Volume 12, Issue 34

TheWindhamEagle.com

# Windham student **captures** Maine **Academic Scholarship Pageant crown**

#### By Ed Pierce **STAFF WRITER**

A Windham student has been honored as the winner of the 2025 Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant and will compete in Orlando, Florida next July in the USA Ambassador National Pageant.

Rosie Haibon of Windham, 21, won the title during the Crossroads' Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant in South Portland in July. During her reign, she will volunteer throughout New England to promote the Crossroads platform Crown CARES program, creating a respectful environment in schools and society.

The Crown CARES (Creating A Respectful Environment in Schools/ Society) program was established in 2010. It is specifically designed for volunteers from pageant systems and peer ambassadors who wish to promote awareness as a platform on the epidemic of bullying in schools, social awareness, inclusiveness, and

social bias, to cultivate a safe environment and most importantly teach skills to develop social responsibility in school-age children, youth, teens and adults.

Haibon is a junior attending the University of Southern Maine and is studying history education and minoring in dance. She also earned the Silver Presidential Award during this year's competition, and shared the "Mom and Me" competition award with her mother. She previously held the MASP Teen title and the YAWOS International Teen title and has competed in pageants for 10 years.

Her platform involves Autism Education and Awareness, and she said that she believes mental health is an essential topic of conversation because of how strongly it affects our society and being transparent about her own struggles helps bring the community together.

"What I love most about our sys-→ see **PAGEANT** Page 4

Rosie Haibon of Windham has been crowned as the winner of the 2025 Crossroads' Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant and will compete in the USA Ambassador National Pageant in Orlando, Florida next July. PHOTO BY MARY MCQUEEN PHOTOGRAPHY

# WHS graduate makes Team USA with belts for Olympics

## By Masha Yurkevich

#### **STAFF WRITER**

A small town like Windham and a small and rural state like Maine do not get recognized very often on a national level. However, when Windham High School graduate Michael Lyons and his manufacturing company, Rogue Industries, were asked by designer Ralph Lauren to produce 3,000 leather belts for Team USA for the 2024 Summer Olympic Games, Maine was put on the map.

Lyons is the founder of Rogue Industries in Standish. The company focuses on manufacturing high-quality leather and wax canvas designs. While they are very well known for their patent and design of the front pocket wallet, they are also known for their attention to detail and the quality of the items they produce. Rogue Industries has a small team of nine people who are very dedicated to what they do under the direction of Lyons. He grew up in Windham and graduated from Windham High School in 1977. Originally, Lyons was running a small publishing house and injured his back. His doctor told him that his back issues are because of him sitting on his bulky wallet, causing problems with his spine. Lyons set out to find a wallet that would comfortably fit in his front pocket but had no luck. So, he decided to design his own wallet,

Rogue Industries, led by Michael Lyons of Windham was given almost two years of time by designer Ralph Lauren to source material and do all the preparation work necessary to produce 3,000 belts worn by members of the U.S. Olympic Team during the 2024 Summer Olympic Games in Paris, France. SUBMITTED PHOTO

one that was curved and would comfortably fit in his front pocket. "We kind of accidentally went into



and do all the preparation which was necessary," says Lyons. "Ralph Lauren

ed States to produce Team USA's uniform, including Rogue Industries, which assembled and manufactured Ralph Lauren's Olympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies Webb Belt.

August 30, 2024

"What they did is they went out and worked with only eight other companies across the United States such as Rancourt in Lewiston who made shoes for Team USA, so there were two of us from Maine," says Lyons. "They would then go to different companies for

the jackets, for the shirts, and for the pants."

the design world of leather goods," says Lyons. "Our original design was one wallet and one collar; now, we have more than 100 stock keeping units. We went into women's tote bags, belts, crossbody clutches, coasters, and many more high-quality designs."

The company's designs drew the attention of the Ralph Lauren Corporation, who then called Rogue Industries. Lyons said he was certain that they had the wrong phone number. But Ralph Lauren officials had done their homework and knew exactly who they were speaking to.

"We were given almost two years ahead of time to source the material

was speaking to Sea Bags in Portland, asking them if they know of anyone who can make very high-quality products, and Sea Bags referred us."

Lyons says that his first reaction to the order was one of disbelief.

"Did Ralph Lauren really want us to do something with such a huge amount of visibility," said Lyons. "My second reaction was, we need to get to work. We did this for the Ralph Lauren Corporation, they hired us to do this as a private label effort on their behalf for the U.S. Olympic Team. Our customer here was the Ralph Lauren Corporation."

Ralph Lauren partnered with many manufacturers across the Unit-

Every single component, and absolutely every single detail that was used in the making of these belts had to be sourced from the United States. "The hard part was not so much the as actual production as much as it was finding the right suppliers," says Lyons.

According to Lyons, the thread,

the leather, the PRSRT STD cotton web-U.S. POSTAGE bing, and every PAID single compo-TIME4PUBLISHING nent had to be obtained from a www.TheWindhamEagle.com company locat-Local -> see BELTS **Postal Customer** 

Page 10



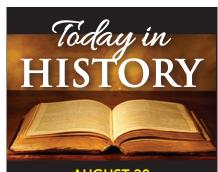
Some of my most vivid memories are not things I experienced in person, but from listening to the radio. Whether it was from an AM radio in my father's 1962 Chevrolet Impala or through the earphone of a transistor radio late at night, the radio airwaves helped create endearing moments frozen in time deep inside my consciousness.

I'm not sure why some of these broadcasts stick out for me, but here's a sampling of what I recall:

It was a warm Friday evening on Sept. 11, 1964, and although I had to look up the exact date, I do remember everything from that occasion as if it were yesterday. After taking our family out to eat after getting off work, my father wanted to take a long drive along Lake Ontario to Sodus Point for ice cream.

My mother didn't drive, so she sat in the front passenger seat while my brother and I were in the back seat. My father turned on the car radio and I instantly recognized the voice of Mel Allen, who was the announcer for New York Yankees baseball games. The Yankees were playing the Minnesota Twins and were trailing in the game, 5-3, when New York manager Yogi Berra selected a 23-year-old rookie named Roger Repoz who was making his major league debut to pinch hit for relief pitcher Rollie Sheldon in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Twins' relief pitcher Jim Perry got Repoz to ground out to end the inning but for some reason, that moment has rolled



AUGUST 30 1645 – American Indian tribes and the Dutch sign a peace treaty at New Amsterdam later known as New York City.

1682 – William Penn sails from England to establish the colony of Pennsylvania in America.

1806 – NYC's second daily newspaper, the "Daily Advertiser," is published for the last time.

1809 – Charles Doolittle Walcott discovers fossils near Burgess Pass in Canada.

1905 – Ty Cobb makes his Major League Baseball debut playing for the Detroit Tigers.

1941 – During World War II, the Nazis sever the last railroad link between Leningrad and the rest of the Soviet Union.

1963 – The "Hotline" between Moscow and Washington, D.C. goes into operation.

1965 – Thurgood Marshall is confirmed by the U.S. Senate as a Supreme Court justice and becomes the first black justice to sit on the Supreme Court.

1984 – The U.S. Space Shuttle Discovery lifts off for the first time.

around in my brain ever since. We arrived at Sodus Point and had our ice cream and by the time we drove home, the game had ended and instead of baseball, my father tuned his car radio to his favorite country music station. When the opening lines of "Wolverton Mountain" began and my father started to sing along, I closed my eyes and wondered how great it must have felt for Roger Repoz to play in a game with Yankees' immortals like Mickey Mantle and Roger Maris.

I asked my father if he thought Roger Repoz was going to be the next great Yankees outfielder. He said only time would tell. Being a baseball card collector, I followed the career of Roger Repoz for the next nine seasons in the major leagues. He hit 12 home runs for the Yankees the next season but could not break through to become a full-time ballplayer for New York. By 1966, he was traded to the Kansas City Athletics, who in turn traded him to the California Angels the following year. By 1972, Repoz was released by the Angels and spent another five seasons playing in Japan before retiring.

But listening intently to his first at bat with Mel Allen describing each pitch, my father behind the wheel and feeling the warm lakeside breeze on my face as we drove that night is a memory I will never forget as long as I live.

Another radio memory for me growing up was tuning in late at night on my transistor radio while I was supposed to be sleeping and hearing the laugh of WBZ radio personality Larry Glick. Boston was 392 miles from Rochester, New York where we lived, but the 50,000-watt channel reached my radio crystal clear there in 1968.

I enjoyed listening to Glick, who referred to himself as "The Commander" and his unique sarcastic comedy, it was something I had never heard broadcast on the radio previously. He had a revolving door of humorous callers who entertained me to no end. One evening in May 1969 and I do not remember the exact date, Glick's guest was a man who claimed he had seen a UFO near the airport in Beverly, Massachusetts. It opened the floodgates for at least eight different callers to Glick's broadcast who said they had witnessed that same UFO.

Each caller described in detail the bright green appearance of the UFO and another suggested that because the Oscar Mayer Weinermobile was supposed to be in Boston the next day, it was hovering nearby to collect hot dogs to bring back to outer space.

With that call, Glick instructed his late-night newsman Art Gardner to call the Beverly Police Department and see what possible information they had about sightings of this UFO. The interview with the police was hilarious and years later, I still remember it like it happened an hour ago.

I'm not sure why these two broadcasts remain lodged somewhere in my psyche, but they are and there's little I can do to escape replaying them every so often before I drift off to sleep. And there are quite a few more including listening to a basketball game on my 13th birthday in 1966 in which John Havlicek of Boston scored

CORRECTION Edith Pride Elliot of Windham was born in 1876 and died in 1977. A caption in the Aug. 23 edition listing her birth year was incorrect.

32 points as the Celtics lost by three to the Detroit Pistons or hearing "Those Were the Days" by English singer Mary Hopkin on the radio for the first time in 1968.

Listening to the radio is still one of my favorite activities and probably will be for the rest of my life and it continues to generate lasting memories for me. < ~ *Ed Pierce* 



# What's the most considerate thing anyone has ever done for you?

"We were celebrating our anniversary on the Oregon coast. Random strangers bought our meal for us. So unexpected and kind." - Julie Mallett

"I once had a woman arrive at my door and ask my name. Then she handed me my wallet that I had dropped in the Hannaford parking lot!" – Cathy Wessel

"My parents who loved me and supported me their whole lives...what a blessing!" – Sharon Bickford

"Paid for my lunch in drive through." - Chris Wallace

"Senior year in college, I pulled a nutty and didn't take any of my first semester midterms. I appreciate an administrator, JB, who didn't lecture or scold, but rather helped me straighten out the mess I'd made." - Francesco Paredon

"Dear college friends who offered to move me back up to Maine from Pennsylvania, when they lived in Connecticut and had real jobs...and then did so. Still among my dearest friends today. I would do anything for them." – Hannah Benson

> "Took me in when I was homeless in Florida." – Stephen Signor

"Changed a tire when I had small children in the car." – Kathleen Hansen

"I was just 12 and was standing outside Fenway Park in Boston with my brother when a man walked up to us and handed us free tickets to Game Six of the 1975 World Series. We watched in amazement when Pudge Fisk hit the game-winning home run in the 12th inning as the Red

Sox beat Cincinnati."

– Dean A. Smalley

# 

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"Receiving a scratch-off lottery ticket from my grandmother for Christmas and then finding out I had won \$500." – Larry Kincaid

"Eating a home-cooked meal fixed by my mom when I got home on leave from boot camp." – Jerry Greene

"A gentleman helped me up and to my car after I had slipped and fell hard on some ice in the parking lot of the supermarket last winter." – Chris Macklin



# **Babb's Bridge remains closed following truck crash**

#### By Ed Pierce STAFF WRITER

One of New England's last covered bridges remains closed after a truck exceeding the bridge weight limit crashed through its wooden floor last Friday.

Gorham Police Deputy Chief Michael Nault said a Ford F750 truck loaded with 36,000 pounds of crushed gravel attempted to cross Babbs Bridge about 12:45 p.m. Aug. 23 from Gorham east into Windham on Hurricane Road. Nault said the truck's excessive weight caused the wooden bridge floor to suddenly collapse, sending the truck crashing into the Presumpscot River below.

The posted weight limit for traveling across the Babbs Bridge span is 3 tons, or 6,000 pounds, and Nault said the truck weighed roughly six times the legal limit for crossing the bridge.

The truck is owned by The Driveway Guys Company of Biddeford and was driven by Joshua Polewarzyk of Limington, 37, who was able to free himself from the truck in the water and sustained minor injuries in the crash. He was cited for excessive truck weight in crossing the bridge and was fined \$2,500.

Engineers from the Maine Department of Transportation were tasked with evaluating the structural status of the bridge, which remains closed at this time to the public.

A previous wooden covered bridge at the site stood for more than 100 years and was listed in 1972 on the National Register of Historic Places. The

bridge is said to have been originally named for a family living on property nearby and before its destruction was the oldest covered bridge in Maine.

The original Babbs Bridge was burned by arsonists in 1973. Using donated lumber milled exclusively in Gorham and with work performed by community volunteers, the bridge span was rebuilt as an exact replica of the original Babbs Bridge and reopened to the public in conjunction with America's Bicentennial 1976.

It is a single-span queenspost-style truss bridge, with a total structure length of 79 feet and a width of 13 feet, 9 inches. The bridge end portals have a posted height

gabled roof, with its side and end walls finished in vertical board siding.

Vandals cut a hole in the bridge's roof in 2014 which was subsequently repaired, but damages that were caused by a snowplow truck in 2015 required the bridge to be closed again temporarily.



Babb's Bridge, a wooden covered bridge over the Presumpscot River, will be closed until at least next spring after a truck weighing six times over the 3-ton limit attempted to cross limit of 10 feet and the from Gorham into Windham on Aug. 23 and crashed through bridge is covered by a the bridge floor. PHOTO BY GORHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

> Again in 2016, MDOT authorized a near-total \$160,000 makeover of Babbs Bridge based upon its original design. Work performed at that time included the installation of cement stone blocks for the bridge abutment. Other renovations in 2016 featured stripping off the bridge's roof and

replacing it with rough cut boards and plywood before topping it with cedar shingles. Work was also completed on the bridge's sides and entrances at that time.

estimates MDOT that about 360 vehicles use the bridge every day. During the summer months, the property surrounding the bridge is popular with swimmers but the water level for the Presumpscot River there this year has been much lower than in the past because of issues connected to the Dundee Pond gate malfunction in May.

The owner of The Driveway Guys has apologized for the incident and has pledged to assist in community efforts to repair or replace the bridge.

MDOT issued a press release Tuesday saying the bridge can be repaired but that work

isn't expected to be finished there until next spring and the bridge will remain closed until then.

Information in the press release said that Babb's Bridge is inspected at least every two years and that the last inspection of the bridge for safety took place at the end of July. <





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#### PAGEANT Cont. from page 1

tem, the Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant, is that we prioritize sisterhood and uplifting other women," Haibon said. "So often in the media pageants are portrayed as shallow competitions designed to bring other women down, but our system is the opposite of that. I know I can always rely on my fellow sisters for support, no matter what. I like to think I'm



so successful because of all the effort I put into myself, and the work put into prepping for my competitions. But I also work to carry a mindset of self-love and that I should be proud of myself no matter the results."

She graduated from Windham High School in 2021 and was first diagnosed with autism at age 12 as she was getting ready to go into sixth grade. Rather than dwell or despair about her autism diagnosis, Haibon says that she learned to adapt and excel, competing in pageants helping raise money to assist others in the community coping with autism.

Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears in childhood and impacts



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the normal development of the brain in the areas of social interaction, communication skills and cognitive function.

"Knowing that I can personally relate to my cause and who I'm doing it for, it makes me feel good knowing I'm doing something they will love, and it makes me feel happy," Haibon said.

She attributes her ability to overcome her diagnosis to her participation in pageants.

"I love competing because of the skills it has given me. I feel very lucky to have the skills I do and I wouldn't be who I am without pageants," Haibon said. "They've given me skills such as public speaking, self-confidence, and other many wonderful qualities I believe that every young adult should be equipped with before stepping into the adult world."

It is her belief that that anyone can participate in pageants, no matter what your physical or mental state may be.

"Everyone can do well in pageants, and I think it should be something you do once in your life," Haibon said. "It's such a blast to do and it gives you a family of sisters like no other. I was crowned as someone with autism. If you had told me when I was little that I would be an international titleholder, I never would have believed you. But here I am today."

Her advice to young people interested in pageants is simple.

"If anyone is interested in competing, you should do it," Haibon said. "The biggest piece of advice I can give is to research the pageant systems. There are so many in our state, so finding one that really connects with your values is crucial to finding a system that works for you. The MASP system really aligns with what I want to represent, which is why I've stayed with it for so long."

When she is not preparing for competition, Haibon says she enjoys her classes on the USM campus, dancing with her friends, reading, and spending time with her family. She is the daughter of Mary and Edward Haibon of Windham.

For more information about the Crossroads Youth Center, the local pageants, or other youth programming, visit their website at www. CYCSaco.org or call 207-838-2146. <



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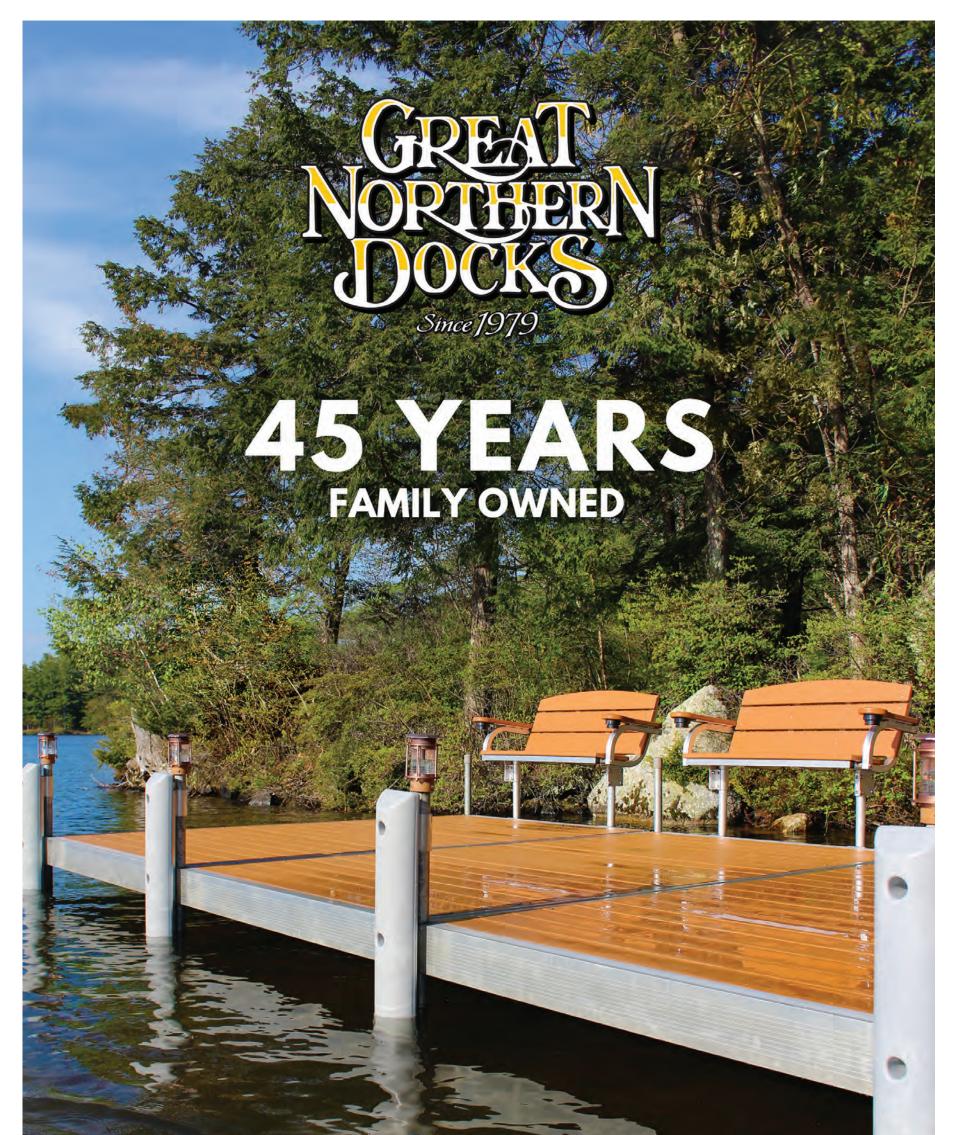
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# **New Windham Police Department patrol officer** grateful for opportunity to serve and protect

#### By Ed Pierce STAFF WRITER

Editor's note: This is another in an ongoing series of Windham and Raymond town employee profiles.

Every day that Windham Police Officer Hannah Gower puts on her uniform, she's aware of how tough it is to maintain public safety and hold accountable those who break the law.

As a new patrol officer for the Windham Police Department, Gower's specific duties and responsibilities are making sure the community is safe, helping ensure that people's rights are protected, and that community members are following the laws.

She just started working for the Windham police and currently is in the process of field training for the department. But before landing the position as a patrol officer for the town, Gower served as an intern for nine months at the Windham Police Department during her senior year of college, getting to know the officers and staff before being sworn in for duty.

"In my opinion, one of the best parts about being a law enforcement officer is being able to help the community in many ways and being able to be interact with the community as well," Gower said. "One of the most challenging aspects of being a law enforcement officer is the high stress associated with some of the calls that we

need to handle and also not being able to see our families sometimes."

Originally from Scarborough, Gower has recently moved to Standish and graduated in May from Saint Joseph's College of Maine with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Once she completes field training, she will help enforce motor vehicle laws, regulate traffic, check vehicle speeds, and issue

cies such as distress calls, accidents,

stranded motorists or during adverse weather conditions. Gower will investigate reports of suspicious activity, crimes, and accidents, interview witnesses and suspects, detain suspects until first responders arrive, search vehicles for drugs or paraphernalia, make arrests, prepare written reports



warnings, citations, Hannah Gower has joined the and summons to Windham Police Department as a munity," she said. violators. She will patrol officer. She is a 2024 gradinvestigate traffic uate of Saint Joseph's College of accidents to deter- Maine and earned a Bachelor of I wanted to apply mine the cause, re- Science degree while majoring in to the Windham spond to emergen- criminal justice. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Police Department was because I was able to really get to know everyone within the department and I felt very welcome with not only the department, but also from the community when I started my internship. I also really like the area of Windham."

She says she's appreciative for the chance to prove herself as a skilled

and field notes of

According to

"My most mem-

act with the com-

"One of the first

reasons as to why

and

and capable law enforcement officer.

"I am beyond grateful for all the family members that have pointed me in the right direction and helped me along this journey of following my dream to become a law enforcement officer," Gower said. "And I am very thankful for the Windham Police Department for all the opportunities that I have been given and welcoming me into their family."

Gower said that her family approves of her career choice of working in law enforcement and is extremely proud of her.

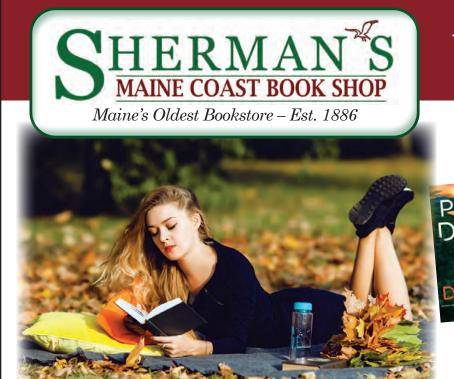
"My family has been very supportive of my career choice," she said. "I have had many other family members that have worked within fire departments, police departments, fire marshals and the U.S. marshals. Overall, my family is very excited that I have followed my dream of being a law enforcement officer."

Of everything Gower has learned about her profession so far, one thing stands out.

"Something that the public might not know about law enforcement is the stress level that police officers go through and never knowing what the day is going to bring," she said. "One aspect of the job that I think that I am good at is being able to talk and communicate with the community and adapt and learn to become a better law enforcement officer. <

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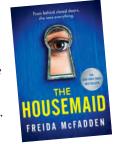
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# Here are a few popular picks this week...

Game Warden Mike Bowditch must chase down a cunning and dangerous fugitive in the North Maine Woods in this nail-biter of a thriller from Edgar Award-nominated author Paul Doiron.



The Housemaid written by Freida McFadden is a mystery novel that follows the story of Millie Calloway, a young woman with a criminal past who is employed by a rich woman with mental health conditions.

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# Windham Town Clerk job to remain an elected position

# By Ed Pierce

For the foreseeable future, the Windham Town Clerk job will remain an elected position.

During the Windham Town Council meeting on Aug. 20, comments were received from the public and a motion was discussed by councilors to place a referendum on General Election ballot for Nov. 5 to change the town clerk position from elected to an appointed position by town councilors. A portion of the proposed referendum would have included language to amend the Windham Town Charter to grant councilors the ability to appoint and remove the Town Clerk on a vote of five members and to remove the Town Clerk position from provisions related to elected officials, essentially making the position by appointment of the council.

In a memo in the council agenda from Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell, who has served in the position as Town Clerk for more than two decades and was deputy clerk for seven years before that. In the memo she listed her thoughts regarding the issue.

"The Town Clerk's position should have someone who has clerk experience and who can be dedicated to this full-time position, including night meetings, and working evenings and weekends during election time. As an appointed position you can advertise and have the ability to choose the best qualified candidate," Morrell wrote. "If the clerk is elected, anyone in town



Linda Morrell has served as Windham Town Clerk for more than two decades and has indicated that she will be retiring soon. A vote by the Windham Town Council failed to place a referendum on the November ballot to change the town clerk's position from elected to one that is appointed by the town councilors. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE is able to run and you may only have one person running who could absolutely have no experience or have any idea of what goes on in the clerk's office. You cannot require qualifications when electing a clerk. This position has many responsibilities and involves several different jobs, most of which are state-mandated. Learning these jobs requires going to classes and workshops and repeating those classes due to laws and regulations continually changing. It takes two to three years to feel comfortable and knowledgeable in this position because there are so many things to learn and become familiar with. Elections are one of the most important things a clerk has to oversee, and you need to know what you are doing."

Windham Town Manager said the issue has arisen because Morrell has indicated she plans to retire at some point in the future and many of the surrounding towns have appointed town clerks.

In Windham, the elected town clerk position oversees Dog Licensing;

Hunting/Fishing Licensing; Business Licenses and Permits; and Notary and Dedimus Service. The clerk's office assists in Tax Collection/Auto Registration in collecting property taxes; assist in Tax Collection/Auto Registration in registering Autos, Boats, and ATVs; issues marriage licenses and has Welcome Packets available for new residents. The Town Clerk also ensures that excellent customer service is provided to the public in a courteous and friendly manner and supervises all elections conducted in the Town of Windham. The town clerk ensures all → see CLERK Page 11



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# **Classes will resume next week for RSU 14 schools**

# By Ed Pierce

Precious days are left in summer vacation as the calendar is speeding by as students in Windham and Raymond are gearing up to return to classes next week.

All RSU 14 schools, teachers, staff members and administrators have been back to work getting ready to welcome students for the 2024-2025 school year and remind the community that with children out and about on their way to classes, motorists need to be careful and pay attention in school zones and around school buses transporting students to and from school.

After registering their children for another year of school, purchasing new clothing and footwear, gathering school supplies, planning lunches for school, coordinating after-school care, and arranging for transportation, parents are celebrating that the official start of the school year is finally here.

In Raymond, elementary and middle school students will attend either Raymond Elementary School or Jordan-Small Middle School. Raymond students in Grade 1 to Grade 4 attend Raymond Elementary, while students in Grade 5 through Grade 8 attend Jordan-Small Middle School.

Beth Peavey is entering her fifth year as the principal at Raymond Elementary School and was the school's assistant principal for three years prior to becoming principal.

Jordan-Small Middle School is led by Michelle Brann, who is entering her third year as the school's principal. Brann formerly served as the assistant principal at Lake Region Middle School.

The first day of school for Grades 1 to 4 at Raymond Elementary School is Tuesday, Sept. 3. Half of Raymond Elementary kindergarten students start classes on Thursday, Sept. 5, while the remaining half of RES kindergarten students will start school on Friday, Sept. 6.

In Windham, students in kindergarten through Grade 3 attend Windham Primary School. Grade 4 and Grade 5 Windham students attend Manchester School, while students in Grade 6 to Grade 8 attend Windham Middle School. High school students



Classes resume next week for public school students in Windham and Raymond and for students attending Windham Christian Academy. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

in Grade 9 to Grade 12 in both Raymond and Windham attend Windham High School.

Dr. Kyle Rhoads leads Windham Primary School as principal and has served in that role there for 17 years. Danielle Donnini is entering her 28th year of working at Manchester School and she has led the school as its principal since 2015.

Windham Middle School Principal Greg Applestein is entering his second year leading WMS. He formerly spent three years as the principal at Bonny Eagle High School. Ryan Caron is entering his seventh year as the principal at Windham High School and formerly served as the principal at South Portland High School.

Christopher Howell has led RSU 14 as Superintendent of Schools since 2019. Christine Frost-Bertinent is the RSU 14 assistant superintendent and Christine Hesler is RSU 14's Director of Curriculum.

The first day of school for Windham Primary School students in Grades 1 to 3 will be Tuesday, Sept. 3. Half of WPS kindergarten students begin school on Thursday, Sept. 5 and the remaining half of Windham kindergarten students start school on Friday, Sept. 6.

Windham Middle School classes will begin Tuesday, Sept 3. The first day of instruction for Windham High School Grade 9 students is Tuesday, Sept. 3. Grades 10 to 12 at Windham High School will start classes on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

For parents, RSU 14 uses Parent Square for school-to-home communications including mass notifications and urgent alerts, language translation for multilingual families, and to schedule parent-teacher conferences. The district also uses the Ride 360 app to view a student's transportation assignment or to request changes to a student's scheduled transportation. The Ride 360 app may be downloaded by visiting https://MERSU14. myridek12.tylerapp.com/.

Aaron Gant and Sharon Leeman serve as co-directors of transportation for RSU 14, while Jeanne Reilly is the RSU 14 Director of School Nutrition.

Windham Christian Academy

All students attending Windham Christian Academy in kindergarten through Grade 12 will return to classes on Tuesday, Sept. 3. The first day of school for students in WCA's PreK3 is Tuesday, Sept. 3 while the first day for students in WCA's PreK4 will be Wednesday. Sept. 4.



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Jackie Sands is now in her 12th year of working for Windham Christian Academy and has served as the school's principal since 2018. <



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August 30, 2024

BELTS Cont. from page 1

ed in the United States.

"Finding companies that still make product in the United States is incredibly challenging," says Lyons.

Once all the components were found and once the production of the belts was started, it took Rogue Industries about 120 days to complete the belts for Ralph Lauren Corporation.

If there is a lesson for us to take away from this, it is that hard work pays off, and Michael Lyons and Rogue Industries are proof of that. Their company's motto is "Quality or Quantity" and that was evident for all to see during the Olympic Games earlier this month in France. <

# Windham starts rolling out recycling carts

The Town of Windham has started to roll out new recycling carts for residents to increase the volume of single-stream collection efforts.

Town officials say with these new larger recycling carts, residents will be able to place all recyclable items directly into their recycling container. The 64-gallon carts along with new trash carts have begun arriving at residents' homes this week and will continue until all pick-up locations are covered.

The new carts will replace the smaller bins currently used for Windham residential recycling and come with wheels for easy maneuvering and attached lids

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to keep recyclables dry and secure.

The Recycling Partnership, a national nonprofit promoting a better recycling system in U.S. communities and states, has awarded Windham a grant support because of its dedication to advancing recycling in the community. The generous grant from The Recycling Partnership, with support from GlobalGiving, made in partnership with L'Oréal, will provide 1,600 new recycling carts to the town and includes funding for education and outreach about the new collection process.

Windham officials ask that residents continue to do their part by placing only recyclable materials in their recycling carts, including glass bottles and jars, aluminum and steel cans, food and beverage cartons, paper products (including newspapers and flattened cardboard), and empty plastic bottles and containers. To help limit contamination, give food and drink containers a quick rinse and then place them directly into the recycling cart with no sorting needed.

Some items that cannot be recycled

include plastic bags, styrofoam, paper towels, electrical equipment, batteries, and clothing. These items often get mixed into recycling carts because of "wish recycling," or the hope that they can be recycled. While well-intentioned, non-recyclable items can cause serious issues when placed in recycling carts for proper disposal.

For further info. about what can and can't go into the cart, visit windhammaine.us/202/Windham-Curbside-Trash-Recycling-Program www.casella.com/services/recycling

Residents of Windham can begin using their new trash and recycling carts beginning the week of Sept. 9. Your collection day may have changed, so residents are advised to please check the town website for your collection day.

To find your recycling day and answers to other info trash and recycling, visit windhammaine.us/202/Windham-Curbside-Trash-Recycling-Program or www.ecomaine.org/what-canbe-recycled/recyclopedia or call the Windham Public Works Dept. during business hours at 207-892-1909. <



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# **UMS** guarantees admission to Maine Community **College System graduates**

Maine's public universities will guarantee admission to graduates of the state's community colleges starting this fall.

Under the terms of a historic Transfer ME agreement signed today by Maine Community College System (MCCS) President David Daigler and University of Maine System (UMS) Chancellor Dannel Malloy, Maine's community colleges will proactively notify their students about the opportunities to continue their postsecondary education through UMS.

Interested students will receive coordinated advising from the two systems and be directly admitted to UMS universities that offer an aligned program. After completing their associate degree, MCCS graduates can seamlessly transfer to a Maine public university of their choice without filling out an application, paying application fees, or providing essays, recommendation letters and transcripts.

"This partnership will make it easier than ever for Maine community college graduates to continue pursuing their education at one of Maine's public universities, building upon my Free Community College initiative, which has enabled thousands of students to attend community college at little or no cost to them," said Gov. Janet Mills, who participated in the announcement. "I thank the Maine Community College System and University of Maine System for heeding my calls to make it even easier for Maine students to get a great education at an affordable price with a good-paying job waiting for them in the end."

Transfer ME builds on more than 180 existing articulation agreements that allow MCCS graduates to transfer to Maine's public universities and have all their Maine community college credits count, with further pathways being formalized.

Notification will begin this fall to qualifying students who have earned at least 30 community college credits and are enrolled in eligible degree programs, including behavioral health, biotechnology, business, education, hospitality, human services, psychology and pre-engineering.

A complete list of programs and additional information is available at www.maine.edu/students/transferME.

"Transfer ME removes barriers to opportunity. We want all Mainers to know how successful they can be at the University of Maine System and in their careers. While we have long welcomed transfers from the Maine Community College System, instead of waiting for their students to come to us, we will now reach out to them together and provide a well-paved pathway to our public universities. We think this will be a real game-changer in raising awareness, aspirations and access to af-→ see **UMS** Page 20



voter registration is handled in accordance with Maine Law and the Windham Town Charter.

Speakers attending the meeting advocated for moving the item forward as a referendum item for the General Election on Nov. 5 and allowing the voters to decide the question. All of the emails reviewed by the council suggested for integrity and accountability purposes that there isn't a great reason for the town to make the position an appointed one and hoped the council would keep it as an elected position.

Councilor Bill Reiner said he thought if the position was converted to an appointed job that a qualification should be imposed that the town clerk must be a resident of Windham for at least two years.

Councilor John Henry questioned why the discussion was even taking place to begin with.

"I think we're trying to fix a problem that hasn't happened yet," Henry said. "It's good to be proactive but it's at the expense of disenfranchising the voters."

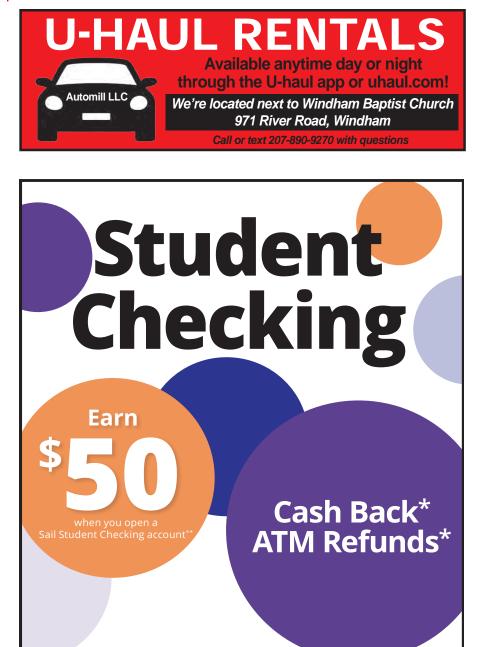
Council Nick Kalogerakis agreed with Henry and said he supported leaving things as they currently are.

"I put more faith in the people, I don't know why this has to be changed," Kalogerakis said. "Let the process play out as it should."

Council Chair Mark Morrison said he understood concerns about election integrity but thought residents of the town needed to decide what's best for them though a referendum.

With discussion closed, the six councilors in attendance took a vote about whether to create a referendum for the fall election.

Councilors Brett Jones, Mark Morrison and David Nadeau voted for the motion to create the referendum, while Councilors Bill Reiner, John Henry and Nick Kalogerakis voted against the motion. With a 3-3 vote and Councilor Jarrod Maxfield not in attendance at the meeting to vote, the motion failed and the Windham Town Clerk position will remain an elected one. <







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#### August 30, 2024

# No shortage of unique signs throughout Lakes Region

#### By Kendra Raymond **STAFF WRITER**

They're everywhere - those friendly reminders showing us where to go, what rules to follow, and spreading helpful information. There's even a song about signs, aptly named, 'Signs" written and performed by Five Man Electrical Band and covered by rock group Tesla. While most signs are mundane and typically just plain boring, what about unique or handmade signs?

A ride through the Lakes Region is a bit more likely to display signs with character, given the nature of seasonal camps in the area. Most everyone is familiar with the iconic sign in Lynchville, Maine at the intersection of Routes 5 and 35. It's fondly called the "Maine World Traveler Signpost," and "Maine's Famous Signpost" or the "World Places Sign." Travelers can find out how much further to travel to Norway, Paris, Denmark, Naples, Sweden, Poland, Mexico, Peru, and China which are all towns in Maine.

Similar appearing signposts can be found on River Road in Windham and in downtown Harrison. The eye-catching Harrison sign leads passers-by to locales such as neighboring





towns like Bridgton and Norway, the Deertrees Theater, the VFW hall, businesses, campgrounds, restaurants, and local summer camps. Evidently, the sign changes periodically and is kept up to date with new spots as well as destinations that may no longer be pertinent.

But how about those typical last name signs, usually located at the end of a camp road with a separate sign for each family residing in the area? This phenomenon does not seem to exist in typical year-round neighborhoods.

The Carving Company website says, "Your camp needs a personalized sign!" but why? Perhaps it is the opportunity to express your own creativity, choosing various fonts, images, and sizes to share your vibe with the world or at least your camp road. Or maybe, no one really knows why.

"It's a contagious idea. We have a name sign at the end of the road because everyone else does it. The signs are part of camp culture - it's how things have always been done," said Raymond resident Neily Raymond. "Maybe the signs served a purpose years ago, but now they're just for fun," she said. "We just replaced our sign last year, so it should last quite a while."

Raymond property owner Dennis Frappier is an Airbnb host and real estate investor.

"I see signs as an aid so family and guests can find their vacation destination," he said while emphasizing that he has no additional insight into the camp signs culture.



Camp signs like these shown in a Raymond neighborhood are a common sight throughout the Lakes Region lakefront access roads and other private ways. PHOTO BY KENDRA RAYMOND

At a different Raymond neighborhood with a large population of seasonal residents, another camp owner said that he believes old-fashioned camp signs to be from a bygone era. He has never had a name sign and → see **SIGNS** Page 13



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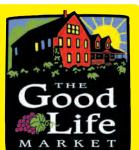
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#### Editor,

I am writing this letter to urge residents of Windham to vote for Kathleen March and Ginny Woodman for RSU 14 School Board. Our children are facing challenges at an unprecedented rate and desperately need the strong support that these two women can provide.

As a dedicated and loyal resident

## SIGNS Cont. from page 12

doesn't plan to, ever, saying that if he wants to be found, he will tell people where to go.

Maine Sign Company's website has a post claiming that often signs are left to mass-production, and they believe artisan skills making signs by hand by craftsmen creates signs "the way they used to be."

Going a step further is a more personalized family crest sign. Raymond residents Tom and Ann Ewig proudly display their family crest on a signpost in front of their Raymond home and even on a vehicle.

"Ann and I constructed the sign incorporating the Ewig family crest with two oak leaves with the Sheldrake family crest, the drake," said Tom Ewig.

He explained that the sheldrake crest was an old crest from the Franklin side of the family, which is his wife's maiden name. The combined crest of Windham for 21 years, Kathleen and her husband Brian have raised their four children to live a life of integrity, serving, and making a difference in the community they live in. As a wife and mother, Kathleen has provided the foundation for her children to succeed into their adulthood to the present date. Providing education as a homeschooling parent and emotional-social support with their transition into public school are among the many skills and abilities Kathleen possesses. Kathleen is a model for each of us, as she has volunteered her time to organizations such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters, worked with the homeless as a part of her church (Our Lady of Perpetual Help), and the Standish Food Pantry, to name a few. She not only devoted her time and energy to these causes but additionally volunteered her time to our schools while her children were in attendance there. Kathleen has an extensive knowledge of education and the issues facing our children. She is passionate, balanced, and demonstrates the skills needed to work with a system to come to the best solution. With both personal and professional  $\rightarrow$  see LETTERS Page 19

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holds a lot of significance for the Ewigs.

"We have used this combined crest for over 40 years symbolizing our union. We designed the crest together," he said.

He emphasized that they have been married for 56 years, much longer than the development of their combined crest.

Alex Gaskarth's quote says, "Our street corners keep secrets, and our road signs only suggest, never deciding for us, never knowing if the destination to which they lead, is where we truly belong. Life's greatest tragedy is not that it will someday end, but that most of us just live to follow directions, and many times we end up totally lost." Well, maybe that's a bit too deep for our purposes here, but it is food for thought.

To learn more about the iconic Maine World Traveler Signpost, visit: visitmaine.com>arts-culture <



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

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#### August 30, 2024

# **Maine Bureau of Insurance approves 2025 health** insurance rates for individuals and small groups

AUGUSTA - Maine Bureau of Insurance Superintendent Bob Carey has announced approval of the 2025 health insurance rates for Maine's individual and small group market.

Page 18

The new rates will take effect on or after Jan. 1, 2025. Over the past two months, Carey said that the bureau has worked with health insurers to lower their initially proposed rates. As a result, the approved rate increases were reduced from an initial rate increase of 14.2 percent to an approved rate increase of 8.6 percent for individuals, and from 14.5 percent to 9.4 percent for small employers (those with 50 or fewer employees).

"The bureau works hard to minimize increases in the cost of health insurance by scrutinizing annual health insurance rate filings and only approving rate changes that reflect medical trends and the projected cost of health care. However, the underlying drivers of health care costs continue to push rates higher. These cost drivers include higher prices for hospitals and health care providers, accelerating prescrip-

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tion drug costs, and increased utilization of services," Carey said. "We will continue to do all we can in our regulatory capacity to protect the interests of Maine's insurance consumers."

For individuals, health plans with the largest membership saw the greatest rate reductions compared to their initial rate filing. Anthem Health Plans of Maine's initial rate request of 14.7 percent was reduced to 7.4 percent; Maine Community Health options initial request of 13.2 percent was reduced to 8.1 percent; and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care's initial request of 15.8 percent was lowered to 11.6 percent.

In the small group market, Anthem's initial rate increase was lowered from 13.3 percent to 7.1 percent; and Maine Community Health Options was reduced from 19.6 percent to 13.1 percent.

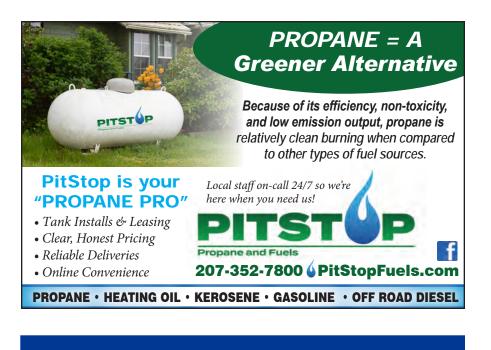
The bureau was able to approve lower rates in part due to Maine's reinsurance program, which leverages state and federal funds to reduce premiums. The Maine Guaranteed Access Reinsurance Association (MGARA), a nonprofit entity that administers the state's reinsurance program, uses public funds to lower premiums for individual and small group health plans.

MGARA received a larger than expected amount of federal pass-through funds for 2024, after the carriers filed their initial rate requests. These additional funds allowed the MGARA board to reset the reinsurance program's parameters to provide more funding for 2025. The carriers subsequently refiled rate requests that fully reflected the MGARA reinsurance program's updated reinsurance parameters.

"I urge individuals and small employers to shop around for coverage," Carey recommended. "For individual purchasers, CoverMe.gov is a great resource that allows Maine residents to compare plans and rates, and to see if they may be eligible for federal premium subsidies. Small employers should talk to their insurance broker about their health plan options."

To view the complete breakdown of the 2025 health insurance rate filings, visit www.maine.gov/pfr/insurance/ sites/maine.gov.pfr.insurance/files/inline-files/2025-ratesummary-V3.pdf.

To learn more about individual and small group health insurance options in Maine, go to www.maine.gov/pfr/ insurance/consumers/life-health-disability, and to enroll in coverage visit https://www.CoverME.gov. <



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#### **LETTERS** Cont. from page 13

experience, I believe Kathleen is fully equipped to be the person we need on the RSU 14 School Board.

Ginny Woodman has been a devoted member of the Windham community for several years. Working as a nurse to serve those in need is one of the many attributes and abilities Ginny possesses. Ginny has provided care, support, and instruction to those around her through the roles she's served both as a nurse, mentor, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and volunteer in our community. She's played an integral role in the development of her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren throughout their development from childhood into adulthood. She has raised her family to respect, honor, and be of service to the community they live in. Now a retired nurse, Ginny continues to support the development of the next generation through education, service, and guidance provided to her family and the families in our community. She is a solid and stable source of wisdom, knowledge, and comes to the table with kindness, understanding, and commitment, and is a model of what we need on the RSU 14 School Board.

It is for these reasons I encourage you to strongly consider Kathleen March and Ginny Woodman for RSU 14 School Board. Our children need strong women and role models from

whom to learn, and these women have shown they are more than capable and have the heart to move Windham forward.

~ Jennifer Whynot, Windham

#### Editor,

Your voice matters in Maine's fight against climate change!

The Maine Climate Council is updating the state's action plan, "Maine Won't Wait" and they want your input. This action plan addresses important topics such as strategies to protect our communities and prepare for the future.

Earlier this year, expert statewide working groups compiled draft climate strategies and presented them to the council. All Mainers will now have the opportunity to provide feedback regarding these draft climate strategies.

The state's action plan is incredibly important to our future and generations to come, which is why we should make our voices heard. Please consider taking the survey and sharing your thoughts so that the Maine Climate Council can continue to advocate for positive enhancements to our state plan.

To access the survey, visit www. maine.gov and search for "2024 Draft Climate Strategies & Survey." The deadline to participate is Sept. 20.

~ Jane Margesson, AARP Maine **Communications Director** 

#### Editor.

I first met Tim Nangle in the fall of 2022 when he was running for the Maine State Senate. He won that election and his work as our state senator

the past 2 years confirmed I made the right choice in voting for him.

In September of 2023, Hawthorne House in Raymond hosted a "Protecting our Waterways" panel discussion. Tim was invited to join the panel with representatives from Code Enforcement, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Public Works Department and State Rep. Jess Fay. The central focus of the discussion was the egregious shoreland violation on Sebago Lake in Raymond. As the moderator, it was clear to me that everyone in attendance wanted something done about the wealthy landowner who had committed the violation and was costing the Town of Raymond \$300,000-plus in legal fees to attempt to enforce the violation. Tim told the large crowd he would work to pass legislation to withhold permits for shoreland zoning violators and place liens on property owners that do not comply with restoration plans.

LD2101, led by Tim Nangle, was passed this year and the violator was fined \$650,000 plus the cost of restoration.

Tim Nangle is a senator who listens and understands what is important to his constituents. He gets the work done.

He gets my vote.

~ Mary Ann Moeri, Raymond





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# UMS Cont. from page 11

fordable, door-opening bachelor's degree programs and upward mobility," said Malloy.

"What students want and need is a clear-cut, simple route to a four-year degree, without a lot of paperwork and barriers. This agreement does just that," Daigler said. "We expect this to be an enormously popular program that increases the number of Maine community college graduates continuing their education."

Under the leadership of President Daigler and Chancellor Malloy and in response to state workforce needs, there is a growing commitment to collaboration between Maine's two public postsecondary systems, which together enrolled 46,942 degree-seeking students in the 2023-2024 academic year as well as thousands of Mainers in free early college courses, shortterm training and non-credit bearing educational programs. Just 54 percent of Maine's high school graduates are now choosing college despite demand from the state's employers for more workers with postsecondary degrees and credentials. Maine has a statutory goal that 60 percent of adults will hold a postsecondary degree or credential of value by 2025, up from the current 55 percent, which is also reinforced by the state's 10-year economic strategy.

To ensure more Mainers can benefit from the transformative power of public postsecondary education and further strengthen the size and skill of the state's workforce, MCCS and UMS have partnered with the Mills Administration and the Maine Legislature to advance postsecondary education access and affordability.

For example, in 2022, MCCS and Gov. Mills launched a free tuition program to encourage more recent high school graduates to go to college, including those who may not have believed they could afford higher education. Since the launch of the program, which is currently funded for graduates or the equivalent in the high school classes of 2020-2025, MCCS annual enrollment has increased by 20 percent. It has also led to the first year-over-year increase in the number of MCCS students transferring to Maine's public universities since before the pandemic.

Maine's community colleges are the largest source of transfer students to UMS. In 2023-2024, 737 students from MCCS transferred to UMS compared to 681 the previous year.

While Transfer ME is the first system-to-system agreement of its kind in the state, there is a history of working together that Transfer ME leverages. For example, Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) and the University of Southern Maine (USM) have long partnered to make it easier for students to transition between the two institutions. More than 125 SMCC students who plan to transfer to USM now live in that university's new Portland residence hall and can participate in student life offerings there. This spring, the University of Maine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias, and

MCCS formalized Black Bear Advantage, a co-enrollment program.

"Maine employers need more workers with postsecondary credentials and this seamless transfer will help to ensure that more Mainers will benefit from postsecondary education and also increase the size and skills of Maine's workforce," said Finance Authority of Maine CEO Carlos Mello.

"I applaud the Maine Community College System and the University of Maine System for continuing to reduce barriers for students by developing seamless pathways between the two systems," said Educate Maine Executive Director Jason Judd, a UMS graduate. "Transfer ME will lead to more students in degree programs and more graduates ready to thrive in Maine's workforce."

Today's Transfer ME signing ceremony took place at the Spring Point Children's Center at SMCC. Through a partnership with SMCC, the University of Maine at Farmington has delivered its early childhood education bachelor's degree program there since 2007, making it more accessible to recent community college graduates and other place-bound working adults in southern Maine. <



# **PUBLIC NOTICE** NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE

Please take notice that Gateway Development, LLC with a mailing address of 26 Fieldcrest Road, Windham, Maine 04062 intends to file a Site Location of Development Act permit application pursuant to the provisions of 38 M.R.S.A. §§ 481 thru 490 with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection on or about September 12, 2024. The application is for a residential development on Turning Leaf Drive and Drive-In Lane consisting of approximately 146 dwelling units in Windham, Maine (Tax Map 14, Lot 9-B).

A public informational meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at the end of Turning Leaf Drive in Windham, Maine 04062 beginning at 5:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting is for the applicant to inform the public of the project and its



# **TURN PROPERTIES INTO PROFITS!**



#### Page 20

anticipated environmental impacts and to educate the public about the opportunities for public comment on the project.

A request for a public hearing or a request that the Board of Environmental Protection assume jurisdiction over this application must be received by the Department in writing, no later than 20 days after the application is found by the Department to be complete and is accepted for processing. A public hearing may or may not be held at the discretion of the Commissioner or Board of Environmental Protection. Public comment on the application will be accepted throughout the processing of the application. The application will be filed for public inspection at the Department of Environmental Protection's office in Portland during normal working hours. A copy of the application may also be seen at the municipal offices in Windham, Maine.

Written public comments may be sent to the regional office in Portland where the application is filed for inspection: MDEP, Southern Maine Regional Office, 312 Canco Road, Portland, ME 04103.

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# King introduces legislation to make primary care affordable

Senator Angus King is introducing legislation to ensure Maine people have access to affordable and preventative mental health and behavioral healthcare services.

The Primary and Behavioral Healthcare Access Act would require private insurance plans to cover three annual primary care visits, and three annual outpatient mental health or outpatient substance use disorder treatment visits, without charging a copayment, coinsurance, or deductible-related fee. This common-sense legislation would cover private insurance under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and employer-sponsored plans.

Currently, the Federal Reserve estimates one-in-four Americans skip medical care due to cost. On average, primary care visits cost an average of \$170 out of pocket and the cost of a single day of outpatient substance use treatment is estimated between \$250 and \$350. Under existing law, private group health plans, regulated by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), are not obligated to provide no-cost coverage for primary care, or mental and behavior health services.

"Affordable and accessible healthcare is essential to keeping Maine peo-

# Protecting Maine Wildlife



The Sebago Lake **Rotary Club recently** hosted a program for members about Maine Operation GameThief and how Rotary can support efforts under way to catch those who violate hunting rules in the state. Maine Operation Game Thief is a nonprofit with a goal of making the public aware of

abuse against Maine's wildlife and natural resources working with wildlife enforcement whenever possible. For more info about MOGT, visit Maineogt.org. Sebago Rotary President Max Bang, left, welcomes Greg Sirpis, Maine's OGT Chairman of the Board, to the Rotary Club meeting. SUBMITTED PHOTO ple healthy," King said. "However, high or unexpected costs can often deter people from seeking care, such as annual preventative checkups that can identify health issues at an early stage. The Primary and Behavioral Healthcare Access Act would require private insurance plans to cover three annual primary care visits and three mental health visits — ensuring folks feel confident they can get the care they need without breaking the bank."

Senator King has consistently worked to reduce healthcare costs for Maine people. The Inflation Reduction Act has laid the groundwork for and in some cases already implemented longterm changes in federal policy that will keep people healthier and deliver higher quality care at a lower cost to patients. These benefits are delivered while simultaneously reducing the deficit by finally allowing Medicare to negotiate bulk discounts on the price it pays for prescription drugs. This will save taxpayers hundreds of billions.

Additionally, Senator King has worked to reduce prescription drug costs. He has previously introduced legislation to prohibit pharmaceutical drug manufacturers from claiming tax deductions for consumer advertising expenses and also introduced bipartisan legislation to require price transparency in prescription drug advertisements. Most recently, he introduced the bipartisan Physician Fee Stabilization Act to protect seniors' access to healthcare. <

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# Varsity football squad on way to outstanding season

#### By Matt Pascarella **STAFF WRITER**

In preparation for the upcoming fall season, Windham's varsity football team competed in a controlled scrimmage against Fryeburg Academy at Windham High School on Saturday, Aug. 24 and showed great promise.

A controlled scrimmage is more like a practice session for coaches and players to refine skills, evaluate performance and figure out how the team works best to be strongest during the regular season. While no score is kept, Fryeburg Academy never made it into Windham's end zone and Windham made it into Fryeburg Academy's end zone twice during the scrimmage.

"The goal was to let them have an opportunity to play," said Windham varsity football coach Matt Perkins. "You get in practice; you think you have something, and you never really know until you play. Some guys got live repetitions - it was great. The puzzle is constantly moving here; we're pretty happy and pretty healthy, we've got some young guys that have got to step up. Our pass game was good, our routes were good, pass protection was good. Our run game at times had some really good life. Defensively I thought we played well, first drive, played great ten plays, Fryeburg had a long drive on us, and we stood up and stopped them. That's always huge – that's something we'll go back to during the season. You had a fourth-down stand, those are big."

One of the things that stood out to Perkins during this scrimmage was the team's effort and guys getting after it.

Windham's defense shut down Fryeburg Academy early, with several



(L to R) Windham senior Brayden Penney makes his way over the defense as he rushes toward the goal line against Fryeburg Academy during a preseason controlled scrimmage. Sophomore Landon Wyman heads for the end zone. Junior Karl Longstreth breaks away and rushes for several yards. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

tackles, which stopped their offense, limiting their opponent's yardage.

Senior Brayden Penney had an estimated 20-plus yard run. This was immediately followed by Windham junior Karl Longstreth's big multi-yard run.

The Eagles' defense gave it all and made it very hard for Fryeburg Academy to get through. Junior Wyatt Washburn had a solid tackle.

Junior Mason Arbour made it into the end zone followed by sophomore Landon Wyman who narrowly avoided a defender and crossed the goal line.

"We were just looking to get better," said Wyman. "We worked really hard all week, and we wanted to show ourselves (we could do it). Our sideline was really loud and that helped a lot, and our defense was really good today. What I think needs work is rallying on tackles, maybe being even louder (from the sideline). I'm hoping we have a great season - we're looking good ...



(L to R) Junior Wyatt Washburn tackles a Fryeburg Academy opponent. Junior James "Ted" Johnson brings down an opponent.

I think we're going to show how good we are."

Windham's defensive line kept it up until the end of the scrimmage.

"I feel like the goal was to get better," said Penney. "Get our repetitions in and get ready for season. Takeaway is last season, help the younger guys out and motivate them to get better and push harder ... and set a good role model for the program. The sidelines were hyping our teammates up."

Penney wants the team to win games and make it to the state championship as well as get better on and off the field. He feels good about the team.

Windham's home-opener is at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 6 against Noble. <

# **Demitra Nicholas**

Age: 16 Team: WHS Cross Country Coach: Jeff Riddle and Jeff Conant Parents' names: Erin and John Nicholas Reason for selection: Coming from a background in soccer, Demi is poised to make her debut for the Lady Eagle Cross Country Team this fall. Racing for the first time with Windham High School during the Indoor Track season, Demi had immediate success. She was part of the 4 x 800-meter relay team that placed fourth at the Southern Maine Activities Association Conference Championships and holds a Top 10 all-time record in the 600 yard run. Demi brings grit and determination to everything that she does and all with a wry smile. She will give you everything that she has, and you could not ask for a better teammate.

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EMERGENCY COVERAGE AT WARREN AVENUE LOCATION

# Windham girls' soccer sails by York in preseason game

#### By Matt Pascarella STAFF WRITER

As Windham's varsity girls' soccer team continues preparing for the upcoming regular fall season, they hit the pitch in a preseason game against York at Windham High School on Saturday, Aug. 24. Windham scored early and kept up their intensity in shutting out York, 3-0.

"I think we did really good today," said Windham senior Emily Talbot. "It's probably ... one of the most hard-working teams. For our running in preseason, it's been some of the best times – we all just really want to win; we're working really hard to get there. I think we play really well together, especially this year we've done a good job moving the ball around and working hard for each other. There's no separation within our team and it's really good to see that. It shows on the field and pays off. As the season goes on, I think we're going to just get better from here, we overall did a really good job today."

Windham stayed with the ball and commanded the field; they got the ball by York. There were multiple shots on goal. After a short time, Talbot scored; she followed up and found the back of the net again before the end of the half. Windham held a 2-0 lead going into the second half.

"So many good things happening here," said Windham varsity girls' soccer coach Deb Lebel. "We're just building from where we left off last year. I feel like we are a step forward - kids are making runs that maybe they wouldn't a year ago; it's becoming second nature to them. I think we have a couple freshmen who are pushing those upperclassmen – they can't relax - because those freshmen have worked really hard and deserve to be here. I think with some incoming talent, some growth and maturity, this should be a great steppingstone for the year to come. Defensively, we need to sort out a few things in terms of quicker play, getting creative but quickly. If we can sort that out, I think we're going to be really strong."

The Lady Eagles' intensity remained as Windham controlled the ball and had several shots at goal early in the second half. Their strong defense made it difficult for York to get many scoring opportunities. Partway through the second half, junior Myla Vercoe fired the ball past the goalie. Windham gave 100 percent right up until the final whistle.



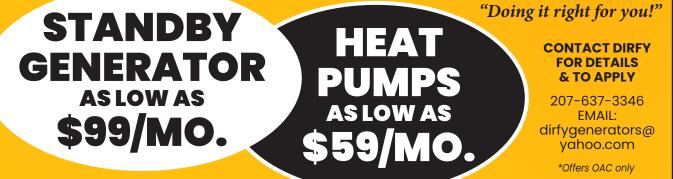
(L to R) Windham junior Myla Vercoe knocks the ball past the goalie during the second half of a preseason game against York at Windham High School on Saturday, Aug. 24. Freshman Brooklyn Roy crosses the ball heading in a different direction. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA



"I think after a really hard week of tryouts and preseason and us all working really hard together and being able to come on the field and see where we're at this year compared to last year," said Vercoe. "We have good potential with us as a team and how we're going to play; I think this was a good reflection of how we're going to do this upcoming season. We all work really well with passing ... and our chemistry is getting better. We could always work on more communication ... and finishing. We've worked really good coming together and complement each other's skills." <

(L to R) Senior Emily Talbot stays ahead of her opponent while keeping control of the ball. Senior Stella Jarvais focuses on the goal after breaking through two opponents.





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# **Ch-ch-ch-changes**

#### By Andy Young SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



For the past decade or so one of the best

or so one of the best things about getting my day started at 4 a.m. has been listening to the kitchen clock at that

-Andy Young, Columnist hour. Its ticking, along with the hum of the refrigerator, forms a soft, sweet and familiar symphony. Once the day starts in earnest, these quiet yet pleasing sounds get relegated into the background, drowned out by running tap water, pouring cereal, opening and closing doors, and other less subtle audible reverberations. But by then they've done their job.

I've been thinking about those quiet but pleasing early-morning vibrations lately, the ones which have allowed me to begin each day bathing in what has become my early a.m. "comfort zone." I first learned to savor solitude, albeit in small doses, sometime in my early thirties, and as years and then decades passed, that sweet early-morning near-silence morphed into a guilty pleasure that ultimately became equal parts necessary and habitual. On those rare occasions when the ticks and humming were absent, I consciously missed them. But while I still deeply appreciate my daily dose of reassuring



# **LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT** TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

# Wednesday, September 11, 2024 • 7:00 PM

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

#### SITE PLAN REVIEW & PUBLIC HEARING

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

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube (www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block near-silence, too much of anything, even a good thing, is never beneficial.

The reason for all this introspection is two events that took place this past weekend. On Saturday I drove 230 miles south to drop off my daughter at the college she'll be attending this fall. Getting home that night after darkness had fallen, I slept soundly and quickly, then woke the next morning in time to take my younger son 140 miles north to the school he'll be going to for the foreseeable future, the one his older brother already attends. All three young Youngs have been blessed with good roommates, and each is pursuing areas of study that truly intrigue them. But they probably won't be back around here until Thanksgiving, which means major changes not only for them, but for their suddenly empty nesting dad.

Many of the life adjustments I'll make in the coming weeks and months seem on the surface to be fortuitous ones. My grocery bill is going to drop precipitously. I'll be doing fewer loads of laundry, which means using less water. I'll be turning on fewer electrical appliances, and also turning off fewer lights which have been absent-mindedly left on by others. There'll be less vacuuming to do. The bathroom won't need cleaning quite as often. There'll be fewer meals to prepare, and thus fewer dishes to wash.

I'm cognizant that the primary object of parenting is to prepare one's children to successfully navigate the world on their own, and I'm reasonably certain that all three of my offspring are well on their way to being able to do just that. Readying their brood to leave the nest is what parents are supposed to do. But who prepares parents to return to a once-bustling but suddenly empty nest?

My kids are doing fine, my expenses are shrinking, my day-to-day chores are less onerous than they once were, and for the foreseeable future I can shower with the bathroom door open if I feel like it. So why is the early morning ticking and humming I've found so comforting in the past suddenly sounding so shrill and irritating? And why is the face I see in the mirror first thing in the morning looking so melancholy?

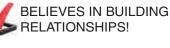
There is, I suspect, a very thin border between the solitude and privacy I crave and the isolation and loneliness I dread.

The challenge lying ahead for me and other first-time empty-nesters is locating that line, but then doing whatever is necessary to avoid crossing it. <



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

#### JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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

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# Waterfront properties a proven and sound investment

By Matthew Trudel special to the windham eagle



There's something truly special about waterfront properties in Maine. Wheth-

- Pamela Starnes/Tiffany Libby, The Libby Starnes Team cal or someone

from out of state, the charm of living by the water is irresistible. Imagine waking up to the gentle sound of waves, sipping your morning coffee on the deck as the sun rises over the water, or spending your afternoons kayaking, fishing, or simply unwinding at the water's edge. Whether it's a cozy cottage on Sebago Lake or a luxurious estate along the coast, these properties offer more than just a place to live—they offer a lifestyle that combines tranquility and investment potential.

The allure of waterfront living is undeniable. There's a peace that comes with being near the water, a chance to disconnect from the hustle and bustle of everyday life. For many, owning a waterfront home is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream—a place to escape, recharge, and create lasting memories with loved ones. Beyond the lifestyle, these properties have also proven to be sound investments. Even with the ups and downs of the real estate market, waterfront properties have consistently held their value, often appreciating faster than inland homes. The limited availability of waterfront lots, especially in prime locations, only adds to their appeal.

In recent years, the demand for these properties has only grown, especially with the rise of remote work. More and more buyers are seeking homes that offer not just a retreat from the city but also a comfortable year-round living and working space. This has sparked a surge of interest in Maine's waterfront properties, drawing buyers from near and far who are eager to experience the natural beauty and relative affordability that Maine offers compared to other coastal areas in the Northeast.

However, before diving into waterfront living, it's important to consider the unique aspects of owning such a property. Erosion, flooding, and the need for specialized maintenance are all factors that can add to the cost of ownership. That's why it's crucial to work with a real estate agent who understands these challenges and can guide you through the process.

Another key consideration is finding the type of waterfront property that best suits your needs. Maine's diverse landscape offers everything from oceanfront homes with private beaches to secluded lakefront cottages nestled in the woods. Each type of property provides a different experience, so it's important to think about what matters most to you – whether it's easy access to boating and fishing, proximity to amenities, or the peace and quiet of a secluded spot.

Windham and its surrounding areas are home to some of Maine's most sought-after waterfront properties. Just a short drive from Portland, Windham strikes the perfect balance between accessibility and seclusion. The town is famous for its beautiful lakes, including Sebago Lake, Little Sebago Lake, and Highland Lake. These lakes are ideal for a variety of activities, from boating and fishing to swimming and kayaking, making them perfect for families, retirees, or anyone who loves the outdoors.

In Windham, you'll find a wide range of waterfront properties, from charming cottages to luxurious estates. Many of these homes feature private docks, spacious decks, and stunning views, offering the perfect setting to enjoy Maine's natural beauty. With a strong sense of community, excellent schools, and easy access to shopping, dining, and cultural attractions, Windham is an excellent choice for those looking to embrace the waterfront lifestyle.

Waterfront properties in Maine offer a rare combination of natural beauty, recreational opportunities, and investment potential. Whether you're searching for a year-round residence, a seasonal getaway, or an investment opportunity, the Libby Starnes Team is here to help you find your perfect waterfront home. With our in-depth knowledge of the local market and our dedication to client satisfaction, we're committed to helping you navigate the complexities of waterfront real estate and make your dream of owning a Maine waterfront property a reality.

To learn more or to explore current waterfront listings, reach out to the Libby Starnes Team at Signature Homes Real Estate Group. We're excited to help you discover everything Maine's waterfront has to offer.

This article was brought to you by Pamela Starnes and Tiffany Libby, coowners of The Libby Starnes Team with Signature Homes Real Estate Group. Call them at 207-838-8051 or 207-712-2424. <



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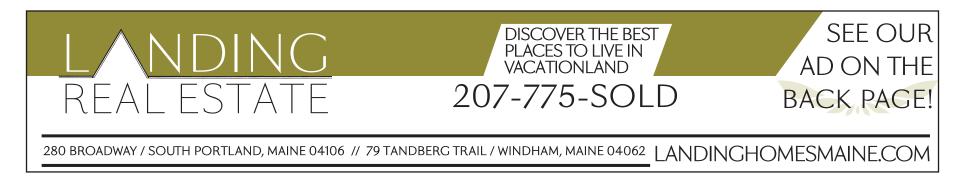
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# THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S



**STAFF WRITER** 

#### **Baked Lemon Pepper Chicken**

Using just five ingredients, this proven family favorite dish is sure to please all ages. The chicken turns out perfect every time with the right amount of crunch outside and moist and juicy on the inside. All you'll need to prepare this is two small mixing bowls, a paper plate and a baking dish. The ingredients and directions couldn't be simpler.

#### **INGREDIENTS**

1 1/4 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts 1/4 cup of milk

1 tablespoon of Lemon Pepper seasoning 1/2 cup of panko bread crumbs 2 tablespoons of melted butter

#### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Mix panko bread crumbs and the lemon pepper seasoning together in a small dish. Dip chicken breasts in a bowl of milk. Have the panko bread crumbs ready on a paper plate. Roll each chicken breast in the panko and seasoning mix ensuring that each one is coated thoroughly. Put the chicken breasts into a greased baking pan and then pour melted butter over them. Place the baking dish with the chicken in oven and bake for 25 minutes allowing the chicken to cook through. SERVING The total prep time is about 10 minutes and with cooking time,

this dish can be ready to eat in just 35 minutes. Serve with a fresh garden salad and either a baked potato or mashed potatoes or a side dish of your favorite rice. Makes four servings.

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# **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. Unsheared sheep 5. Rock TV channel
- 8. Streetcar
- 12. Concerning
- 14. Exclamation
- 15. Greek goddess of youth
- 16. Popular type of device
- 18. Alcoholic beverage
- 19. Ancient Olympic Site
- 20. Sharpshoots
- 21. Tyrion Lannister was characterized as one
- 22. Pointed ends of pens
- 23. Measuring instruments
- 26. Midsection body part
- 30. Made a mistake

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•

- 31. Adjusted
- 32. "Partridge" actress Susan 33. Yell
- **CLUES DOWN** 
  - 1. Works of body art
  - 2. Israeli politician Abba
  - 3. Renowned desert
  - 5. She didn't make it through the Fr. Revolution
- 6. Beat
  - 7. Bloodsucker
  - 8. From a place already noted 9. Counted on
  - 10. Alberta Assn. of Baccalaureate 44. Natives of an island nation World Schools
  - 11. Something one can make
- 13. One who abstains
- 17. Wild ox
- 24. Type of student 25. Bacterial infection of the skin 53. Form of Persian language
- 26. Expresses surprise
- 27. What engaged couples ultimately say

- 34. Civil rights city in Alabama
- 39. Young boy
- 42. Type of sea bass
- 44. To call (archaic)
- 46. Unfortunate
- 47. Separate oneself from others
- 49. Hero sandwiches
- 50. Spy group
- 51. Florida is famous for them
- 56. Irritating individuals
- 57. Luck
- 58. Hunting expedition
- 59. WWII diarist Frank 60. Peyton's younger brother
- 61. Type of wrap
- 62. Type of overseas tax or levy 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. Wake up
- 28. Cronv
- 29. Where one begins (abbr.)
- 35. Architectural designation
- 36. "Matt Houston" actor Horsley
- 37. More (Spanish)
- 38. Autonomic nervous system 40. Indigenous peoples
- 41. Deflections
- 42. Circulating life force
- 43. Executes with a rope
- 45. Girls
- 47. Logician and philosopher
- 48. Nocturnal hoofed animal
- 49. Relaxing spaces
- 52. From a distance
- 54. Amounts of time
- 55. Mathematical designation

- 4. Eat greedily

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#### **LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS**

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HOW TO SOLVE: Each row must contain the

numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

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Long Beach Marina on Sebago Lake has garnered a devoted following for over 38 years and is about to earn some new fans through several upcoming projects and its continued focus on providing personalized service for customers.

The Minervino Family has been welcoming boaters to Long Beach Marina on Sebago Lake since 1988 at its full-service facility at 81 Sebago Road (Route 114) in Sebago (Boat Coordinates 43°51'0"N,70°34'0"W). The marina can assist you with all your boating needs including late-model pontoon rentals, a dock with 93 octane fuel, long-term and short-term mooring rentals with a courtesy shuttle, full-service packages, winterization, shrink wrapping, winter storage, boat washing, and an easy-to-launch boat ramp.

If that wasn't enough, exciting new upgrades are intended to make Long Beach Marina an even finer facility for convenient boat storage and an expanded service area, as soon as the project's completion in November.

"In Phase 1 we will be constructing a 24,000-square-foot Boat Rack Storage Building and in Phase 2 we will be adding to our Service Department with a 5,000-square-foot Service and Sales Building," said Sam Minervino, who co-owns Long Beach Marina with his wife, Jan.

Long Beach Marina originally opened in 1947 and still maintains the



original dock that was on the property when purchased by the Minervino Family in 1988, who continue to provide regular upgrades to the infrastructure at the site that help to ensure its use well into the future.

"In 2019 we added a service department, and we keep striving to offer the finest no-hassle boating services available locally," Minervino said. "We offer year-round service and go the extra mile by treating our customers as we would want to be treated with kindness, courtesy, and respect."

The marina maintains and upgrades its premier rental fleet of pontoons on a regular basis, providing a safe and a worry-free rental experience for boaters on Sebago Lake. It expertly maintains its own rental fleet, yet Long Beach Marina's team of experienced service technicians also take great pride in caring for their customers' boats and vessels through exceptional mechanical repairs, routine maintenance, winter storage and affordable reconditioning services.

"We offer a complete Dock to Dock service package to take meticulous care of your vessel," Minervino said. "You can leave your boat on one of our moorings or we can pick it up at your dock. We'll pull your boat out of the water in the fall and launch it in the spring for pickup or delivery back to your dock. Our marine mechanics are highly skilled and capable technicians who will treat your boat with expertise and care."

Full end-of-season services are provided by Long Beach Marina and feature expert winterization services, shrink wrap, bottom washing, and storage. Start-of-season service offered include spring commission, quick clean and launch with no requirement for a truck or trailer.

Convenience happens to be a big reason that customers prefer Long Beach Marina. The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week during boating season and features timely preseason and postseason hours each spring and fall.

The full-service fuel dock at Long Beach Marina can be easily accessed from the open lake without obstruction, tricky channels, or waterways to navigate and helpful marina crew members are on duty to pump 93 octane gas to keep your boat operating efficiently.

The emphasis on courteous friendly service and quality products offered by the marina have not been overlooked in reviews posted online.

"Always the best day of the year! Jan and Sam provide the best service, high quality boats and maintain them to the *highest standard.*" ~ Bob C.

"Owners and staff very pleasant and helpful. Our pontoon and tube rental were awesome. 5 stars." ~ Scott R.

"We love Long Beach Marina! Family friendly and always available to assist with any questions and concerns. Their staff is so friendly. We never feel alone on the lake knowing our marina is available. 5 Stars." ~ June L.

"Great place to gas up and rent a boat! The boats are in good condition and reliable, very personably staff and the Minervino family are wonderful!" ~ Gail M.

For the ultimate in boat care, you can always trust Long Beach Marina. Visit longbeachmarina.com or call 207-787-3908 to get a quote for service or storage for your particular boat or to make an appointment. Find them on Facebook and Instagram. <



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## **Thrift Shop**

The North Windham Union Church UCC Thrift Shop at 723 Roosevelt Trail in Windham across from the fire station is open from 10 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Come shop and find bargains on sweaters, coats, jeans, pajamas, sheets, fleece fabric, household items, kid's clothing, books, puzzles, and more.

#### Veterans support

Attention all veterans, do you have questions about your VA benefits? Need assistance with a VA Claim? Need to enroll in the VA? The American Legion Post 148 in Windham hosts a Veterans Service Officer Support (VSO) session from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Windham Veterans Center. James Fisher from the Lewiston VA Office conducts office hours during this time to provide support and answer question relating to your VA Benefits. For an appt, call 207-753-9106 or send an email to Lewiston. mainebvs@maine.org

## **Bridge Club**

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

## **Evening Book Group**

The Raymond Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of every month to discuss a chosen book at the Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

## **Community Chorus**

Come sing with the Gorham Community Chorus and no audition is necessary. This lively chorus welcomes vocalists of all levels and abilities from nearby towns who come together to perform a variety of choral literature. Past performances include masterworks by Mozart, Haydn and Faure, as well as contemporary choral works and Broadway show tunes. The chorus will be accepting new singers for its Fall 2024 season starting Sept. 9. Rehearsals are from 7 to 9 p.m. every Monday (except during school vacations and holidays) at the Village School in Gorham. The group's Fall 2024 performance is scheduled for Dec. 8 at Gorham High School. Register at one of their first three rehearsals on Sept. 9, Sept. 16, or Sept. 23. FMI, call 207-653-7683 or by email at gorhamcommunitychorus@gmail.com

## **Suicide Support**

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











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