Positive and Solutions Based newspaper. As a positive and solutions-based newspaper, we are committed to providing our readers with accurate, informative, and constructive news and information that uplifts and inspires. We recognize that certain content may not align with our mission and values, and therefore reserve the right to not publish certain types of content. For complete details about submissions and our letters policy, visit thewindhameagle.com/Information.pdf

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Community Service

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President (Present)

Sportsman's Alliance of Maine

Board Member (Present)

Presumpscot Regional Land Trust Advisory Council

Member (Present)

Comprehensive Plan Review Team

Member (Past)

Task Force to Help Shape the Next Generation of Maine Land Conservation

Member (Past)

Falmouth Rod and Gun Club

Director (Past)

Windham Historical Society

Volunteer (Past)

Windham Land Trust

Director (Past)

Public Service

127th Maine House of Representatives

- Joint Standing Committee for Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

128th Maine House of Representatives

- Joint Standing Committee for Criminal Justice and Public Safety
- Joint Select Committee for Marijuana Legalization Implementation

129th Maine House of Representatives

- Joint Standing Committee for Criminal Justice and Public Safety
- Maine Marijuana Advisory Commission
- Maine Juvenile Justice System Assessment & Reinvestment Task Force

130th Maine House of Representatives

- Joint Standing Committee for Appropriations and Financial Affairs
- Joint Standing Committee for Veterans and Legal Affairs
- Maine Marijuana Advisory Commission

Notable Legislation

127th Maine Legislature

- LD 822: An Act To Allow a Former Spouse of a Member of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System To Begin Collecting Benefits When the Former Spouse Reaches the Member's Retirement Age
- LD 1500: An Act To Protect and Promote Access to Sport Shooting Ranges

128th Maine Legislature

- LD 9: An Act To Prohibit the Creation of a Firearms Owner Registry
- LD 1418: An Act To Ban the Purchase of Retail Marijuana and Retail Marijuana Products with Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program Benefits

129th Maine Legislature

- LD 79: An Act To Protect Shooting Ranges
- LD 84: Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Allow Spouses To Provide Home and Community-based Services to Eligible MaineCare Members
- LD 648: An Act To Improve Reporting of Operating Under the Influence Offenses
- LD 858: Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Study and Make Recommendations for the Establishment of a Maine School Safety Center
- LD 1218: An Act To Allow Maine Medical Marijuana Caregivers To Measure Cultivation Limits by Plant Canopy Size

130th Maine Legislature

- LD 560: An Act To Amend the Safe Haven Laws
- LD 573: An Act Concerning Records of the Employment of Law Enforcement Officers and Corrections Officers
- LD 1140: An Act To Establish a Sales Tax Exemption for the Purchase of Firearm Safety Devices

Learn more by visiting coreyforhouse.com

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Veterans Day observance nears at Veterans Center

By Melissa Carter
STAFF WRITER

For the men and women who have worn the uniform of the United States of America, a federal holiday recognizing their service and sacrifices to the nation, Veterans Day is observed on Nov. 11 every year, symbolic of the 11th Hour of the 11th day of the 11th month marking the end of World War I. In Windham, the public is invited to a special event on Veterans Day to remember those who have

worn the uniform of the United States of America and given of themselves in the defense of liberty.

This year's Veterans Day ceremony will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, Nov. 11 at the Windham Veterans Center and will feature guest speakers and the student winners of this year's local Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10643 essay contest.

The event is part of national celebrations of Veterans Day, which was originally known as "Armistice Day."

The commemoration of a special

day to pay tribute to military veterans was launched on Nov. 11, 1919, one year after the end of World War I. U.S. President Woodrow Wilson declared "Armistice Day" to take place annually in America on the "11th day of the 11th month at the 11th hour" to remember the end of what was known as "The Great War," now called World War I.

In his original proclamation Wilson was resolute about creating a day to pay tribute to American veterans.

"Reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nations," Wilson wrote in his original proclamation to create "Armistice Day."

In June 1954, the U.S. Congress officially changed the name of "Armistice Day" to Veterans Day to honor those Americans who perished in World War II and Korea since "Armistice Day" had first been observed. In 1975, U.S. President Gerald Ford designated Nov. 11 as the permanent

Veterans Day holiday because of its historical significance for the nation.

Navy veteran Willie Goodman of Windham, the commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10643, will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for the event.

Goodman knows first-hand how willing veterans have been throughout our country's history to protect and defend our freedom. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1963 to 1993 and retired as an E-9, Command Master Chief.

He served on eight different ships in his Navy career including on three aircraft carriers and was stationed in Norfolk, Virginia; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Stockton and Oakland, California; Brunswick, Maine and spent two tours overseas. He also served three years in Spain and was stationed in the Philippines for three years.

"For me, Veterans Day is a special day of reflection, both remembering all those we have lost and thinking of, and being thankful for, all those who served who are still with us," Goodman said. "Being the Commander of Windham's VFW Post 10643, I really appreciate all our members and com-

→ see VETERANS Page 6

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State Representative



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Even if we don’t see eye to eye, people are respectful and kind. They are good neighbors, caring parents, committed community members, and they want the best for each other.

I raised my four kids here, worked for the Windham School Department, and been very grateful for the wonderful atmosphere in this beautiful town. I would be honored to serve as your State Representative, and make sure your voice is heard in Augusta.”

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- **SUPPORT SMALL MAINE BUSINESSES** – I know how vital our self-employed and small businesses are to our local economy and our communities. I will advocate in Augusta to make Maine more small-business friendly
- **MAKE COMMUNITIES SAFER** – A priority should be to take on homelessness, crime, and addiction by supporting police, fire, first responders, and advocating for mental health care.
- **INCREASED VETERAN ASSISTANCE** – Many of our veterans are being pushed aside and left out in the cold. There are too many gaps in the systems for Veterans to fall thru. Maine needs to do better.
- **AUDIT AUGUSTA TO REDUCE TAXES** – We must look at how we spend our money with the mission of rooting out waste and lowering taxes.
- **SUPPORT EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION** – With our current State ranking this fall in education plummeting to 50th in the nation WE need to make changes! We need to get our education system back on track and teach our students basic skills and core subjects to prepare our children for life and a career. We must support whatever they choose - college, military, or careers in the trades.
- **PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS** – We need a program that allows seniors the opportunity to be able to afford to stay in their own home. A program focused on seniors with limited income can be a workable solution. Maine had a policy in place that limited the % increase towns could raise property taxes and that was taken away by the Democrats. This change is urgent.

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As a former educator, I place tremendous value on our children being able to get a quality education. Mark is committed to fighting for our kids to ensure they have the opportunities to pursue whatever academic and career path they want to. We must empower parents and inspire our kids to chase their dreams. Whether it's a four year university or trade school, Maine kids deserve choices. Mark will fight to promote and protect that choice.

Please join me in supporting Mark Cooper for State House District 107.

~ Gary Plummer

Vote Mark Cooper on November 5th



About Mark Cooper

- Owner/President of LC Cooper Co. Inc. Building Contractors; 3rd generation family business
- Farm Owner/Operator, with wife of 41 years, Gaylene, Cooper’s Maple Products, Greenhouse, and Royal Heritage Farm (American Aberdeen Cattle)
- Cumberland Farmers Club, Fair Director, and Livestock Superintendent., 8 years
- Maine Maple Producer Assoc., Director, 15 years
- Former Cumberland County 4-H Club Leader, 23 years
- Graduate of Windham High (1981) and UNH (1983)
- Father of sons, Craig and Eric; Grandfather of Brian and Reagan



**MARK COOPER
FOR LEGISLATURE
DISTRICT 107**

Contact Mark at (207) 232-5842 or email: gmcooper81@aol.com

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→ **VETERANS** *Cont. from page 4*

rades who come together on Veterans Day along with our supportive community for our program and throughout the year as well as we help out our local veterans.”

The keynote speaker for this year’s Veterans Day observance in Wind-

ham will be Ed Pierce, the Managing Editor of *The Windham Eagle* newspaper and a U.S. Air Force veteran. Pierce is the recipient of the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Air Force Achievement Medal, and he served eight years as a U.S. Air Force public affairs specialist, stationed at Frankfurt, Germany; at The Pentagon

in Washington, D.C., and at Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona.

During the Veterans Day observance patriotic songs will be performed by the Windham Chamber Singers and Windham Booy Scout Troop 805 will assist with seating and the Presentation of the Colors.

Goodman will announce the winners of this year’s VFW-sponsored essay competitions who will read their essays for the audience in attendance for the Veterans Day observance. The theme of this year’s Patriot’s Pen contest for students in grades 6 to 8 is “My Voice in America’s Democracy” and for the Voice of Democracy contest for students in grades 9 to 12 the theme is “Is America Today Our Forefather’s Vision?”

Veterans Day is a federal holiday recognized each November to celebrate and honor all U.S. veterans, those who are deceased or living.

No matter what day of the week, Veterans Day always falls on November 11 each year and is recognized as a federal holiday nationally.

Entering 2024, more than 18.6 million veterans live in the United States and a total of 87,443 veterans of World War II are still alive as of Oct. 31, including 99-year-old Carroll McDonald of Windham.

Over the years, Veterans Day has evolved into a day not just for remembering those who served in wartime but also for recognizing all veterans, including those who served in peacetime. It now serves as a time to reflect on veterans’ contributions and ongoing challenges, such as health care and employment and the day has become a platform for honoring military service while also advocating for the needs of those who served.

The Veterans Day event in Windham is free and open to the public. It will take place at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. <

→ **COMP PLAN** *Cont. from page 1*

dents, “During this time, the State of Maine Municipal Planning Assistance Program will review Raymond’s plan for completeness and compliance with the state’s Growth Management Act.”

Once the public comment period has ended and state review is complete, Raymond staff, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and North Star Planning will make edits and updates to finalize the plan. Then, the plan will go to the Select Board to vote on inclusion in the 2025 Town Warrant, where you will be able to vote on its approval.”

Following gaining approval to proceed, Leavitt said that the next step after the statutory public comment period and public hearing will be the submission of the draft plan to the State of Maine.

“The state approval can take up to three months. Once approved by the state the plan is presented to the town Select Board for placement on the Town Warrant for our June 2025 elections,” said Leavitt. “As with any major warrant article the plan will be the subject of a final town hearing prior to the community vote.”

Once approved, it will be time for the committee to “roll up their sleeves” once again.

“The real work is in the implementation of the priority actions, goals and policies identified by the community. It is the responsibility of the Select Board to create the Comprehensive Plan Implementation Committee to this end,” said Leavitt.


He went on to sum up the journey perfectly.

“The process is completed once the citizens of Raymond vote to accept the Comprehensive Plan,” Leavitt said. “As I have learned with Municipal comprehensive planning this...’is not the end...this is not even the beginning of the end...but perhaps this is the end of the beginning!” (Winston Churchill).”

The CPC is seeking public comments and feedback on the recently published draft as requested on their website, “Now, we want to hear from you. The public comment period runs through Dec. 4. Please submit your comments using the form or drop them off in person at the Raymond Town Office.”

To learn more about the comprehensive plan, review the draft, and submit your comments go to: comp-plan.raymondmaine.org/index.php/review-the-plan. A Public Hearing on the draft plan will be held by the Raymond Comprehensive Plan Committee at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 4. <

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Dear Friends in Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Westbrook, and Windham,

With the election fast approaching, I write this letter to ask for your support of my candidacy for the Maine State Senate. It would be my greatest honor to represent you as your State Senator.

Running for political office has been a test of patience because of today's divisive political climate. It is sad to see how negative the campaigns have gotten, peddling fear rather than inspiration, but it doesn't have to be that way. I believe we can work together in a civil manner avoiding personal attacks which do not reflect the welcoming and friendly people of this district. I promise to bring a positive attitude and a willingness to work together to the Maine Senate.

As the founder of Erik's Church, I have earned my credentials and am a respected leader in this community. The commitment we have made to support local nonprofits over the years is just one of the qualifying barometers of my candidacy.

My positions are clear: I support a woman's right to choose. I support gay marriage. I support small businesses and the hard-working men and women of Maine simultaneously, and I support the concept that we have a civic duty to our seniors and Veterans to operate the government within its means.

My commitment is to you, the hard-working people of Senate District 26. This election is not about social positions, as both my opponent and I are aligned on most of those, but rather on the problems Mainers are facing. Our cost of living and doing business in Maine has put us on a downward trajectory of bankrupting small businesses, over taxing working Mainers, and forcing our retirees to have to decide if it is time to sell their forever home to be able to pay the bills.

I have an economics degree from the University of Maine and I understand if we are to succeed, we need to make sure that the next legislature does not continue to overspend, which is certainly what happened over the past two years. Because of their reckless spending the state is now looking at a \$1 Billion budget shortfall. I look forward to stopping this out-of-control spending and get back to staying within our means.

Our healthcare has been overrun, childcare is expensive and too often unavailable, our infrastructure has been crumbling for years, education is falling behind while good educators are neglected, Drug and mental health issues continue to plague our people, utility costs continue to increase to benefit the wealthy on the backs of our working class. The Maine legislature has become more like Washington D.C. with power players, pet projects, and political party control overruling common sense.

As a lifelong Mainer who has learned the values of hard work from my family, especially my grandfather, I am the candidate who intends to break this vicious cycle. The honor of your support will weigh on every decision I make as I do what I believe is right for you, my constituents, regardless of political party or individual persuasions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kenny J. Cianchette

AUTHOR *Cont. from page 1*

relationship with an editor is crucial. Editorial work is fine tuning and makes the book so much better. Beta readers are important as well. Find one you trust. I've had the same beta reader for all my books."

He says the ideas for his novels are ones he comes up with my own.

"A magazine article, a news story, or a thought, triggers the process," Meeske said. "If it digs its claws firmly into my head, I know I should do something with it. My editor also has pitched me ideas. He'll say I want a book on the Magdalen Laundries, or the Irish Potato Famine and I've done both of them. When I first started writing, I was a total panster, just thinking that the creative juices would guide me wherever I needed to be in the book. I wrote myself into a corner a couple of times and shortly thereafter, I made bullet-point outlines. The Taster, for example, I developed from a grocery list. I had 15 or so points, and I wrote the book from them. At one point, the heroine grabbed the story, and I followed. It was an exhilarating experi-

ence, and her unscripted journey added immensely to the novel."

When he's able to write, Meeske enjoys writing in the afternoon or early evening after he's completed his other tasks for the day. And, unlike some writers, he doesn't write every day.

"There's some kind of rule that says writers have to write every day, but I have to take a day off once in a while," Meeske said. "I find that I'm very productive on weekends - that's because I used to work full time. I gauge my writing time by word count. My goal is to write 1,000 to 1,200 words per session. That usually takes two or so hours. If you write a page a day, say 350 words, for a year, you'll have a book. Breaking the process down into manageable tasks helps."

He previously lived in New England for 20 years before moving to Florida.

"After 23 years there, I was ready to move back. I was tired of hurricanes, the congestion, and a quality of life that had changed since I left Boston in 2001," he said. "New England has changed as well, and I've had some

adjustment pains, but I love living in Windham. I grew up in small-town Kansas. The population here is much like my hometown when I was growing up."

Enjoying an excellent relationship with his publisher, Meeske found a literary agent through a referral from a colleague who couldn't do a book his editor wanted.

"So, I sold my first book on 75 pages, a 25-page synopsis and three chapters," he said. "That became The Magdalen Girls in 2017. We've been working together for nearly a decade."

Now firmly established in his career, it took some time for Meeske's family and friends to approve of his decision to focus on writing.

"When I first told my parents that I wanted to be a writer, sometime after college, they asked, 'Fine, but how are you going to make a living?' Probably every kid going into the creative arts has heard that line," he said. "Eventually, they got behind me. My friends have been supportive and sometimes amazed. It's hard to make a living as a writer. Only about 15 percent of writers make a living from their craft, and

many take on other jobs to pay the bills. You have to love it, and persevere, to succeed."

Putting together his novels have not come without challenges and one has been the most difficult to overcome.

"I'd say my writing of The War Girls was the most difficult. I had the idea of two Jewish sisters separated by the start of World War II, one living with relatives in England and the other in Warsaw," he said. "I had to research the Warsaw Ghetto, Special Operations Executive, and, most difficult of all, what a traditional Jewish home would be like in Warsaw before and after the invasion. Not being Jewish, I called upon friends, historical resources, and a sympathetic freelance editor to help me navigate a 5,000-year-old religion. It was a challenge, but the book has been well-received and I'm very proud of it."

He's just signed a contract to write his eighth historical novel for Kensington.

"It will be out sometime in 2026. I can't talk about it at this point, but I'm excited and ready to get to work." <



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Dear voters of Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and Westbrook,

My name is Tim Nangle, and I have had the honor of representing you all for the past two years in the Maine Senate in Augusta. I am writing to thank you for the confidence that you placed in me two years ago and to humbly ask for you to place that same confidence in me for two more years.

As many of you may know, especially if you have seen me when I've knocked on your door, I am running for re-election to the Maine Senate to represent District 26. I have been hard at work fighting for our towns, pursuing tax relief to help our seniors and families stay in their homes, protecting our lakes and our environment, maintaining state funding for education, and investing in our infrastructure and local economy. Yet there is still more to do.

From protecting the right to reproductive healthcare to further reducing prescription drug and healthcare prices, from expanding our investments in career and technical education to investing in mental healthcare, and to continuing to find ways to reduce the local property tax burden, I would be honored to continue to work on your behalf.

I have really enjoyed meeting many of you this year as I have knocked on thousands of doors across the district. Thank you for sharing your stories, your hopes, and your concerns with me. I hope that I have earned your vote this year for State Senate District 26.

Please vote by November 5th!

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- Spearheaded a bill to study whether current workers' compensation payments in Maine are sufficient

HEALTHCARE

- Reduced prescription drug prices
- Supports adequate nurse staffing to improve healthcare quality and outcomes
- Protected access to reproductive healthcare

EDUCATION

- Preserved 55% state funding for schools
- Supported programs to streamline teacher training and increase pay for educators
- Invested in Career and Technical Education

HOUSING

- Invested over \$100 million to increase the supply of affordable housing
- Committed to continuing to work on keeping Maine an affordable place to live, for young people, families, and retirees

ENVIRONMENT

- Passed a bipartisan shoreland zoning bill to protect our lakes and save towns money
- Led park creation and conservation projects on the Windham Town Council

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State grant to enhance outdoor recreation in Windham

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

During the Oct. 22 Windham Town council meeting, it was announced that the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development's Financial Assistance Program, in conjunction with the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation, has awarded the Town of Windham a grant of \$163,750 to be used for outdoor recreation economic development.

Tom Bartell, Executive Director of the Windham Economic Development Corporation, and Linda Brooks, Windham's Director of Parks and Recreation, briefed the council about what the grant will be used for and how the funding will be spent.

Bartell said that some of the grant funds will be used for a new campaign to promote and market exceptional outdoor activities available in Windham.

"The Open Space Plan really pro-

moted the notion of connectivity between our trails and that's the focus of this," he said.

According to Brooks, a Request for Proposal will be issued to hire a firm to design a connector trail from behind Home Depot in North Windham to Donnabeth Lippman Park.

She said another design will be needed for a proposed 50-acre property owned by the town adjacent to Gambo Park.

Among other projects to be funded by the grant will be to add multilingual signs in town parks and the possible creation of electronic kiosks which detail park information and can easily be updated as needed.

"We are also seeking to update trail signage and have a GIS intern to work with the departments to get the trails digitized for use with a mobile app," Brooks said.

Brooks said the Maine Community Outdoor Recreation Assistance Program has established a deadline of

Sept. 1, 2025 for the funds from this grant to be spent.

"We've got a lot to accomplish in a short period of time," she said.

Bartell said applying for the grant was made easier because of previous work done by the town.

"All the pre-work on our Open Space Plan and the town's Strategic Plan helped tremendously," he said.

The idea of applying for this specific grant came up originally when Brooks and Bartell met and discussed ways to promote the new East Windham Conservation Area to those interested in hiking and other outdoor recreational pursuits.

"Linda and I saw an opportunity to enhance our parks and trails through a grant from the Maine EDA," he said.

Windham currently maintains more than 500 acres of parks and preserves for residents and visitors.

Town Parks include Donnabeth Lippman Park, Windham Town Hall Park, Dundee Park and Windham Community Park on Gray Road. The town also partners with the Presumpscot Regional Land Trust for managing Lowell Preserve and the East Windham Conservation Area.

The Mountain Division Trail has a five-mile paved trail that connects

Standish, Windham, and Gorham and the town oversees trails at Claman Sanctuary at Donnabeth Lippman Park, Deer Hollow/Mud Pond, Lowell Preserve and Otterbook Sanctuary.

Councilors John Henry, David Nadeau and Jarrod Maxfield said they were supportive of the grant and the initiative to encourage more people to take advantage of abundant outdoor recreational opportunities locally.

Mark Morrison, Windham Town Council chair, asked Brooks if funding through the new grant will be used to improve gathering areas by adding picnic tables or other amenities.

Brooks said that will be considered as the town looks at ways to improve the experience for those using Windham trails and parks.

Applying for the grant was also facilitated by Windham's partnership with the land trust in purchasing the 700-acre East Windham Conservation Area and protected lands and trails in September 2023. That recreational area opened in May and is roughly the size of Bradbury State Park and larger than any state park in Southern Maine.

"It put us on the map so to speak," Bartell said. <

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 School Board - Ginny Woodman
 (At-Large) Town Council - Clayton Haskell
 (West) Town Council - William Reiner

Volunteers key to student success at Windham Primary

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

School volunteering is a very behind-the-scenes role and is perhaps one of the biggest sacrifices that can be made for improving the learning of our children and helping our teachers. Volunteerism is often overlooked, but its impacts are priceless.

“Volunteerism helps bring our community into our schools,” says Michelle Jordan, Windham Primary School’s Volunteer Coordinator. “It is a great way for students to meet and work with other adults. We have parents, grandparents, high school and college students that volunteer in our building. Volunteering allows our school to extend what we offer our students.”

Having additional help in the school allows for more hands-on projects, helps support students with areas they are struggling with, challenges students who are ready for the next level, and helps build a sense of community.

“Volunteers have a very positive impact on the students that they work with. Students form relationships with volunteers and look forward to working with them,” Jordan says. “It helps a student learn to work with other adults in the community and teaches them that the whole community is supporting them in their learning. For teachers, it allows them to enhance the student experiences by either providing additional one on one or small group instruction or by

volunteers organize and label books for classrooms, sew felt teddy bears, help build bird houses, lead yoga classes and more. I also help answer questions volunteers have about their role and to present volunteer orientation with new volunteers each year.”

Being a school volunteer can look like whatever works for the volunteer. Some volunteers help once a year on a field trip, some help once a week for a set period of time in a classroom, while others help every once in a while.

The volunteers contribute in many different ways.

“In the classroom, volunteers help provide additional support to students and add to the personalized

instruction that we can provide,” says Jordan. They also help our school offer additional events, programs and activities such as our Fall Festival, Book Sales, and Color Dash.”

Volunteering is a collaboration between the school and volunteers. There is no minimum amount of time that needs to be volunteered, and all volunteers look different in their roles.

“We will work with the volunteer to determine what the best arrangement is for the time they have to give and what they are interested in,” says Jordan. “Every minute of volunteer time is appreciated and valued. If someone is interested in volunteering, they can

→ see VOLUNTEERS Page 15



Windham Primary School has many opportunities for members of the public to help make it a better place for students through volunteering. SUBMITTED PHOTO

helping to prepare materials for more hands on and enhanced learning experiences.”

As the volunteer coordinator, Jordan helps coordinate volunteers for school-wide activities. These include picture days, backpack program, the library and other special events.

“I also work with classroom teachers to help find volunteers when they are looking for volunteers to support academic centers in their classroom or special projects,” says Jordan. “Over the years we have had

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The Maine Cabin Masters boost local food drive efforts

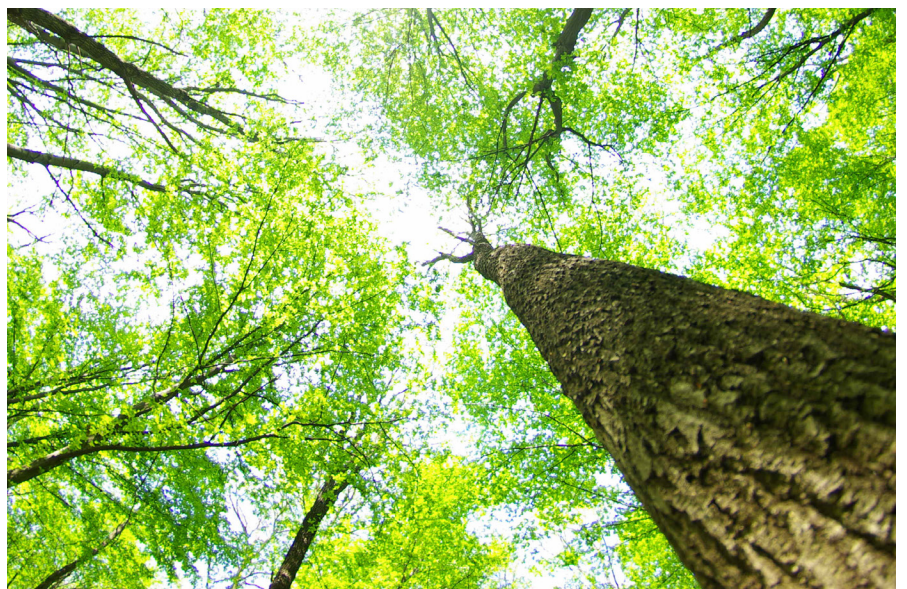


For five years now, Great Northern Docks has successfully hosted its food drive, methodically shutting down its operations to convert its property to a drive-through food donor drop off. Donors received free t-shirts and met the celebrity cast from The Maine Cabin Masters. All of Great Northern Docks' staff and volunteers from Crosswalk Community Outreach (CCO) received and processed over 2,500 lbs of food and almost \$7,000 in cash was taken in to benefit The Good Shepherd Food Bank. Joanne Moore from CCO said that requests for assistance is up 30% this year. If you want to support the effort go to: www.greatnortherndocks.com virtual food drive portal, found at the top of its homepage and send your financial gift directly to The Good Shepherd Food Bank, benefiting food pantries across Maine. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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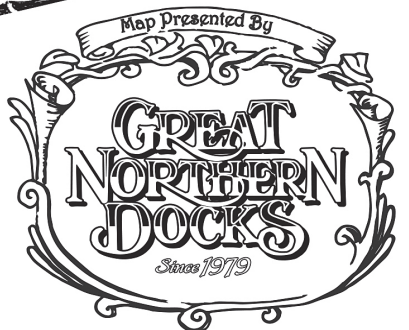
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Casco & Raymond Maine

WHS student creates school's first-ever Bible Club

By Jolene Bailey

STAFF WRITER

Across the world, many different people hold many different beliefs,

making it a beautiful place full of diversity and uniqueness. Taking that message to heart, Windham High School freshman Clayton Johnson

has used his voice to advocate for the importance of spirituality to high school students.

Since the beginning of his school journey this fall, Johnson has used his opportunities and creativity and well-known passion for life to help create Windham High's first-ever Bible Club. The club's first meeting was held in Room 302 at WHS after school on Oct. 21.



Members of the new Windham High School Bible Club gather outside the school after the club's first meeting on Oct. 21. The club is open to all WHS students. SUBMITTED PHOTO

the higher understanding of who and what greater good is watching over them," he said.

According to Johnson, the WHS Bible Club's main mission is to band together to build stronger connections with high school peers and their inner beliefs.

He says that the point of extra-curricular high school clubs is to allow students to build their own skills and create new ones based on interests that are beyond the focus of a typical academic classroom environment.

"I am looking forward to finding out who, like me, is a Christian in my school and who is searching for that understanding that I've mentioned," said Johnson.

Students who are interested in joining the WHS Bible Club can expect to hang out reading passages of the Holy Bible and then discussing what members take away from the story told. Students are encouraged and welcome to bring their own bible to club meetings but can also be provided with one if needed.

"Religion means worshiping God and studying the word. However, there are common misconceptions that go unaddressed with Christians all around the world," Johnson said. "Jesus came down from heaven so he could have a relationship with you, that's all he wants."

For more details about the new Bible Club, send an email to Clayton Johnson at cejohnson2028@rsu14.org or to WHS club advisor Melissa Dubois at mdubois@rsu14.org <



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BRIEFS

Fall Craft Fair

Windham Christian Academy, 1051 Roosevelt Trail in Windham will hold a Fall Craft Fair from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 2. There will be a variety of vendors and concessions available. FMI, call 207-892-2244.

Chess Club

Anyone interested in chess or wants to learn how to play is encouraged to participate in the Chess Club, held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 2 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road, Windham. All ages and abilities are welcome. FMI, call the Library Help Desk at 207-892-1908, Ext. 5 or send an email to: rmarcotte@windham-maine.us.

Watercolor Workshop

Suitable for any skill level, Kathleen Gerdes' watercolor workshop will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4 at the Hawthorne House, located at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond. The

cost is \$45 per student, which includes the use of the instructor's supplies and materials. Anyone wishing to participate is asked to register in advance by emailing workshop instructor Kathleen Gerdes at gerkat214@gmail.com.

Stuff-the-bus event

The Windham Lions Club's annual Stuff-the-bus event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Hannaford in Windham, 797 Roosevelt Trail. All non-perishable food items collected will go to the Windham Food Pantry. They are also asking for cash donations to support the Windham Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program.

Scouting for Food

Windham Cub Scout Pack 805 will be accepting donations for its annual food drive for those in need in the area from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at Shaw's in Windham. Anyone wishing to participate can drop off non-perishable, shelf stable and unexpired food items and grocery gift cards during the event.

VOLUNTEER *Cont. from page 11*

reach out to me at wpsvolunteer@gmail.com or your classroom teacher if you have a student in the building."

All volunteers must complete a Volunteer Application that includes an annual background check. Volunteer applications do have to be completed each year. First-time volunteers are asked to attend the Volunteer Orientation in late September. If they start volunteering after that, they are then sent materials to review.

There are also volunteer opportunities that can work from home. A lot of what goes on at an elementary school often involves making and preparing things, such as cutting out shapes, starting a project that the children will need to finish, or other things.

"Volunteers help make our school a better place for learning," says Dr. Kyle Rhoads, the principal of Windham Primary School. "Our teachers have a very hard job, and we have

learners that can benefit from their learning being supported or extended because of the actions of volunteers. It takes a team for all of our learners to have success."

There is so much more that teachers want to do with their students to provide them with the best education possible, but it is more than they can do alone. Volunteers often do things that free the teacher and allows them to do other parts of their job that may be more directly related to supporting the students, Rhoads said.

Anyone can be a volunteer as long as you have the time, the passion, and the desire. Whether you want to read aloud to children, or help with a hands-on activity, your time will make a difference to the children and teachers.

"If you like working with young children, we have opportunities for you to help make our school a better place through volunteering," says Rhoads. <

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RVL offers Audubon Wildlife Survival presentation

By Kendra Raymond
STAFF WRITER

As fall wanes and winter approaches, we find ourselves cozy and snug inside our homes, looking outside often glad we aren't out there, shivering in the cold. We watch the wildlife flit and scamper around, seemingly oblivious to their challenging surroundings. But do you ever wonder what happens to

Maine wildlife during bad weather, especially during the winter?

If answers are what you're looking for, the Raymond Village Library may just have some great information at an upcoming event presented by Maine Audubon. The Winter Survival for Maine Wildlife presentation will explain the mystery of winter survival of wildlife in Maine. The evening will

conclude with some interesting facts and stories.

Raymond Village Library Director Richard Dowe is busy publicizing the opportunity and anticipates quite a crowd.

"The guest speaker for the event is Nicholas Lund, the Advocacy and Outreach Manager at Maine Audubon, where he has worked for over six years," he said.

Dowe spearheaded the upcoming event. Keeping with their mission to provide valuable local community educational resources and opportunities, Dowe and the library staff remains steadfast in adding regular offerings.

"This event is part of the Raymond Village Library's ongoing commitment to connecting our community with educational programs that foster a deeper understanding of the natural world," he said. "Maine Audubon, through the work of experts like Nicholas Lund, continues to play a crucial role in protecting wildlife and promoting environmental stewardship in Maine. We are excited to offer this opportunity to residents and visitors alike, encouraging all to join us for

what promises to be an informative and entertaining evening."

The Maine Audubon website and Lund's LinkedIn profile share some background about Lund.

"Nicholas is also known for his work on The Birdist blog, where he shares his passion for birding and wildlife. His expertise is backed by previous roles at the National Parks Conservation Association. Nicholas holds a BA from Hamilton College and a JD from the University of Maine School of Law, blending his legal knowledge with his advocacy for environmental and wildlife conservation. Continuing the library's mission of providing valuable educational resources and opportunities for the local community and surrounding areas."

Dowe explained what participants can expect at the talk.

"In addition to exploring the fascinating adaptations of Maine's wildlife to the harsh winter conditions, Nicholas Lund will delve into specific survival strategies employed by various species, from birds and mammals to smaller creatures," he said. "The pre-

→ see SURVIVAL Page 17



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→ **SURVIVAL** *Cont. from page 16*

sentation will highlight the behavioral and physiological changes animals undergo to cope with extreme cold, such as hibernation, migration, and food storage. Nicholas will also share engaging stories and examples from the field, giving attendees a deeper appreciation for Maine's diverse wildlife and the challenges they face during winter."

Dowe reminds participants that they will have an opportunity to ask questions and as part of a discussion following the presentation.

"Following the presentation, Nicholas will open the floor for a Q&A session," he said. "This will be a great opportunity for the audience to ask specific questions about wildlife, conservation, or Maine Audubon's work, and to engage directly with the speaker."

The evening's event is expected to last around 45 minutes to an hour, depending on audience discussion and engagement and the length of the Q&A section.

Winter Survival for Maine Wildlife will be held at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 14 at Raymond Village Library. To register, call the library at 207-655-4283. Dowe says that an RSVP is encouraged to help the library prepare for seating but is not required. Ample seating will be available; however, they are expecting a large turnout, and seating will be on a first-come-first-served basis. <

Hunting with Heart: Area pantries to benefit from game meat donations

As Maine's Expanded Archery hunting season continues, and with key dates like Maine Resident Only Day on Saturday, Nov. 2 and the Firearm Season starting on Nov. 4, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's (DACF) Hunters for the Hungry program is making efforts to tackle food insecurity with the help of generous hunters across the state. This unique program transforms game meat donations into thousands of nutritious meals for Maines most vulnerable populations.

A single deer can provide meals for up to 200 people, underscoring the significant impact each donation has on local communities. With hunger affecting more Maine residents yearly, the program is a lifeline for many.

Under the leadership of Gus Nelson, Director of The Emergency Food Assistance Program, and Nathan Lord, Maine Ending Hunger Corps Member, the Hunters for the Hungry initiative has grown. Since spring, four new processors have joined the network, bringing the total to 25 licensed processors across the state, with more expected to join in the coming months. These partners ensure the meat is safely prepared and

distributed efficiently to food pantries, shelters, and community kitchens.

"This program allows hunters to give back in a meaningful way, turning their harvest into life-saving meals for neighbors in need," said Nelson. "With more processors on board, we

can reach even more communities."

Hunters are encouraged to participate by donating some or all of their legally harvested game this season. Their contributions support Maine's fight against food insecurity and fos-

→ see DONATIONS Page 19

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Veterans receive recognition

Veterans attending the Veterans Coffee event hosted by American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham on Oct. 23 were visited by Julie Morkve, the new Director of the Portland Veterans Center. She briefed participants on the role of the newly opened Portland Vet Center and then spent time with the three dozen vets in attendance. Accompanying Morkve to Windham was Portland Vet Center Outreach Coordinator Mark Lionette, a Post 148 member and a frequent visitor to the Weekly Vet Coffees held at the Windham Veterans Center on Wednesdays. Both were recognized for their support of veterans in our community by Post 148 Commander Tom Theriault, right. SUBMITTED PHOTO



STUDENT OF THE WEEK **Henry Disilvestro**

School: Raymond Elementary School
Grade: Pre-K **Teacher:** Miss Pelletier and Mrs. Witten
Parents' Name: Zachery DiSilvestro / Malindi Thompson
Favorite Subject (or Activity) in School: Outdoor play and science experiments.
Reason for Selection: Henry has done an incredible job adjusting to his new environment and quickly learning classroom routines. He has already brought exciting new ideas to our classroom and is always eager to participate in the next activity. Henry especially enjoys being outdoors, where he makes new friends and follows playground rules effortlessly. He is a kind friend to everyone and always keeps us entertained with his cool facts and the best jokes. We're excited to see his continued growth this year!

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→ DONATIONS *Cont. from page 17*

ter a spirit of community and generosity.

Founded in 1996, the Maine Hunters for the Hungry Program is a collaborative effort from the Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Warden Services, state biologists, Maine State Troopers, and hunters. There are a limited number of food assistance sites with the capacity to accept wild game meat, so it is extremely important to read all the donation requirements carefully.

The program gratefully accepts bear, deer, and moose donations. Processors are carefully chosen and have established a direct relationship with food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters. It's all about keeping it local and ensuring that the meat goes directly to neighbors.

The Maine Hunters for the Hun-



gry Program embodies the spirit of giving and community support. Through the collaboration of hunters, approved meat processors, and local hunger-relief organizations, this program provides much-needed proteins to individuals and families facing food insecurity. By adhering to the rules and regulations outlined by the program, hunters can ensure that their generous donations reach those who need them most.

The program has been successful annually by supplying lean, high protein meats to food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters throughout Maine.

How you can donate:

- Hunters can easily donate their game to a participating processor. Interested hunters must contact approved meat processors.
- Donations are processed at no cost to the hunter, ensuring the meat is prepared for those in need.
- Even a small portion of your har-

vest can make a difference in someone's life.

Why It Matters:

- Hunger is rising: More than ever, food pantries and shelters need high-quality, nutrient-dense proteins like game meat.
- Local impact: Every donation stays within Maine, benefiting families and individuals in local commu-

nities.

Food pantries in Windham, Gray, and Standish are accepting donations of game meat. To arrange for a donation in Windham, call 207-892-1931, in Gray, call 207-671-4458, and in Standish, call 207-358-0359.

For further general information about how to participate, visit Hunters for the Hungry Program. <

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LETTERS to the editor

Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to:
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Editor,

On Nov. 5, I'm looking forward to casting my ballot for Doris Poland to represent District 106 in the House.

I've spent time over the last few months getting to know Doris and I truly believe she'll be a bridge in our community. One of my favorite things I've heard her say is regarding her endorsement by Planned Parenthood. She said that while abortion isn't a choice she'd make for herself, she doesn't believe she should be making that decision for other women. This is America, the Land of the Free, and Doris doesn't want to take away anyone's freedom if elected.

I appreciate that Doris is able to

hold her own perspective and the needs of the larger community. Doris Poland is a leader who earns respect, who listens, and who cares about our community and its reputation. Doris was a bus driver for nearly 20 years. Doris supports union workers. Doris has advocated on behalf of her disabled adult son for his whole life. And now, Doris is ready to take on Augusta on behalf of District 106.

Let's elect Doris Poland in November!

~ Kate Turpen, Windham

Editor,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kenny Cianchette's candidacy for State Senate. As a former employee, I witnessed his dedication

and resilience during the challenges of the pandemic. It is disheartening to see the negative advertisements targeting him, most of which are false and misleading.

During our community's darkest times, Kenny fought tirelessly to keep his business open and support local owners amidst overwhelming restrictions. His commitment to doing what is right for our community sets him apart from his opponents. Unlike many others, Kenny has refused to engage in the name-calling and mudslinging that have become all too common in today's political landscape.

What our community needs now is a leader who understands the struggles faced by small business owners, families, and everyday citizens. Kenny is that leader. He genuinely cares about community welfare and has the skills to allocate resources effectively to strengthen and unite us. His vision aligns with our community's needs—real solutions and a dedicated approach to improving our quality of life.

I believe that voters will see past the false narratives surrounding Kenny and recognize him as the devoted community advocate that he truly is. He has the experience and compas-

sion to make a meaningful difference in Augusta.

Let's support Kenny not just as a candidate but as a champion for our community's future. I urge everyone to look beyond the negative ads and see the true character and ambition he brings to the table. Together, we can create a stronger, united community.

~ Leland S. Anderson IV, Windham Editor,

I am advocating for changing the Town Clerk position to appointed (YES vote) for two reasons.

1) Our current Clerk Linda Morrell of 25-plus years, will not be seeking re-election which means Windham will need a new clerk late next year and has submitted a letter to the Town Manager and Council that she recommends going to an appointed position. Who better knows what is best for Windham than our own beloved current clerk?

2) I conducted a survey of eight Town Clerks and two Deputy Clerks from nine towns in Maine so I may gain a better understanding of the elected versus the appointed model this past summer (see survey results in 9-3-24 Council Agenda; MGM clerk survey results). Of the 10 in-

→ see LETTERS Page 24

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THE UNIQUE PERSPECTIVE THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES THAT CAN OPEN ADULT'S EYES

► **By Melissa Carter**
STAFF WRITER



- Melissa Carter

Having children has a lot of ups and downs. Some days are filled with fun and laughter and other days it's tears over what seems like everything. But one thing that is for sure is there is a special wonder in the extraordinary way they see the world around them. Their perceptions are unfiltered, their curiosity boundless, and their imaginations limitless. They view life with a sense of wonder and excitement that often fades as we grow older. By exploring how children see the world, we can learn to appreciate the simple joys and marvels that surround us every day.

To a child, everyday life is filled with magic and wonder. Ordinary objects and events take on extraordinary significance. A cardboard box isn't just a box; it's a spaceship, a pirate ship, or a secret hideout. A walk in the park is not just exercise; it's an adventure filled with potential discoveries, like a particularly shiny rock or an oddly shaped cloud.

Children's imaginations transform the mundane into the magical. They see possibilities where adults see limitations. This ability to find wonder in the simplest things reminds us that joy can be found anywhere if we are willing to look for it.

Through imaginative play, children learn to solve problems, explore different roles, and develop their creativity. They might pretend to be a doctor, a

firefighter, or a superhero, experimenting with different scenarios and outcomes. This imaginative play is not only fun but also essential for their cognitive and emotional development.

Children are naturally curious. They are constantly asking questions about the world around them, seeking to understand how things work. This curiosity is driven by a desire to learn and explore. Why is the sky blue? How do birds fly? What makes the wind blow? Their questions may seem endless, but they are a testament to their desire to understand the world they live in.

This boundless curiosity often leads to delightful discoveries. A child might spend hours watching ants march in a line, fascinated by their organization and teamwork. They might be captivated by the way rain forms puddles or how shadows change shape throughout the day. This insatiable curiosity is something that many adults lose over time, but it is a reminder of the joy that comes from learning and exploring.

Children view the world with a sense of innocence and honesty that is both refreshing and profound. They have not yet learned to filter their thoughts and feelings, so they express themselves openly and without reservation. If a child thinks something is funny, they will laugh out loud. If they are sad



Children have an inspiring way of finding magic in the simple things around them, something many adults forget to do as they get older. PHOTO BY MELISSA CARTER

or upset, they will show it without hesitation.

This unfiltered honesty can lead to some unexpected and often humorous moments. A child might bluntly point out that someone's hair looks funny or that they don't like the taste of a particular food. While these comments can be surprising, they are also a reminder of the value of honesty and being true to oneself.

Children have a remarkable ability to see the good in everything and everyone. They are naturally optimistic and tend to focus on the positive aspects of life. A rainy day might be disappointing to an adult, but to a child, it's an opportunity to splash in puddles and play with umbrellas. A small setback might be quickly forgotten as they move on to the next exciting activity.

This positive outlook extends to their interactions with others. Children are quick to forgive and forget, and they often see the best in people. They form friendships easily and are willing to give others the benefit of the doubt. This ability to see the good in everything is a valuable lesson for adults, reminding us to focus on the positive aspects of life.

For children, joy is simple and unpretentious. It can be found in the smallest things, like a favorite toy, a funny story, or a hug from a loved one. They do not need extravagant expe-

riences or material possessions to be happy. A child can find immense joy in playing with a cardboard box, drawing with crayons, or running through a sprinkler on a hot day.

This simplicity of joy is something that many adults struggle to remember. As we grow older, we often complicate our lives with unnecessary stress and worry. Children remind us that happiness can be found in the simplest moments and that it's important to appreciate the little things.

Children live in the present moment. They are not burdened by worries about the past or the future; instead, they focus on the here and now. This ability to be fully present allows them to experience life more intensely and enjoy each moment to its fullest.

This focus on the present is something that many adults struggle with. We often find ourselves preoccupied with past regrets or future anxieties, missing out on the beauty of the present moment. Children remind us of the importance of mindfulness and being fully engaged in the present.

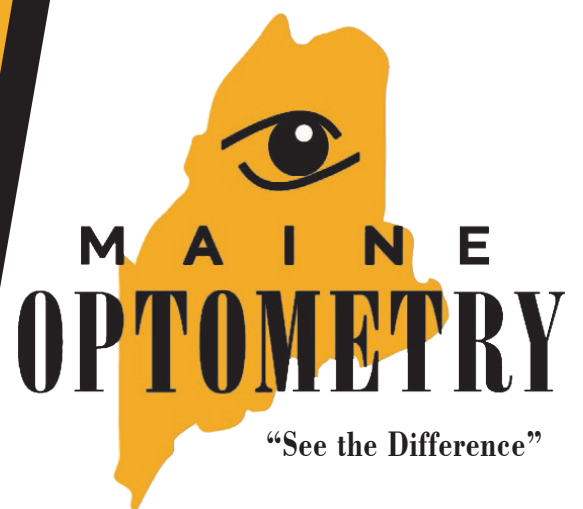
Seeing the world through the eyes of a child is refreshing and enlightening. Their sense of wonder, boundless curiosity, unfiltered honesty, and ability to find joy in the simplest things offer valuable lessons for us all. By embracing these childlike qualities, we can re-learn to appreciate the magic of everyday life, find joy in the present moment, and approach the world with a sense of curiosity and optimism. In doing so, we can reconnect with the simple joys that make life truly special. <

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Cross Country teams qualify for state championships

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 2015, both Windham's boys' and girls' cross country teams are going to the Class A State Championships after a strong performance in the Southern Maine Class A Regional Championship on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Twin Brook Recreation Area in Cumberland. Since 2015, there has been a variety of combinations of one WHS team qualifying or individuals qualifying, but it's been a while since both teams have qualified. The girls' team finished seventh with a score of 199 and the boys' team finished eighth with a score of 237.

"Many of our present athletes appropriately and safely started their quest to get to compete at States in late June – at last Summer's 'Unlock Your Potential' Cross Country Camp to build their present fitness and mindset, both highly needed to extend a cross-country season," said Windham cross country coach Jeff Riddle. "The boys finally put it all together, together. The girls' team showed up unified and ready to compete, they were locked in. Our sport is one of true grit with no rest, nowhere to hide, no breaks, and it is raw. So, if fit, feeling well, and with a winner's mindset, the only thing stopping a cross-country athlete is themselves. Our boys and girls let it fly last Saturday, ran the race plan, then together earned something that very few teams do. Our goals for them at the State meet are to first authentically enjoy their earned time together ... and to then go improve their finish position by reducing their race time."

GIRLS: Windham junior Sydney Broadbent finished first for Windham and 32nd overall with a time of 22:34.92 minutes. Behind her was sophomore Eva Vancelette who fin-



(L to R) Windham sophomore Mason Bragdon keeps a steady pace during the Southern Maine Class A Regional Cross Country Championship race on Saturday, Oct. 26 at Twin Brook Recreation Area in Cumberland. Junior Noah Saucier stays ahead of his Gorham opponents. Sophomore Eva Vancelette maintains her focus during the race. Junior Sydney Broadbent heads toward the finish line. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

ished 37th overall with a 22:55.60.

Junior Lila Stanley finished third for Windham and 42nd overall in a time of 23:09.00.

"As a team, we stayed as a pack," said Broadbent. "I think our top four or five finished within like a minute and a half of each other, which is amazing. We all started out fast, which was exactly what we wanted to do. Just maintained and stayed confident throughout the race. As a team, we wanted to give it everything and finish with nothing left in the tank ... we know that this course is really hard, everyone struggles and everyone's in the same conditions. We all gave it our everything and we did exactly what we wanted to do today. Knowing that both teams made it ... shows how much determination we have as teams and as individuals. The team has learned to work really well together

in the races, and we put so much time into this season, we put everything into this team. We earned our spot at states."

BOYS: Sophomore Mason Bragdon finished first for Windham and 35th overall with a time of 18:51.30.

Second for Windham and 39th overall was senior Andrew Young with a time of 18:55.87. Third for Windham and 41st overall was junior Caleb Saucier with a time of 19:01.77.

"It's definitely nice to see everybody step up," said Bragdon. "I think it took a lot of effort, from a training aspect; it took the miles and hours and hours to get here. And it just all came together. From the start of the morn-

ing, everybody was feeling good ... overall while running the course it was good – it was that usual exciting feeling you get while running. First was definitely a goal and my goal was to pull the rest of the team forward. Our ultimate goal was to pull off today. When we run, we pull each other up and we finish. Some things I saw today that went really well was we all got off the line really fast and we did a good job maintaining our paces through the second mile; we had our five through seven runners push up which is what really got us to states this year. New England is the ultimate goal, but if we can place really well, I think that's also a good end to the season." <

WHS SCOREBOARD

★ FIELD HOCKEY

In the preliminary playoff game against South Portland/Westbrook at Windham on Friday, Oct. 25, the game was scoreless for three quarters. Early in the fourth quarter, Windham junior Abby Trainor scored. They headed to Biddeford on Wednesday, Oct. 30 for the quarterfinal playoff game; playoff results to come.

★ FOOTBALL

Windham rolled past Oxford Hills, 17-14, at Oxford Hills on Friday, Oct. 25. Sophomore Parker Sperry had a rushing touchdown; sophomore Landon Wyman had a fumble return for a touchdown and senior Creighty Dickson hit the game winning field goal. Windham plays their last home game of the regular season on Friday, Nov. 1; kickoff is at 7 p.m. at Windham High School.

★ GIRLS' SOCCER

First-place Windham took on eighth-place Kennebunk at Windham on Tuesday, Oct. 29 in the Class A South quarterfinal, where they knocked out the Rams, 8-0. Windham senior Kyla Harvie scored first, assisted by senior Emily Talbot. Talbot scored; then with a minute left in the first half, Talbot scored again.

In the second half, Windham sophomore Mackenzie Delewski scored. Talbot scored on a play assisted by junior Marley Jarvais. Jarvais scored on a corner kick that went right into the goal. Windham senior Juliana Gagne then scored back-to-back goals.

★ BOYS' SOCCER

First-place Windham played ninth-place South Portland on Wednesday, Oct. 30 in the Class A South quarterfinal at Windham; playoff results to come.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Abby Trainor

Age: 16 **Team:** Windham High Field Hockey
Coach: Cory DiDonato
Parents' names: Shannon and Jeremy Trainor
Reason for selection: Abby is a natural athlete who has a hunger and a drive inside her that is unmatched. She gives 110 percent every time she gets on the field. She is an integral part of her team's transitions from defense to offense and sets up beautiful plays consistently each game. She raises the level of play every time she takes the field, and coaches say that they are grateful to have her as a part of their team.

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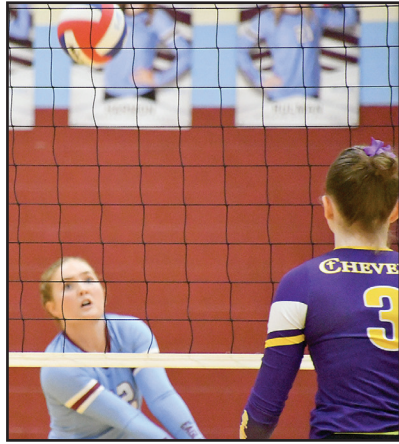
Varsity volleyball falls to Cheverus in preliminary playoff

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham varsity volleyball finished their regular season 9-5 and on Thursday, Oct. 24 at Windham, seventh-place Windham took on 10th place Cheverus in an incredibly hard-fought preliminary playoff match. Windham won the first two sets, but Cheverus battled back to take the next three sets in a match where both teams left everything on the court and Cheverus eliminated Windham, 3-2.

“We were definitely really nervous, but it was more as an excitement way,” said Windham junior Josephine Sibley. “We had never played them before in probably like two seasons, so it was a big moment for us. They had less of a record, but they played really hard teams, so we knew it was going to be a harder match. Our energy was definitely high (in the first two sets), and I think that’s why we had more success ... when we have energy we work well as a team together and it usually leads to wins. (In the last two sets) it was definitely more like inner conflict between (Windham) teammates. This is like the cleanest we ever played; it was like the least amount of points we’ve ever given up and we definitely fought for every point; I think it was a good game. This is the closest I’ve been with a team, especially from Windham. I’m really happy I get to call these girls my friends.”

Windham wasted no time showing they wanted the win. They communicated well and took a small lead early on. Windham junior Kendra Eubanks



(L to R) Windham junior Oakley McLeod sends the ball over the net during a preliminary prep volleyball playoff match against Cheverus at Windham High School on Thursday, Oct. 24. Junior Kendra Eubanks attacks the ball. Senior and team captain McKenzie Keeney, far left, keeps focus on the ball with her hands up and ready to return a hit.

PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

had a solid block in the first set. The game was tied at six. Windham junior Sydney Harmon sent the ball over the net and Cheverus could not return it. The game was tied at 13. Sibley had several strong serves which gave Windham a lead.

Cheverus was gaining, but Windham had already reached set point. Windham took the first set 25-21.

In the second set, Windham momentum remained strong; they had stellar attacks. They dove on the ball leaving it all on the court. At one point, Windham led by 10 points. While Cheverus was making progress, Windham was too far ahead, and their defense remained powerful. Windham took set two, 25-10.

In the third set, Windham led early, and this was another super close set. The game was tied at 15. Chever-

us gained traction, but Windham did not stop fighting. The Stags won this one, 25-19.

Set four was tied early on, and both teams were aggressive. Windham junior Oakley McLeod tipped the ball just over the net to give Windham a five-point advantage. Then the game was tied at 22. Tension was high but Cheverus got a set point and won, 25-23.

Windham had a small lead early on in set five. Cheverus countered with a lead and was able to hold onto it to win the set, 15-11.

“A lot of teammates had watched film to make sure we were prepped,” said Windham senior captain McKenzie Keeney. “We came out, we were so ready, we really wanted it together. We just lost maybe a little bit of momentum, but we picked ourselves back up a little bit and at the end of the

day, it was close, we did what we could. The first couple of sets we had such positive energy together and we all wanted it for each other.”

Keeney said her team stood out this season; she loves them so much; they are all amazing people.

“When you come out that strong and that fast you have a lot of energy flowing to

start off and at some point, that energy starts to back down a bit,” said Windham varsity volleyball coach Chris Cloutier. “You got to always keep your foot on the gas. Some little adjustments Cheverus made too; they started to move some hitters around on us ... we just didn’t adjust fast enough and once they started scoring a few points we started pressing and when you get behind, you start worrying about making mistakes and it kind of leads you to making mistakes. I’d say some rolls started going their way that didn’t go for them in the first two sets. That changed the momentum – momentum in volleyball is a big deal. In those first two our serving went really well, we were moving our feet to the ball, we were running offenses, we were getting a chance to use all three contacts.” <


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SUBMISSIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 30, 2024

btidirector@windhammaine.us

Be The Influence
Decisions matter. Keeping our community drug free.

LETTERS *Cont. from page 20*

dividuals I interviewed, five clerks worked as elected and five are working as appointed. All 10 clerks interviewed recommended the appointed model.

Elected means we only have one requirement - residency, and this model

is antiquated. Appointed by the Town Council of seven, allows Windham to establish qualifications, a background check, and experience. We then hire based on merit and the person retains their position based on performance. We interview and select the best candidate for the job.

The risks are too great for continu-

ing with our elected model for a position so complex and important to our town. Vote Yes to appoint the clerk.

I am also supporting Dave Nadeau and Bill Reiner for re-election to our Town Council as both are doing a fine job representing our citizens. This is the personal opinion of a 30-plus year Windham resident and Maine native and does not represent the position of the Town of Windham nor the Town Council.

~ Mark Morrison, Windham

Editor,

I am voting for Barbara Bagshaw for re-election to the Maine State House.

She listens to the people of Windham. We need her to continue in Augusta, fighting for small business, for the education needs of our youth, and for lower taxes.

What impresses me the most about Barbara is that she cares. I was in need of a hospital bed. Within a week, Barbara had one for me. I could not believe it! She saw a need and acted on it. In the business of life, that's rare.

I have discussed with Barbara the need for voting rolls to be cleaned up. She agrees and will work to make that happen. We definitely don't need dead

people on the voting list, or people who have moved from Maine or people who are not citizens.

We need more common sense in Augusta. Barbara provides that!

~ Patricia Anne Babyock, Windham

Editor,

I'm voting for Barbara Bagshaw for House Representative for District 106. She is a person who will fight and push back on a government that is bent on destroying a Maine tradition.

I was a full-time year-round lobster fisherman for 43 years. I am the former VP of the Maine Lobsterman Union, the President of the Portland Working Waterfront Association. I had to quit lobster fishing because of the rules and regulations that were put in place by our state and federal government - and more to come. From windmills taking up valuable fishing areas, to double reporting, to mandatory 24-hour tracking - it's governmental overreach.

Barbara is fiscally conservative. She has common sense. She doesn't back down when she knows what is right. She's all in for small business. Look at her voting record. I hope she'll have your vote.

~ Bill Coppersmith, Windham

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING & WORKSHOP

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road
and Via ZOOM

Monday, November 4, 2024
7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Meeting and Workshop at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Monday, November 4, 2024, at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

SKETCH PLAN REVIEW

APPLICANT: Brandon Chase by Andy Morrell - BH2M

LOCATION: Map: 004 Lot: 29 Zone LRR2/RP
Raymond Cape Road

DESCRIPTION: Sketch Plan Review for Proposed 11-lot Cluster Subdivision

WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

- LUO §300-10.3.10a - Extensions of Approvals and Permits
- Street Ordinance §5.5 Footnote 3 - Clarification of Reviewing Authority
- LUO §300-10.4.A.3 - Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- LUO §300-10.3.A.3.b - Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance - Article 5, Section 2.B - Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance - Article 6, Section 2.A - Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance - Article 7, Section 2.B - Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- SLZ §350-6.4 - Piers, docks, wharves, bridges and other structures and uses extending over or below normal high-water line of water bodies or within wetlands
- SLZ §350-6.2 Minimum lot standards and setbacks
- SLZ §350-6.2 B.(1) - Shore and Road Frontage
- SLZ - DEFINITIONS - add definition of DOCK
- SLZ §350-6.4 - Clarify the Dock Length permitted
- Addressing Ordinance - Amend size of numbers to 4" and they must be visible from the road

The meeting can be viewed via internet or on cable TV. 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 that your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89739278221?pwd=4ld1RStSOFPaaEhtKO4db4JEiDmj5F.1>

Meeting ID: 897 3927 8221

Passcode: 9nf5f

ONE TAP MOBILE

Meeting ID: 897 3927 8221

Passcode: 863652

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89739278221>

Copy of the submitted applications are available for review at: www.raymondmaine.org/content/planningboard-agenda after October 15, 2023, or at the Town Office (401 Webbs Mills Road) by appointment during regular business hours.



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Commercial leasing basics

► **By Larry Eliason**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Larry Eliason
Butts Commercial Brokers

A commercial lease for any business can be a large expense and commitment for any business. Commercial leases are a lot different from residential leases as they have provisions that could impact your business from an economic standpoint to practical use of the space.

Whether it is for a small office, retail, warehouse, commercial garage or a ground lease, a Tenant should perform and do some due diligence to assure that the space and the site are properly zoned for the proposed use. In many towns, Building and Life Safety Codes will certainly be part of the discussion for occupancy.

Below you will see some highlights of what to expect in a commercial lease agreement.

AGREEMENT of Lease made this 31st day of October 2024, by and between 123, LLC (hereinafter "Landlord") and XYZ, LLC (Hereinafter "Tenant").

WITNESSETH

That Landlord for and in consideration of the rent reserved, covenants and agreements hereinafter set forth to be kept, observed, and performed by Tenant, has demised and leased, and does hereby demise and let unto Tenant...

1. Description Leased Premises. Landlord does hereby lease and rent unto Tenant, one commercial building...

2. Terms. The term of this Lease shall be for a period of Five (5) years commencing on November 1, 2024...

3. Rental. Tenant agrees to pay to Landlord as rent, the sums as set forth in Schedule "A"...

4. Renewal. At the expiration of the term of this Lease, said Lease may be renewed at the option of the Tenant for two (5) year options on the same terms and conditions of this Lease excluding as to rent...

5. Security Deposit. Upon the execution of this Lease, Tenant shall pay to Landlord the sum of \$ 000.00, which may be held by Landlord throughout the term of this Lease...

6. Specific Use. The Tenant may use the Demised Premises for Commercial Uses allowed by Local and State Laws...

7. Personal Property Taxes. Tenant will pay all personal property taxes levied or assessed in respect of the personal property and trade fixtures on the Demised Premises belonging to or used by the Tenant.

8. Real Estate Taxes. Tenant shall pay all real estate taxes assessed against the Demised Premises.

9. Insurance by Landlord. Tenant shall, at his expense, maintain extended fire insurance protection for the Demised Premises.

10. Insurance by Tenant. Tenant shall maintain, at his/her expense, insurance protection for his/her own personal property and his/her leasehold improvements...

11. Utilities - Refuse. Tenant shall, at his/her expense, provide for reasonable electricity used of consumed in/at the Demised Premises...

12. Verification of Expenses. N/A

13. Assignment - Sublease. Tenant shall have the right to sublet the Demised Premises or any part thereof to any person with Landlord's express written consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed...

14. Signs. Tenant may not place any signs on the building or in or on windows or doors without Landlord's express written consent...

15. Alterations and Improvements. Tenant will not make any interior or exterior improvements, modifications or alterations to the Demised Premises without the prior written approval of the Landlord...

16. Trade Fixtures. All trade fixtures including shelving, light fixtures, and other equipment installed by and at the expense of Tenant shall remain the property of Tenant...

17. Repairs and Maintenance. Tenant shall repair, renovate and maintain at its expense the Demised Premises including interior non-structural portions thereof and plate glass in as good order...

18. Indemnity - Security. Tenant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the Landlord from and against all claims and demands of whatever nature arising from or caused by any act, omission or negligence of Tenant or of Tenant's contracts, licensees, invitees, guests, agents, servants or employees...

19. Maintenance of Common Areas - Contribution. Landlord shall cause all common areas in the building of which the Demised Premises are a part, including the walkways and parking lot and to be maintained in good repair and condition...

20. Access. Landlord shall have access to the Demised Premises during reasonable hours for the purpose of insuring compliance with this Lease...

21. Requirements of Law - Insurance Rates. Tenant shall comply with all laws, orders, ordinances and regulations of Federal, State, County and Municipal authorities and with any direction of any public officer or officials pursuant to law, which shall impose any duty, obligations or limitation upon Tenant with respect to the Demised Premises or the use thereof...

22. Insurance. Insofar as and to the extent that the following provision may be effective without invalidating or making it impossible to secure insurance coverage obtainable from responsible insurance companies doing business in Maine, the Landlord and Tenant mutually agree that with respect to any loss

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 28

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ENTERTAINMENT

THE WINDHAM EAGLE PRESENTS...
A REVIEW OF AN IN-THEATER
MOVIE
◀ ▶

'The Wild Robot' (PG)

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Runtime: 1 hour, 42 minutes

"The Wild Robot" is the story of ROZZUM Unit 7134, or Roz, who gets stranded on an island uninhabited by humans. At first, it runs all around asking various animals if there's anything it can do to help; to which it gets a negative response. Roz is chased by a bear and accidentally crushes a goose nest, killing everything but one egg. Roz cares for this one egg until it hatches and names it Brightbill. Once her mission with Brightbill is complete she struggles with deciding to leave the island or not – knowing Brightbill will return in the spring. Unbeknownst to Roz, her manufacturer, Universal Dynamics is searching for her. This movie was OK to decent at best; there was no want for me to find out what happened next.



One of the biggest pluses of "The Wild Robot" is its all-star cast which stars Lupita Nyong'o, Pedro Pascal, Kit Connor, Stephanie Hsu, Ving Rhames, Catherine O'Hara, Matt Berry, Mark Hamill, Avrielle Corti and Bill Nighy.

A robot, ROZZUM Unit 7134 or Roz (Nyong'o) finds itself alone on an island. It starts by running around frantically asking a variety of animals if they need help, because this particular robot was programmed to complete tasks.

The animals are not interested and either ignore or attack Roz. While Roz is being chased by a bear, she steps on and crushes a goose nest, leaving just one egg undamaged. Once the egg hatches, Roz takes care of this gosling, naming it Brightbill (Connor).

Roz meets a fox, Fink (Pascal) who says everyone is trying to survive. Some of the best parts of this movie are the lessons given by the various animals.

Roz begins making decisions from her head and her heart. She's trying to teach Brightbill how to fly. Roz and Fink help teach Brightbill the survival skills needed.

As Brightbill gets bigger, he is bullied for his size and the relationship he has with the "monster" that killed his family. Angry this truth has been kept from him, Brightbill leaves Roz.

An owl, Thunderbolt (Rhames) reminds Brightbill he wasn't supposed to make it this far. Thunderbolt helps Brightbill join the migration.

Once Brightbill leaves for the winter, Roz is sad her task is complete. Fink suggests she stay. With winter coming, Roz activates her return transmitter. Brightbill returns to Roz before heading out and admits he forgot to say something before he left. Fink stays by Roz's side and helps save the animals when a major snowstorm hits the island.

When spring arrives and Brightbill returns, you get a little bit of Roz's backstory. Roz's manufacturer, Universal Dynamics comes to get Roz and might not take "no" for an answer.

Since this is a DreamWorks movie, I was thinking it might fall along the lines of "Shrek," or "Kung Fu Panda," but there aren't as many jokes for adults in this one. I also found it a little on the slow side, with not a whole lot happening until halfway through. On the plus side, this is a very sweet movie which showcases what love and sacrifice mean. It's a good movie for kids that has a bunch of lessons, like the importance of kindness or trying your hardest against all odds. One of my favorite lines is "To survive, we must become more than we are programmed to be." This is not worth seeing on the big screen, wait for it to be available on streaming.

One robot thumb up.

Now playing in theaters and available to rent. <

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

C	A	N	S	T	S	S	B	P	O	N	S		
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59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Bar bills
- 5. Recipe measurement (abbr.)
- 8. Swiss river
- 11. Czech Republic capital
- 13. "Officially known as"
- 14. A French abbot
- 15. Having a strong sharp smell or taste
- 16. Local area network
- 17. Data transmission speed measure
- 18. Embarrass
- 20. When you hope to get there
- 21. This (Spanish)
- 22. Gives up
- 25. Churchgoer
- 30. Current
- 31. Slang for gun
- 32. Small drum
- 33. Vanished union bigwig
- 38. Rocker's tool of the trade
- 41. Dearth
- 43. 2024 Olympics host
- 45. Excess blood in the vessels
- 48. Afrikaans
- 49. Agreement between provider and customer
- 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 55. Ancient Syrian city
- 56. Witch
- 57. Celebrations
- 59. Long period of time
- 60. A team's best pitcher
- 61. Current unit
- 62. One-time aerospace company
- 63. French/Belgian river
- 64. Swedish rock group

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Yearly tonnage (abbr.)
- 2. Genus of clams
- 3. Remark
- 4. Actor LaBeouf
- 5. Ohio town
- 6. Olympic sport
- 7. Cure
- 8. Behave in a way that belittles
- 9. Shares a boundary with
- 10. Give advice
- 12. Promotional materials
- 14. Assist or encourage, usually in some wrongdoing
- 19. "Agatha All Along" actress Kathryn
- 23. Small piece
- 24. King of Camelot
- 25. Parts per thousand (abbr.)
- 26. Small Milky Way constellation
- 27. One who challenges authority (abbr.)
- 28. Equal (prefix)
- 29. Shawl
- 34. S. American wood sorrel relative
- 35. The end
- 36. Supervises interstate commerce
- 37. Yes vote
- 39. Officer of high rank
- 40. Church office
- 41. Tire pressure measurement
- 42. From a distance
- 44. Photographs
- 45. Industrial process
- 46. Nobel Prize-winning physicist
- 47. Map out
- 48. Mammary gland part of female mammal
- 51. Honorable title (Turkish)
- 52. Spongelike cake leavened with yeast
- 53. Speak incessantly
- 54. Poetry term
- 58. Relaxing space

SUDOKU

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

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

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



PLEASE NOTE: THE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT. TO HAVE YOUR BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTED CALL MELISSA: 207-894-3500

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Backwoods Burgers Shack may be new to the scene, but it won't remain a secret for very long.

It offers tempting specialty burgers made fresh daily, local potatoes, cheese and produce, southern-style fried chicken tenders, sandwiches, beer, wine and non-alcoholic drinks and milkshakes. There are hand-cut fries, to-die-for onion rings, inventive salads, and more, and it's all helping Backwoods rapidly develop a loyal and devoted following.

Located at 680 Gray Road in the former Sweets & Eats location in Gorham, Backwoods Burger Shack is owned and operated by Rick Boyd and his wife Tatiana and strives to provide quality in every bite and at prices everyone can afford.

All sauces are created in-house and the beef for the burgers is ground daily.

"We're not a chain restaurant," Boyd said. "We're able to offer a quality product at a great value and we care about the community and try to be active in the community and make where we live a little better."

Along with burgers, Boyd also operates a companion business at the Backwoods site called Pasketti's, and it's intended for families looking for a healthier, convenient, and affordable meal to take home or have delivered in Gorham, Windham or Westbrook.

"Pasketti's is a take-out and delivery-only concept we just launched



to give people in the area a comforting, fresh, healthy and inexpensive dinner option," he said. "We offer take-out spaghetti dinners, salads and garlic toast featuring scratch-made marinara and Bolognese sauce. Our goal is to provide our customers with fresh, healthy and affordable dinner. Value is critical, so you can feed a family of six to eight people for \$35, and it's not junk food. Our fast and delicious take-out Italian dinners are exactly what busy families need."

Boyd opened Backwoods Burger Shack in June but he's no newcomer to the restaurant business.

"I've been in the industry since I was 13, so around 40 years," he said. "I opened my first restaurant in Boise, Idaho in 2008 and grew that to five and a brewery before selling them to move to Lake Tahoe. We had two restaurants



Backwoods Burger Shack is now home to Pasketti's Family Style Italian take-out. They are located at the Route 202 and 237 rotary just over the South Windham line in Gorham.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

in Lake Tahoe, and with one under construction when COVID and the 2022 wildfires happened. We decided then to sell and move to Maine where it doesn't catch on fire."

Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and welcoming.

"Impressive would be an understatement. Camp Smoke burger was top notch and came out in seconds. And

the milkshake was hands down the best around. Must Go!" ~ Alex Y.

"What a great new addition to the area. We all had outstanding burgers and tons of fries and cool drinks. Service was super friendly and welcoming. Sat outside at a picnic table and the whole vibe of it was super cool." ~ Jen L.

"This place is bomb!!! So tasty, and the onion rings were awesome! Try everything, it's from scratch." ~ Heather R.

What makes Backwoods Burger Shack stand out from the competition is its friendliness, Boyd said.

"We have tremendous respect for the other restaurants in the area, but I would say our attitude sets us apart," he said. "We try to include everyone in the conversation, so our social media presence is very friendly, and we try to be informative and supportive of everything that is going on around us. We try to make a personal interaction with everyone who stops in. We chose to be a part of this community after leaving Lake Tahoe and moving east. We love living here and we're doing our best to bring new and exciting things to our new neighbors."

Backwoods Burger Shack and Pasketti's are open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays.

To see the menu or order ahead online with a hassle-free user-friendly platform, visit www.backwoodsburger.me or www.paskettis.com <



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ENORME BUCKET – 6 lbs. spaghetti & garlic toast
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➔ **REAL ESTATE** *Cont. from page 25*

which is covered by insurance then being carried by them respectively...

23. Fire Clause. If the Demised Premises or the building in which the Demised Premises are located during the terms of this lease be so destroyed or damaged by fire or other unavoidable casualty as to render the Demised Premises or any portions thereof unfit for occupancy, then the rent herein before reserved...

24. Condemnation. If any portion of the Demised Premises shall be condemned for any public use by any legally constituted authority, then is such event as to said portion of the Demised Premises, this Lease shall terminate from the time when possession it take of such public authority and the rents herein reserved from said portion of the Demised Premises shall be abated as of the date of the surrender of possession is taken by

such public authority....

25. Default and Landlord's Remedies. It is covenanted and agreed that if the Tenant shall neglect or fail to perform or observe any of the covenants, terms, provisions or conditions contained in the Lease on his part to be performed or observed, or if the estate hereby created shall be taken on execution or by other process of law, or if the Tenant shall be declared bankrupt or insolvent according to law...

26. Subordination. This Lease is and shall be subordinate to the lien of any mortgage or mortgages, which are now or may hereafter be placed on the premises of which the Demised Premises are a part...

27. Waiver. Failure of Landlord to complain of any act or omission on the part of the other, no matter how long the same may continue, shall not be deemed to be a waiver by Landlord of any of his rights hereunder...

28. Quiet Enjoyment. So long as Tenant pays the rent and performs the covenants required of if hereunder, Tenant may peacefully hold and enjoy the premises during the term...

29. General. This Lease shall inure to and be binding upon the respective successors, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns of the Landlord and Tenant. This Lease is made in and shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Maine...

30. Notices. Whenever by the terms of this Lease, notice shall or may be given either to the Landlord or to the Tenant, such notice shall be in writing and shall be sent by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid to Landlord's and Tenant's addresses as set forth above...

31. Late Fee. All rent payments received after the 10th of each month will be subject to a 5% late fee of the total rent.

32. Addendum. See addendum "A" for additional agreements.

for additional agreements.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Landlord and Tenant have caused this lease to be executed in, duplicate under seal the day and year first above written.

SIGNED, SEALED AND DELIVERED, This 31st day of October 2024 Landlord and Tenant signatures...

Tenants today should consider engaging a Commercial Real Estate Agent Broker assist them with the leasing process including market conditions so expectations can be met.

And in many cases, a Real Estate Attorney should also be engaged to review and negotiate some of the terms of the lease agreement depending on the size, scope, and complexity of the lease.

This article was brought to you by Larry Eliason, a Commercial Broker with Butts Commercial Brokers in Raymond. He can be reached at 207-415-2112 or by email at LarryEliasonBCB@gmail.com. Visit www.ButtsCommercialBrokers.com <

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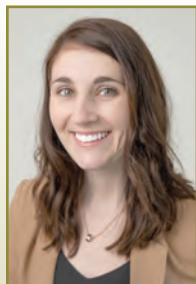
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