

# Local dancers prepare for spectacular fairytale inspired holiday performance

By Erin Rose  
STAFF WRITER

A group of fairytale characters will need to hurry to save Christmas in a new holiday dance production, *Christmas at the Castle*, premiering on Saturday, Dec. 20.

The new 90-minute show will have a single performance at 4 p.m. at the Donald M. Gay Performing Arts Center, located at Edward Little High School, 77 Harris Street, in Auburn.

Dancers of all ages from the Maine Dance Company and the Maine Dance Center, located on Roosevelt Trail in Raymond, will take the stage to help the Sugar Plum Fairy retrieve her lost wand to ensure Christmas magic will carry Santa Claus across the globe.

“If Sugarplum Fairy doesn’t have her wand, Christmas is in jeopardy,” said Adrienne Pelletier, one of the two authors of the show’s storyline, when detailing the adventures the cast will face.

After gathering at the Sugar Plum Fairy’s Palace to celebrate the season, a mischievous Elks of the Shelf named Tinsel takes the wand before being



Adrienne Pelletier leads dancers from the Maine Dance Center as they rehearse in Raymond for a production of ‘Christmas at the Castle’ to be performed on Saturday, Dec. 20 at Donald M. Gay Performing Arts Center at Edward Little High School in Auburn. SUBMITTED PHOTO

summoned back to the North Pole. A group of friends then journey through various realms, including the Candy Cane Woods and the Chocolate Falls, to reach the North Pole and retrieve the wand, allowing Sugar Plum Fairy to empower Santa’s sleigh and host of reindeer with magic for their Christmas Eve journey. On the journey, the

group will encounter familiar characters, including Rapunzel, Belle and Ariel, along with another unnamed princess who controls the winter winds.

Pelletier, along with her sister and co-author, Rhiannon Pelletier-Guerrette, worked to develop the show for almost two years, after a performance

at Windham’s Summerfest in 2023.

“It was the first time we had combined play acting with the dance industry that we were already a part of, and that kind of stuck the idea,” said Pelletier-Guerrette. “We said ‘hey, we’ve got this show what if we turned it into a holiday thing?’”

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# Moody Foundation to honor beloved resident during WHS boys’ basketball home opener

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

More than one year after his passing, the memory and character of Windham resident Pat Moody remain within not just the local community but throughout Southern Maine.

The Pat Moody Foundation was launched to keep Moody’s memory and love for helping the community alive. The purpose of the Pat Moody Foundation is to provide opportunities to others in need, whether that be through scholarships or money for athletics, and hopefully encourage them to help others and in turn become more civic-minded.

During the Windham High School varsity boys’ basketball team home opener against Sanford High on at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 9, “Pat Moody Night” will pay tribute to a genuine community hero and legend.

“Pat was truly a pillar here,” said wife Sherma Moody. “His passion for basketball and his belief in giving kids a chance to grow through the sport shaped so much of who he was. Pat always made it a point to include as many kids as possible, teaching them the fundamentals of basketball but also the value of teamwork, perseverance, and belonging.”

The goal of the Pat Moody Foundation is to put the funds raised right



Members of the Moody family gather during a photoshoot for Pat Moody’s GoFundMe page in 2024. From left, Tracey Lydon, Chris Lydon, AJ Moody, Pat Moody, Sherma Moody, Hayleigh Moody, Rod Moody and Kathy Griffith Windham varsity boys’ basketball team will honor Pat Moody and his legacy while educating others about the work done by the Pat Moody Foundation on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at WHS. PHOTO BY KRISTY LAPRINO OF KRISTY MARIE PHOTOGRAPHY

back into the community and into forming positive influences and experiences for youth. It currently aims to expand scholarship offerings for more students in the coming year and continue fundraising events for kids in need, including educational support and extracurricular activities.

“It’s hard to believe it’s already been a year since Pat’s untimely passing,” said Pat Moody’s best friend and Pat Moody Foundation board member Tyler Graves. “Not a day passes that I don’t think of Pat. I believe all of us can attest that after knowing someone for so long that they be-

comes part of you, they’re the thread that becomes stitched into your life. I think being involved with the foundation has given me a sense of well-being in knowing that Pat would have been proud of our efforts to continue selfless acts of kindness that in some way will help benefit, support, encourage, and even inspire our youth.”

Basketball was more than a game for Pat Moody. It gave him life-long friendships, mentors, and a network that supported him throughout his life. He wanted every child, regardless of circumstances, to have that same opportunity. Through the Pat Moody Foundation, young ath-

letes can join teams, get basic equipment or a pair of shoes, and most importantly, dis-

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INSIGHT

Wok this way

Over the weekend, I noticed a social media post that sought comments about foods that were popular at dinner tables in the 1950s and 1960s but are greatly unknown these days.

It made me think about my own family and upbringing and meals or items we would consume then as compared to now. My mother did not work or drive when I was growing up and she took immense pride in planning and cooking family meals for each day of the week.

She was constantly looking for new ways to improve and add to her meal planning and once she sent for a box filled with handy new dinner recipes from a mail-order company in Pennsylvania. One of those mail-order recipes was for something called “Porcupine Balls.” It was a kind of meatball rolled in white rice and baked.

Another of her culinary specialties was Hungarian goulash, a mix of tomato sauce, macaroni and hamburger. She served it at least once a week and I eventually came to loathe that meal when I arrived home from school and observed her preparing it on the kitchen stove.

My father’s contributions to our meals were usually canned fruit side dishes that were consumed after the entrée dish. Some of his favorites as I can recall were small bowls of purple plums or mandarin oranges, each doused with a hearty helping of heavy syrup from the cans they came from.

Today in HISTORY

DECEMBER 5

1792 – George Washington is re-elected for a second term as U.S. President.

1848 – In a message to the U.S. Congress, U.S. President James Polk confirms that large amounts of gold have been discovered in California.

1876 – The Stillson wrench is patented by Daniel Stillson of Massachusetts and is the first practical pipe wrench.

1908 – The University of Pittsburgh is the first American college football team to use numerals on their uniforms.

1932 – German physicist Albert Einstein is granted a visa making it possible for him to travel to the United States.

1955 – A historic bus boycott begins in Montgomery, Alabama led by Rosa Parks and other civil rights activists.

1978 – The American space probe Pioneer Venus I, orbiting Venus, starts beaming back its first information and picture of the planet.

1985 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average rises above 1,500 for the first time.

If I balked at consuming the plums, I can still hear my mother proclaiming, “Just eat them, they will keep you regular young man.” I did enjoy plums, but I never liked piling up plum pits on my plate afterward.

When I asked my father if mandarin oranges were grown in Florida, he told me that he had a friend in high school who once received a box of them as a Christmas present that had been shipped to America from Japan. With his answer, I wondered if instead they should be called Japanese oranges and he told me that was a “ridiculous” proposition.

Other meals or food items my mother served us in the past that I’m glad seem to have disappeared include Campbell’s Green Pea Soup, tuna noodle casserole and Jello shaped in molds containing celery or onions. Sometimes her Jello molds would have fruit cocktail in them, but mostly she stuck to onions or celery, and I never cared for it.

Green Pea Soup didn’t taste bad, but I had to hold my nose to avoid the smell while eating it. Its odor resembled soiled diapers to me.

Try as I might, the dry, mushy disgusting lump on my dinner plate as a 7-year-old called tuna noodle casserole always turned my stomach. No matter what my mother would add to it including lemon juice, extra mayonnaise or bacon bits, it still tasted worse than cat food. To my surprise, during my basic training in the U.S. Air Force years later, the dining hall served its own version of tuna noodle casserole, and it was the only menu option that night.

Some other foods that would come home from the grocery store in my parents’ shopping cart would be limburger cheese, liverwurst, canned creamed corn, marshmallow fluff, and sardines.

My father once showed me how he would make a sardine sandwich, but I never could get past looking at the fish heads before taking them out of the can to put them a slice of bread and take a bite.

When my mother would ask if I wanted a “Fluffernutter” for lunch, I would always pass on that too. It was a peanut butter and jelly sandwich with marshmallow fluff spread on it. Back then I wasn’t much of a fan of peanut butter and would ask for just a jelly sandwich.

Limburger cheese and liverwurst never really appealed to me as a child. Like Green Pea Soup, it was hard to get past the smell of limburger cheese. No matter how often my mother would try to encourage me to eat liverwurst, which is a kind of spreadable sausage, I never could get past the taste or its aroma. She would put in on saltine crackers or on bread and it was utterly revolting to me.

If I saw her reach for a can of creamed corn from the cupboard to heat up for dinner, it would produce instant upset stomach symptoms in me. To this very day, the sight or smell of creamed corn gives me the chills mentally and makes me want to vomit physically.

I’m sure my mother felt the same way about foods I enjoyed too. Once she visited my home and was surprised to see my wife was fixing some Chinese food on the stove in a wok that we had been given as a wedding present. She told me that ever since she was a small girl, the sight of Chinese food made her ill and she couldn’t eat the meal we were preparing.

All this reminds me of how Mark Twain described food aversion.

“The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don’t want, drink what you don’t like, and do what you’d rather not,” he said. <

~ Ed Pierce

ON THE SPOT

With the holiday season officially here, what do hope to personally accomplish by the end of 2025?

“To make more people smile.”  
– Julie Mallett

“Finish painting my daughter’s bedroom that was supposed to be done mid-summer.”  
– William D. Reiner

“Life tends to get a little crazy, which is why it’s important to prioritize the things that matter most. For this reason, I will be making more time to see my grandparents, Nanny and Bumpa. Miss them lots!”  
– Mandy Lavallee

“Find a new job that allows me to be home with my kids more.” – Mitchell B. Robinson

“Making sure all our Christmas decorations are put up.”  
– Chris Macklin

“Trying to find the time to get down to the nursing home in Massachusetts where my aunt and uncle have been living for the past year and bringing them some Christmas gifts.”  
– Oscar F. Kellner

“Collecting past due accounts.” – Jerry Greene

“Replacing our old furnace which is running right now on borrowed time.”  
– Isabella Mongon

“Christmas shopping.”  
– Deirdre Schulte

“Getting airline tickets and hotel reservations to spend some time this winter in Aruba.” – Rick Seacroft

“I really need to find a new blanket for my bed and to have some trees taken down in the backyard.”  
– Anne Glotchshuk

“I have an important business trip coming up and if it works out, I could get to see a football game between the New England Patriots and the Baltimore Ravens before flying back to Maine.”  
– David W. Tettley

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# Surveys gauge Windham's views on climate, transportation

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

During December, two different public surveys will gauge public opinion in Windham about topics affecting the community’s plans for the future.

On Wednesday, Dec. 3, a public meeting at Windham Town Hall asked residents to provide feedback to help the town improve existing connections, create new connections, and make walking and biking easier, safer, and more enjoyable. The meeting aimed to enhance Windham’s Active Transportation Plan as addressed on the 2016 Comprehensive Plan update.

Community feedback will help shape the future of walking and biking infrastructure in the town, including planning for new sidewalks and bike lanes for people traveling on foot or on wheels. Meeting and survey input will guide improvements to existing sidewalks and roads, help identify new opportunities, and make walking and biking in Windham easier and safer.

An online public survey will be available at the end of this week on the town website and will augment the public meeting and was created with funding support from the Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation System, which is the metropolitan planning or-

ganization for the Greater Portland region). The Town of Windham is working with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) and Sebago Technics to develop a plan to evaluate, analyze and make improvements to the Town’s active transportation infrastructure such as sidewalks, bikeways, and multi-use trails.

The meeting and survey will result in the development of a town-wide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan going forward. The transportation survey ends Dec. 24.

Mary Wicklund, Town of Windham Environmental and Sustainability Coordinator, says that the town is also working closely with the Greater Portland Council of Governments on a climate impact survey, with GPCOG taking the lead on the survey and analyzing the results.

“In the State of Maine, much of the vulnerability and impacts resulting from the changing climate impacts has focused on the coastal regions,” Wicklund said. “This project, a collaboration between GPCOG and five municipalities, aims to better understand the climate risks for inland communities. For example, extreme heat and impacts from larger storms (resulting in road washouts and reduced water quality),

impact residents across the state.

Wicklund said working with GPCOG will support the town in identifying and prioritizing the next steps to address current needs to enhance our infrastructure, emergency preparedness, and overall community wellbeing.

According to Emma Morgan, Sustainability Program Associate for the GPCOG climate impact is a key issue in future planning for Windham.

“Climate-related impacts, such as more frequent and intense storms, increased flooding, heat waves, and shifting seasonal weather patterns, are becoming more noticeable each year in the region,” she said. “In Windham, these changes are affecting road conditions, public safety, household energy costs, and the town’s natural resources. Understanding how these changes are affecting the community and its resources is essential to preparing for risks, protecting property and infrastructure, and supporting vulnerable residents.”

Morgan said the climate impact survey is designed to engage with the community and gather first-hand information on how community members are experiencing climate-related changes.

“We hope to learn which impacts

people are most concerned about, where residents may already be seeing impacts such as flooding, erosion, heat-related challenges, or storm damage, and how prepared households feel today and what barriers exist to improving resilience,” Morgan said.

She said the survey results will help to inform the town’s climate adaptation and resilience planning.

“They will help to identify priority areas for investment, guide decision making, and shape preparedness strategies,” Morgan said. “The data collected will also highlight where additional outreach or support may be needed. Ultimately, the feedback from the community will help ensure that future planning efforts reflect community needs and that town resources are utilized to make the greatest impact.”

The climate survey will remain open through Dec. 31.

“Once it closes, we will compile and analyze all responses, and the findings will be shared publicly in the final Vulnerability Assessment Report,” Morgan said. “This report, developed through the Community Resilience Partnership Service Provider Grant, will be published no later than July 2026.”

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➔ **MOODY** *Cont. from page 1*

cover the joy and confidence that come from playing the sport he cherished.

“Within that year the foundation

has grown considerably because of the generous donations from our local communities,” said Moody’s sister and Pat Moody Foundation President Tracey Lydon. “I think I can speak for the entire board and say that we are

humbled by the outpouring of support that has transpired in the wake of losing Pat. We’ve been afforded the opportunity and privilege of providing over \$6,000 in multiple scholarships to some very deserving, civic-minded student athletes, and have sponsored children to participate in youth sports who may have not been able to afford it otherwise.”

It’s heartwarming for Graves to see people within the Windham community and Southern Maine wearing any Pat Moody-related T-shirts. Graves said he has had people stop and ask what WWPDP (What Would Pat Do?) means; this has started conversations and allowed him to explain the random acts of kindness that embodied Pat Moody’s persona.

“The firsts are hard, very hard,” said Lydon. “Being part of a team that is keeping Pat’s legacy alive by making sure that the community and the kids have access to the opportunities that basketball gave him makes me feel his presence in everything we do.”

Windham’s boys’ basketball team honored Moody last year at their first home game and people really enjoyed

it and it was well-attended. The team wants to keep the tradition going and all T-shirt sales that night go directly to the Pat Moody Foundation. The night will also be a great opportunity for everyone to learn more about the Pat Moody Foundation, its accomplishments, its purpose, and its plans for the future.

Donations made to the Pat Moody Foundation stay here and directly serve our community’s children; this will hopefully inspire them to continue to play sports and give back in their own way.

“The Pat Moody Foundation is so much more than a charitable effort, it is a way of keeping his spirit alive in the community he loved so deeply,” said Sherma Moody. “The Pat Moody Foundation reflects his heart, focused on children in need, committed to opening doors, and dedicated to helping young people continue learning and growing. Carrying on this mission allows me to honor Pat every day and ensure that the love and generosity he poured into this community continue to inspire future generations.” <

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## APEX teacher helps Windham High School students reclaim their path through alternative learning

By Lorraine Glowczak  
STAFF WRITER

Some call it a calling. For Windham High School teacher Adrienne Shetenhelm, hers began in elementary school, when she proudly told her class she wanted to be a teacher while answering the age-old question, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” Even a joking warning from her teacher – “There’s no money in it” – couldn’t shake a dream she felt to her core.

“To me, school was and is my happy place,” she said. “Studying something new, learning from mistakes, and growing is the purpose in life. Now I see that helping others on that path is my purpose.”

Today, she serves as the lead educator behind Windham High School’s APEX program (Alternative Programming for Excellence), a support system for students whose education has been disrupted, who need flexibility in earning credits, or who require a different pathway to graduation. For her, the work is far more than instruction; it’s about helping students reconnect to hope, responsibility, and possibility.

“When I started teaching English, I was eager to share my love of literature,” she said. “Through the students’ writing, I saw the complex lives my students lived. When some disappeared – due to homelessness, transfers, or mental health struggles – I felt

powerless to help.”

Her move to APEX changed that. “Here, students can resume classes after a break in education, or a move from a new school, or earn the credits they need to graduate in a small learning community. My job has shifted from solely teaching literature, to helping students take responsibility for their learning and move toward their goals after high school.”

Shetenhelm describes her job as “having one foot in the traditional classroom and one foot in alternative education,” she said. “We support students earning credits or those needing a home base in a large high school. I truly have the best students—talented, unique, and inspiring me every day.”

She also recognized that many educators supporting nontraditional student pathways weren’t connected under a formal department. In response, she proposed creating a new “Alternative Pathways” department, which she now chairs.

“I wanted those teachers to have a



Windham High School’s Adrienne Shetenhelm, now in her 19th year of teaching, blends compassion and steady leadership to lift her students to success. PHOTO BY SAWYRE GRENDALL

voice and a community,” she said. “When adults feel supported, students feel supported.”

Shetenhelm’s core values are rooted in dignity, trust, and growth. She builds relationships by listening without judgment, showing consistency, and creating spaces where students know they matter.

Like many educators, she sees challenges that most community members never witness.

“Some of the biggest challenges are the unseen ones—students who are struggling outside of school, juggling adult responsibilities, or battling anxiety or depression,” she said. “People sometimes think alternative education is a last resort, but it’s not. It’s a course correction. It’s a chance to realign and take control of their learning with support.”

She wishes more people understood the resilience her students demonstrate every day.

“These are young people who want to succeed. They just need the right environment to do it.”

Her educational journey reflects her

dedication. She earned her bachelor’s degree in English and Secondary Education from Wheaton College, then worked at a Portland middle school as an in-school suspension teacher before earning her master’s degree in Curriculum & Instruction from Boston College. She taught for six years in Massachusetts before returning to Maine to teach in Sanford High School’s BARR program.

“I randomly saw the opening for the APEX position and knew it was for me,” she said. “I wanted to keep teaching English but also work with students who, in other districts, might disappear from the classroom.”

This year marks her 19th year in teaching and her 11th year of leading the APEX program at WHS.

APEX’s motto reflects Shetenhelm’s belief in resilience and finding direction: “We can’t direct the wind, but we can adjust our sails.”

“I call my students ‘the APEX crew,’” she said. “Like a crew on a boat, you have to lean on your team and they see success comes from hard work, realigning after difficulties, and sticking with your goal. That’s where growth happens.”

With her blend of compassion, leadership, and unwavering belief in her students, she continues to make APEX a place where young people can rediscover direction – and themselves – one adjusted sail at a time. <

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# Windham Town Council finalizes committee appointments

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

With the full contingent of newly elected members taking their seats on the Windham Town Council, committee assignments were determined during the council’s Nov. 25 meeting.

Three councilors, David Nadeau, Bill Reiner and Katie Cook, were appointed to serve on the town’s Finance Committee. Nadeau and Cook are At-Large council members while Reiner represents Windham’s West District.

To serve on the town’s Appointments Committee, the council elected councilors Mark Morrison, Maggie Terry and Katie Cook. Terry represents Windham’s North District while Morrison is an At-Large town councilor.

Councilors Brett Jones (Windham East District), Bill Reiner and David Nadeau were elected to serve on the Windham Ordinance Committee.

Two new council representatives were elected to serve on the Windham Economic Development Corporation

Board of Directors. They are Maggie Terry (North District) and Doug Fortier (South District).

The Windham Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee council representative will be Brett Jones (East District).

The council elected At-Large town councilors Katie Cook and Mark Morrison to serve on the Substance Prevention Grant Committee.

Following a brief discussion, councilors deferred making an appointment for the Windham Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Town Manager Bob Burns said the committee typically deals with issues such as town building energy efficiency and solar panel use but suggested that the council may want to eliminate this committee and place oversight elsewhere during a future meeting.

For the Highland Lake Leadership Team, councilors appointed David Nadeau (At-Large) as the council representative for this group.

Councilors elected Mark Morrison

(At-Large) as council representative to the Forbes Lane Neighborhood Park ad hoc Committee.

The council’s representatives to the Substance Prevention Grant Committee will be At-Large councilors Mark Morrison and Katie Cook.

For service on the Windham Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee, councilors elected Maggie Terry (North District), Katie Cook (At-Large) and Bill Reiner (West District).

Council members David Nadeau (At-Large) and Maggie Terry were elected to the North Windham Fire Station Repurpose Advisory Committee.

Councilor Mark Morrison (At-Large) was elected as the Town of Windham’s delegate to the Greater Portland Council of Governments General Assembly, which is the policy making body of GPCOG. Councilor Bill Reiner (West District) will serve as the town’s alternate delegate.

The council appointed Windham Town Manager Bob Burns as representative to the ecomaine Board of Directors with Councilor David Nadeau to serve as alternate town representative for that organization.

Earlier in November, councilor

→ see **COUNCIL** Page 24

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A Division of Dobson Family Funeral & Cremation Services



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**Direct Cremation Service**  
**– \$1,395 –**  
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Holiday  
Gift Guide

Unique Gifts – Superior Service





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PICTURE-PERFECT  
FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



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TO ORDER: Go to: TheGoodLifeMarket.com, Scan Here,  
Call 655-1196 or fill out this ad and bring it to the store.  
PICK-UP IS DEC. 22<sup>ND</sup> – DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> \*BE SURE TO INDICATE DATE/TIME




★ ORDER DEADLINE: TUESDAY, DEC. 16<sup>TH</sup> @ 7PM ★

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Pick up ☐ Monday, Dec. 22nd    Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Tuesday, Dec. 23rd    Time: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Wednesday, Dec. 24th    Time: \_\_\_\_\_



Corner of Routes 302 & 85,  
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PIES 9"  
\$19.99 each *unless otherwise noted*

• Apple Cranberry \_\_\_\_\_ pie  
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• Pecan (Housemade) \_\_\_\_\_ pie  
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• Choc. Cream \$24.99 \_\_\_\_\_ pie

Come in to shop our many  
products to create your own  
charcuterie spreads!

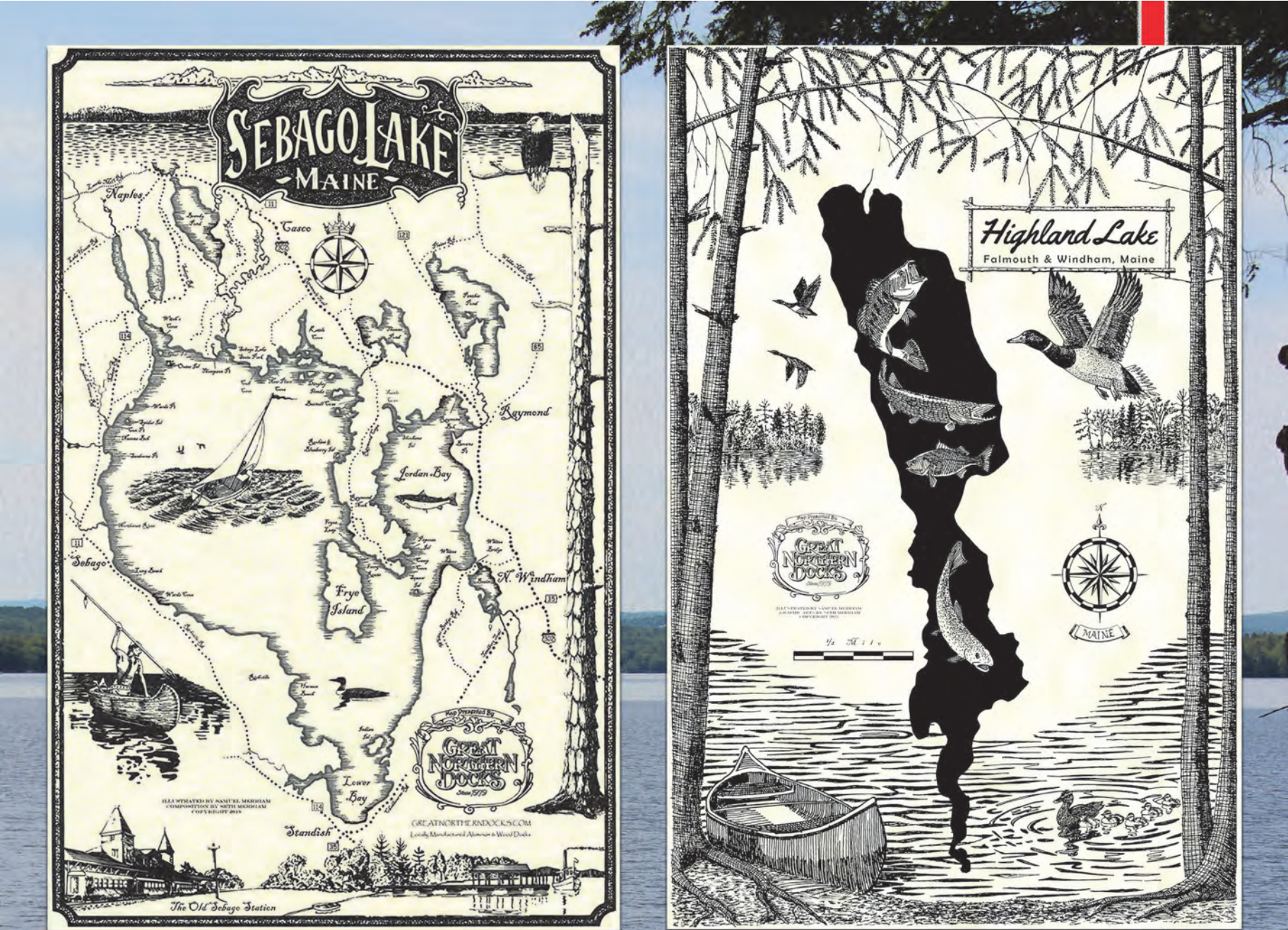
BREAD/ROLLS:  
White Dinner Rolls.....\$3.99/half dozen  
French Baguette.....\$3.49/each  
4-pack Cream Cheese Cinnamon Rolls.....\$9.99/each

SIDES:  
• Sweet Potato Pecan Casserole 8"x5.5".....\$12.95/pan  
• Cheddar Sage Mashed Potatoes.....\$12.95/quart  
• Garlic Parmesan Brussels Sprouts.....\$12.95/pint  
• Madeira Cream Gravy.....\$9.95/pint

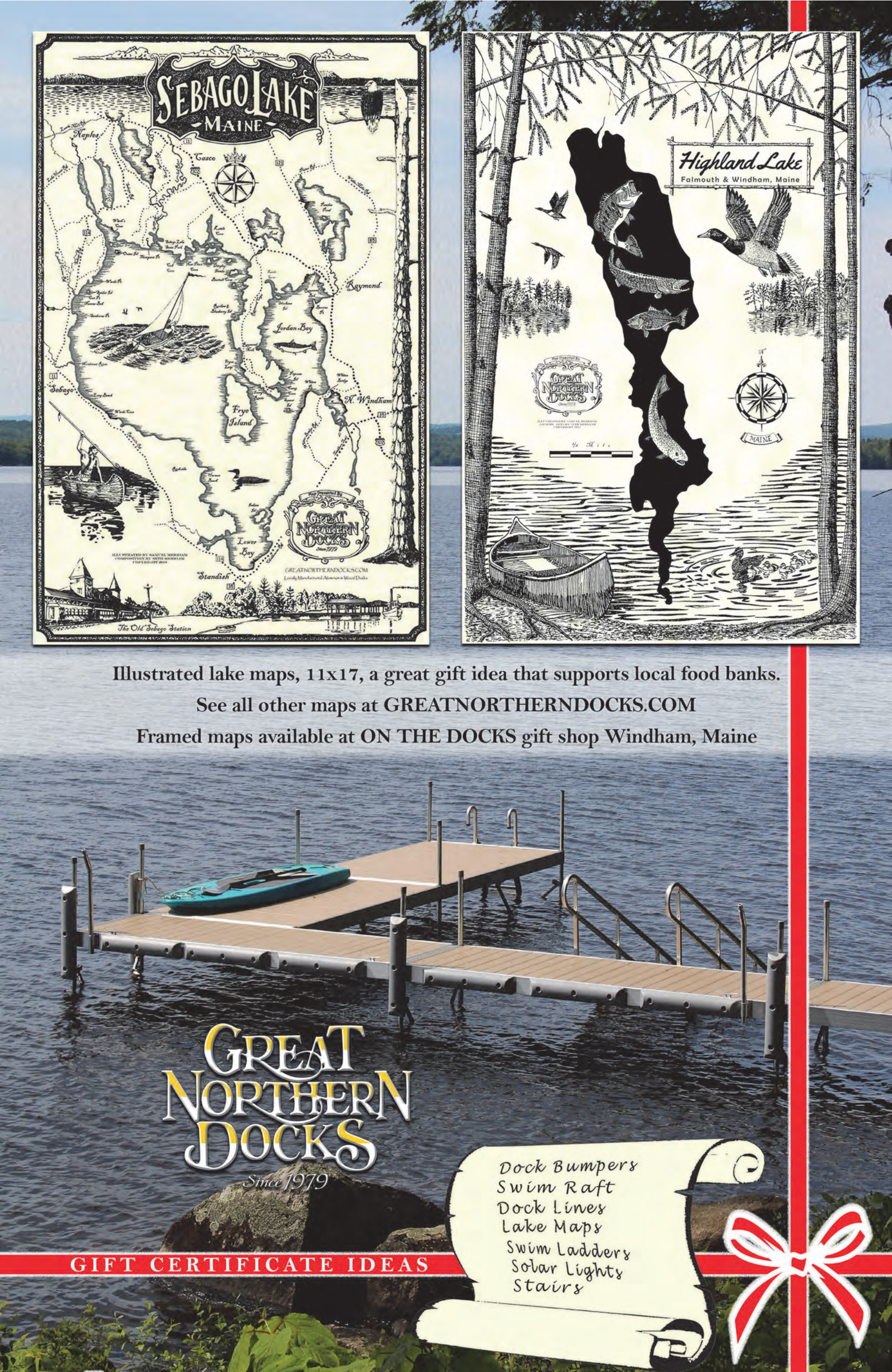
ENTRÉES:  
HAM DINNER FOR ONE (Only available for pick up 12/22 thru 12/24)  
Baked Ham with glaze, cheddar sage mashed potatoes, garlic parmesan brussels sprouts, & cranberry sauce.....\$15.99/each  
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• Macaroni & Cheese 12"x10" pan.....\$55.00/each  
• Macaroni & Cheese 8"x5.5" pan.....\$14.99/each  
• Shepherd's Pie 12"x10" pan.....\$75.00/each  
• Tourtière (French Canadian Pork Pie).....\$25.00/each  
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QUANTITY  
\_\_\_\_ 1/2 doz.  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ pan(s)  
\_\_\_\_ qt(s)  
\_\_\_\_ qt(s)  
\_\_\_\_ pint(s)  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each  
\_\_\_\_ each

STOP IN TO PICK UP A SWEET SLICE HAM FROM BOAR'S HEAD – LIMITED QUANTITIES!



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- Dock Lines
- Lake Maps
- Swim Ladders
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- Stairs







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Business Break & Auction  
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**Where networking meets holiday magic!**  
Gather with friends, enjoy tasty bits, holiday spirits, and get into the giving spirit at our annual Bid of Christmas  
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**ONLINE AUCTION**  **OPENS 12/12 @ 12AM CLOSES 12/16 @11:55pm**

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Hand-tied Bows ~ Replantable Potted Trees

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CHOOSE & CUT THE PERFECT TREE

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TOYS

FOR

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SATURDAY, DEC. 13 • 11AM-4PM

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Drop off a new, unwrapped toy anytime between now & Dec. 15!

GIFT WRAPPING for Grief

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→ **LIGHTS** *Cont. from page 5*

really good feedback.”

Last year, Sawyer said more than 200 people submitted votes and about 12 houses in town participated.

Sawyer said she wanted to create a fun, free, and family-friendly event that the whole community could get out and enjoy.

“There’s enough going on this time of year that cost people a lot of money, but this is just a nice, family friendly event,” she said. “One of the houses runs a hot cocoa stand and this year The Good Life Market is going to be giving out cookies. So people can make a couple of stops along the way and get little goodies as they go.”

But the highlight, of course, will be viewing the houses in Raymond and seeing how they’re decked out for the holidays.

Last year one of the houses had their lights synced up to music, Sawyer said, and in some years several neighboring houses in Raymond participate in the contest together. One house on Pond Road goes all out in particular and has won the contest multiple times.

“I really appreciate the vastness of the decorations that they put out,” she said. “It’s really impressive what people will do for their displays.”

There’s a variety of reasons people participate in the contest, she said. Some are just competition “and they try to be the best. Sometimes they just want to be part of this fun holiday event. I’ve heard from others that their grandkids came and helped decorate and they had so much much fun putting up the lights.”

There is still time for those interested in having their home in the contest to participate. The deadline to sign up to participate is Dec. 6.

For those who participate, winning doesn’t just include bragging rights but also prizes, which have ranged from cash to gift certificates. This year, Sawyer said, she wants to show appreciation to all participants so everyone in the contest will get something.

For those who are on the fence about whether to participate, Sawyer said, “People shouldn’t feel like they have to go above and beyond to decorate their house. Everybody likes something different for displays, and sometimes a good classic display with simple lights can be just as beautiful and impactful as somebody that goes all out. There’s no display that is too big or too small. We welcome whatever anybody feels like doing. I just want it to be something that’s fun and festive and not ultra-competitive that somebody feels intimidated to do.”

“The more we can get people involved in the community and make this an event that is sustainable and is really something that brings the community together the better.” Sawyer said.

To sign up to compete in the contest, contact Jackie Sawyer at [jackie@meservier.com](mailto:jackie@meservier.com) on or before Dec. 6. Maps for participating homes can be found at The Good Life Market at 1297 Roosevelt Trail and will also be posted along with how to vote on the Facebook event page: 4th Annual Raymond Christmas Light Contest or scan the code to the left. <





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30 Min. before  
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Dec. 6 ~ 9am-2pm

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Silent  
Auction

Themed  
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Windham Hill United Church of Christ  
140 Windham Center Road, Windham

Friday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> ~ Noon - 8pm

Saturday, Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> ~ 9am - 7pm

Sunday, Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> ~ Noon - 4pm

20+ beautifully decorated trees with  
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50¢  
PER  
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3:30PM - St

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way into the

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In lieu of an admission fee, please bring cash, no

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An opportunity for Preschoolers to 3rd graders to get a personal call

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We also have Handmade  
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# CELEBRATION!

## WEDNESDAY, DEC 7<sup>TH</sup> ~ 3:30-6PM

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Start the night with outside activities, refreshments & music  
Santa & Mrs. Claus will be picked up in North Windham by Windham  
Police, Windham PD and Windham Parks & Rec, and will be escorted to  
celebration!

After Santa & Mrs. Claus arrive at the Middle School, make your  
way to the Middle School, entering through the front door, for more activities,  
prizes and a meet and greet with Santa & Mrs. Clause!

Donate new socks, new blankets, or gift cards to support Age Friendly Windham volunteers

**10 & 11** **REGISTER by Mon, Dec. 8th**  
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MAGICAL  
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NEW  
HOME!**

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→ **DANCERS** *Cont. from page 1*

Once the duo founded the company in 2024, they realized they had talented dancers to fill the roles and develop a full performance. They began writing in January of that year, and spent almost two years in completing a script and patching the music together.

"I searched the bowels of the internet to find all these different, random songs that somehow worked together to tell a story," Pelletier-Guerrette added.

In addition to a varied musical score, the show also will feature multiple dance styles, from classical ballet to musical theatre and jazz, and even includes acrobatic tricks.

"The Candy Cane dance has all the crazy acrobatic skills, the tumbling, and lifts," Pelletier said. "That one is very exciting."

"We work with so many students who are not just ballerinas", Pelletier-Guerrette said. "They train in many different styles of dance, so we wanted to put together a show that felt like The Nutcracker, in that it is all the themes of Christmas and the holidays, but incorporates those styles of dance that our students spend so much time training in."

The Nutcracker is a tale both Pelletier and Pelletier-Guerrette are very familiar with, as they are each principal dancers with the Maine State Bal-

let. Pelletier will be performing in the play again this year, in addition to directing the new show for the company.

The different dance styles will also help those who are unfamiliar with ballet or hesitant to attend a ballet performance become more comfortable with all types of dance.

"Part of our goal with this show is to soft launch into ballet," Pelletier-Guerrette said. "There is a lot of serious dancing in this show, of a very high caliber, but it's interspersed with moments of play acting where these characters you know come out and talk and narrate the story.

"What we're seeing that it's very approachable," she said. "Anyone can go see this show and enjoy it and not necessarily need to be in the arts community to get it."

The show will also hopefully help connect new people to the expression that is found through dancing.

"I think it's [dance] something that's human, something that in my opinion is one of the most genuine forms of self-expression," Pelletier added. "It's a way of connecting with people and human nature and story-

telling that we don't get in other forms of art."

The cast of 60 dancers will range in age from four to professional adults, with the duo pulling from the Center's students to complete the cast. Previous performances have been smaller, but this show has opened the opportunity to involve more children, including Pelletier-Guerrette's own son as the youngest performer.

Family is very close to the pair, as the sisters work with their mother, Beth, to run both the company and the center.

"This is a family effort," Pelletier said, explaining how the sisters are able to take care of their personal lives while depending on the other to run the business, something especially helpful as Pelletier-Guerrette is expecting her third child in early spring.

"It's a constant balance between the two of us, making it all work," she said. "If she needs someone to lean on, I can be that person, and I know when it is my turn, she'll be there for me as well."

The family support will be essential as the center expands in a new location in the North Windham Shopping Center, behind Windham Jewelers. The move is expected to be completed in February 2026.

Tickets for Christmas at the Castle can be found at [www.mainedance-center.com](http://www.mainedance-center.com). <

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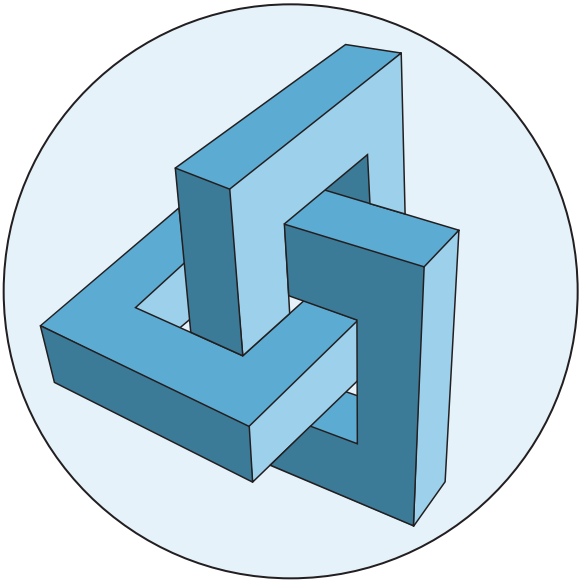


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SPORTS

# WHS grad rises above hardship to her achieve dream

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

Windham High School 2021 graduate Bria Campobasso graduated during a rough time. Campobasso was a multi-sport athlete cheering and playing lacrosse. COVID-19 had ended the previous year’s spring season, and schools and athletes were still dealing with its ramifications. COVID-19 completely reshaped Campobasso’s plans. She had planned to attend college, but with circumstances as they were, realized it wasn’t the right environment for her. She did not let this stop her; she used this setback as a chance to focus on her health, discipline and long-term goals. This led her to develop a real passion for bodybuilding and competing where she’s been able to excel professionally. She graduated online with her degree in personal training and nutrition from the International Sports Sciences Association.

“After high school, I discovered my love for the gym and weightlifting and found it was a great outlet from transitioning (from) a multi-sport athlete to no sports,” said Campobasso. “I fell in love with the gym and wanted to take it to the next level.”

As a Windham senior, Campobasso was asked by former Windham Athletic Director Rich Drummond along with a small group of athletes to speak on behalf of athletes and classmates in a ZOOM Windham Town Hall meeting about the importance of athletics, during the initial years of the pandemic. She spoke

about how important it was to participate in a physical activity and a feeling of normalcy during a detrimental time. Campobasso was honored to have been chosen for this.

High school athletes were eventually given more freedom and sports and practices were able to resume.

After discovering her passion for bodybuilding, Campobasso got involved with the Organization of Competition Bodies and entering competitive bodybuilding events.

“As I trained and learned more about the sport, and my coaches and I came to the decision that the OCB would be a great Federation for me to start my journey,” said Campobasso. “After two years of being in ‘prep’ I entered my first show in New Hampshire in 2022, and that experience really solidified my interest in competing at a higher level.”

During that first competition, Campobasso placed first in two out of her three categories and placed second in her third category.

Campobasso said the off-season is



Windham graduate Bria Campobasso celebrates after winning her Bikini Pro Card in Portsmouth, New Hampshire on March 23, 2024. PHOTO BY PEDRO BLANCO PHOTOGRAPHY

about building muscle. Some of the preparation for competition includes lifting heavy, eating enough to grow, and improving weak areas that the judges give feedback on. Once preparation begins, training becomes more targeted. She lifts six to seven days a week, but with more emphasis on shaping, symmetry, and conditioning. As it gets closer to a competition, cardio increases, nutrition becomes more precise, and everything is done with the goal of bringing your

best physique to the stage. Campobasso said it’s one of the most disciplined things anyone could ever go through.

In March 2024 Campobasso won her OCB Bikini Pro title.

“I won my OCB Bikini Pro title by outworking everyone,” said Campobasso. “I showed up every day, stayed disciplined, and brought a physique to the stage that proved it. It wasn’t luck — it was years of grind, sacrifice, and refusing to quit.”

Her advice to athletes who encounter adversity is your journey isn’t over, it just means it’s changing. Setbacks can feel huge in the moment, but they can also push you toward

opportunities you never expected. Stay disciplined, stay open-minded, and trust a new direction can still lead to success.

She’s taking a lengthy offseason to give her body more time to build muscle and get ready for the stage. Campobasso plans on having a pro debut in late 2027 at the Yorton Cup, the most prestigious event in the Organization of Competition Bodies; considered the premier professional title in natural bodybuilding. <

**ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

**Jordan Buxton**

Age: 13 Team: JSMS girls’ basketball  
Coach: Andrew Wing  
Parents’ names: Amanda and Mark Buxton  
Reason for selection: Last year as a seventh grader, Jordan was one of the team’s most-improved players. She never missed a practice and stayed late constantly, while committing herself fully to getting better. That work has carried over directly into this season. As an eighth grader and one of the JSMS team captains, she sets the tone every single day. She’s the first to help teammates, the first to step into a drill, and the one of the first ones that others look to when energy needs to rise. On the court, she’s been a huge part of the team’s 3-0 start. She plays with confidence, rebounds well for her size, and makes smart decisions with the ball. What really separates her though is how coachable she is. She listens, applies feedback immediately, and genuinely wants to grow. Jordan represents everything coaches want the JSMS program to be, and she’s earned every bit of this recognition.

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# WHS girls' lacrosse champs receive championship rings

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

The 2025 Windham varsity girls' lacrosse team made program history when they defeated top-ranked Kennebunk 12-9 in the Class A State Championship to capture the program's first state title at Fitzpatrick Stadium in Portland on June 21. They were honored with celebratory plaques and championship rings at Windham High School on Wednesday, Nov. 26.

The 2025 WHS girls' lacrosse team consisted of graduates Sophie Allen, Grace Joly, Lauren Jordan; seniors Abby Trainor, Neve Ledbetter, Demetria Nicholas, Elizabeth Baker, Mady Donnelly, Brianna Duarte, Alyssa Cooper, Olivia McPherson; juniors Morgan McLain, Grayson Cornish, Gracie McPherson, Charlie Scanlon, Libby Hartwell, Avery Adams, manager Allegresse Kawaya; sophomores Brooklyn Roy, Anna Bowie, Morgan Clark, Maria Rose, Madison Buzulchuck and Lauren Valle.

Windham varsity girls' lacrosse coach Matt Perkins said after that season ended he received messages from referees complimenting how professional a team Windham had been during the season. The way the team carried themselves and their character is second to none.

A slideshow of season highlights was shown during the ceremony. "The goal they've had season after season is to create one big group with no cliques, but with people coming together," said Perkins. "The one



Windham High's varsity 2025 girls' lacrosse state championship team show off their state championship rings during a recognition ceremony at WHS on Wednesday, Nov. 26. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

phrase or one word that (describes) this group is 'team.' When you look at this group, every little fragment that is part of the 'team' definition, is this group to a tee. We (as coaches) have never been around a group that hits so many aspects of the word team.

The definition of 'team' is a group of individuals working together to achieve a common goal, where members are mutually accountable and rely on each other's strengths. What is your goal and what are you going to do to impact us are two questions Perkins and his coaches put on the players last year. The team was all about that. As coaches they feel very, very fortunate to have had that year. It feels so good to look back at what this team did and how they did it.

"We didn't really get to process it," said Joly. "To come back together and relive it, my heart is so warm and full from being here with everyone again. This ceremony is everything I thought

it would be and more. These rings are pretty snazzy, and we have a lot of supporters here who supported us all year, so it's really nice."

Ledbetter said it definitely felt amazing for the team to be recognized for how hard they've worked. it takes a team that has hard work and plays together, but she also thinks it takes the support. In the stands during the championship was everyone who had ever cared about the team and that

was really important to the players and the team as a whole.

"It's honestly surreal," said Trainor. "Going back on my camera roll and seeing those photos, I still can't believe that's what we've achieved. Watching the slideshows, it shows how far we've come. We didn't have to rely on one person or two people, we had our whole team play a part in certain things. Everyone's dream of winning states ... actually came true." <

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**Isaiah Ciez**



**Grade:** 10 **School:** Windham Christian Academy  
**Teacher:** Mrs. Brigitte Morse  
**Favorite Subject(s) in school:** Political Science/History  
**Parents' names:** Mike and Jessica Ciez  
**Reason For Selection:** Isaiah is hard working, open to feedback, and strives to do his best. Because of his leadership, his peers chose him to be a student council representative for his class. When Isaiah finds a project, he is passionate about, he will go above and beyond expectations, pursuing it with vigor and excellence. Last year, he chose to investigate what it would take to start a “debate club” at our school, independently choosing to check with other schools, and finding out the requirements needed to start a club and have competitions on campus. Isaiah shows compassion and caring for others, both at school and in the community at large. He quickly volunteers without being prompted and always strives to make others feel included. Isaiah’s compassion really shone last year when he chose to sponsor a child through Compassion International. He is a treasured student in both his community and school.


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**Tricia Zwirner, Agent**

 **COUNCIL** *Cont. from page 7*

ors elected Mark Morrison as Town Council chair, with Bill Reiner elected as Vice Chair and David Nadeau as Council Parliamentarian.

Morrison was first elected to the Windham Town Council in 2020 and then was re-elected to a three year At-Large term in 2023. He previously served as the Town Council chair from November 2023 to November 2024 and has lived in Windham since 1990 while working as a financial advisor.

Reiner was first elected to the council representing Windham’s West District in 2021 and was re-elected to the council in 2024. He moved to Windham in 2016 and works in the Critical Care nursing field.

Nadeau was first elected to the Windham Town Council in 2011 and before that served for 10 years as a member of Windham’s Planning Board. He was re-elected to the council in an At-Large role in 2024 and has previously served as the Town Council Parliamentarian and Town Council chair. He is retired from a career in electronics engineering.

Vacancies currently exist on two town committees for residents to serve on. There is one available seat for a resident on the Windham Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee, and one seat open on the Windham Summerfest Committee.

Printed applications will be accepted in the Town Manager’s office at Windham Town Hall, 8 School Road in Windham, until the positions are filled. Applications may be downloaded online at [www.windhammaine.us/376/Committee-Vacancies](http://www.windhammaine.us/376/Committee-Vacancies) or you may request an application by calling 207-892-1907. <



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**LEGAL NOTICE**

**TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE**

**PLANNING BOARD**

**AGENDA HYBRID MEETING & WORKSHOP**

**Monday, December 10, 2025 • 7:00 PM**

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

1. Call to order
2. Approval of Minutes: November 17th, 2025
3. New Business: SKETCH PLAN REVIEW

**APPLICANT:** Sebago View LLC submitted by Dustin Roma, D.M. Roma Consulting Engineers

**LOCATION:** Map: 005 Lot: 001 Zone VR Webbs Mills Road

**DESCRIPTION:** Sketch Plan Review for Proposed 46 Lot Subdivision on 56 acres. Subdivision will connect to both Webbs Mills Road and Honey Hill Lane.

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](http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming)), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

4. Old Business - Workshop:
  - Discussion and review of ordinance changes related to Banquet Halls
  - Discussion and review of draft of Marijuana regulation
5. Staff Communications
6. Adjournment

**JOIN ZOOM MEETING**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83845922230?pwd=yDf19WaBHbNMamLIsShBmK33EW2aMY.1>

Meeting ID: 838 4592 2230

Passcode: 2xjBHs

**ONE TAP MOBILE JOIN INSTRUCTIONS**

Meeting ID: 838 4592 2230

Passcode: 817062

Find your local number:<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83845922230?pwd=yDf19WaBHbNMamLIsShBmK33EW2aMY.1>

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE**

**SELECT BOARD**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025 • 6:00 p.m.**

**at the Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Rd and Via ZOOM**

The Town of Raymond Select Board will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for the **PURPOSE OF RECEIVING PUBLIC INPUT ON THE RECALL PROCESS.**

The proposed recalls were requested via petitions by citizens of Raymond.

*Check the Calendar at [www.raymondmaine.org](http://www.raymondmaine.org) for Zoom link*

**TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE**

**PLANNING BOARD**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING**

**Mon., December 8, 2025 • 6:00PM**

**Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road**

- 25-28 Code of the Town of Windham, Chapter 120, Land Use Ordinance – Article 3 Definitions, Article 4, District Standards, Article 5 Performance Standards. Amendments related to Major Kennels.
- 25-29 Town of Windham Official Zoning Map Tax Map: 23, Lot: 4A-1. Proposed amendment within the CMP utility corridor easement to change zoning for a portion of 35 Dylan Way from Farm District (FR) to Light Density Residential.

FMI go to [windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx](http://windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx) or contact (207) 894-5960 ex. 2. Written comment may be submitted to the Board at [PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us](mailto:PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us).

*Please notify us if you need accessibility accommodations.*

Eagle

REAL ESTATE & Home

Brrrrrrr, are cold temps cooling off the market?

► **By Matthew Trudel**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Matt Trudel, Five Star Realty

The temperatures have definitely dropped, and we just got hit with our first significant snowfall of the season. Some of us really enjoy the snow and the change of the seasons, but there are plenty of people who would have been happy if Mother Nature waited a couple more weeks before reminding us of what is to come over the next few months.

The real question this Holiday Season is it a good time to purchase a home? Or perhaps you are thinking of selling and not sure if this is the best time to try to sell your house. How does the cold weather and winter conditions affect both buyers and sellers.

Buying a home this time of year can be a really good move for many reasons if you are up for the challenge. Most buyers don't want to move in January when the sidewalks are ice-covered, snowbanks are tall, and the salt and slush can be a real mess. This translates into fewer buyers to compete against when out shopping

for your new house. Less competition among buyers usually will correlate with lower prices and sellers being willing to negotiate a little more on pricing or contribute to the buyer's closing costs.

Moving during the winter is not the only challenge buyers will face. Another major hurdle is getting the home inspections done this time of year. Yes, inspecting the home on the interior is easy enough, but it is the exterior of the home that can prove to be very challenging. Inspecting the roof is nearly impossible, especially if it is covered in ice and snow. The opening and closing of certain windows and doors can also be difficult. Then there is the septic system to inspect, and when the ground is frozen and covered in several feet of snow that can be very costly to get done.

We touched base on few challenges for buyers but what about sellers. and is it worth it to list your house now or should you wait until the spring to put your property on the market. Just like most of the buyers who don't like to move in the winter, neither do sellers.



Sellers also are not a fan of having people go through their house during the holidays tracking in dirt and salt.

So, what are the advantages to listing now, and not waiting? There are fewer homes on the market at this time of year and that means your home will see more interest. The buyers who are out looking are serious buyers and not just tire kickers killing some time on a Sunday afternoon.

Keep in mind that many buyers are moving and buying a house because they have to for various reasons. Sometimes it is work related that forces a move to a new location. Another common reason is for health issues with a family member or loved one. Whatever the reason is, for the buyer to make this move is not that

important.

What is important is that they get to see your house and then decide if that is the best option for them. If your house is not on the market. then that is a potential sale you definitely missed.

Everyone needs to make those decisions and weigh the pros and cons. Hopefully you have already selected a realtor to work with that can help you go over all of these things. If you haven't yet, you should find a realtor with plenty of experience and is familiar with your local market area. I've covered this topic in a lot of these articles over the past decade or more.

Merry Christmas to all of you and have a very Happy New Year!

*This article was written by Matthew Trudel, the Owner of Five Star Realty, Windham, 207-939-6971 or Matt@FiveStarRealtyMaine.com <*



**Matt Trudel**  
207-939-6971

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PLEASE NOTE: FOOD AND GAMES FEATURE ALTERNATES WITH MOVIE REVIEW

FOOD AND GAMES

THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S

Cooking Corner

By Angela Paris  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE • JUGGLINGACTMAMA.COM

Busy Day Soup

This easy soup recipe takes very little effort but don't let that fool you. This flavorful soup is loaded with lots of vegetables, tender pasta, and ground beef. It can be easily customized to fit whatever flavors you're in the mood for, or you can use our tried-and-true combination for an instant family favorite!

Prep Time: 8 minutes ~ Cook Time: 30 minutes  
Serves: 6

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound of lean ground beef

1 packet of onion soup mix

6 cups of beef stock

1 28-ounce can of petite diced tomatoes

2 cups of frozen mixed vegetables
- 1 cup of uncooked ditalini pasta or any small pasta or rice

1 bay leaf

1 teaspoon of black pepper

1/2 teaspoon of kosher salt

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large soup pot or Dutch oven, cook the ground beef over medium-high heat. Drain the fat off the beef and return it to the pot. Add the onion soup mix, beef stock, and petite diced tomatoes. Bring the soup to a boil. Reduce the temperature to medium heat and let the soup simmer for 15 minutes. Add the pasta and vegetables and cook for an additional 15 minutes, or until the pasta is tender. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. I often add a little bit of extra black pepper.

Here are some ideas for changing up this delicious meal:

Instead of regular diced tomatoes, try Ro-Tel diced tomatoes and chilies or fire-roasted tomatoes. You can also substitute ground turkey, chicken or even italian sausage in place of the beef.

For more variations visit: [www.jugglingactmama.com/busy-day-soup](http://www.jugglingactmama.com/busy-day-soup)

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LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

A	B	M		P	A	C	E	D		C	A	M	P	O	
Z	E	E		A	B	A	T	E		A	N	A	S	A	
T	A	T		N	O	R	A	R		O	B	E	R	T	S
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C	O	L	O	R		S	T	A	L	L	I	O	N	S	
		L	O	A		A	R				A	N	O	N	
A	G	I	S	M		B	I	R	L	S			V	I	
E	E	C		A	M	E	R	A	D	A		G	A	B	
O	N		S	I	R	E	S			T	I	R	E	S	
N	I	S	C				M	E			I	D	A		
S	E	P	A	R	A	T	E	S			R	O	T	A	S
			A	N	O	D	E			S	I	L	I	C	A
P	E	R	I	T	O	N	I	T	I	S		N	I	N	
A	K	E	N	E		S	C	O	T	T		G	D	E	
H	E	R	E	S			E	Y	R	E	S		S	S	R



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
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			45						46					
	47	48						49					50	51
53							54				55	56		
57											58			
59						60					61			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Polish city

6. Very eager

10. Identifies a specific person or thing

14. Tennis great Naomi

15. One concerned by professional advancement

17. PGA Championship reward

19. A fashionable hotel

20. Norse mythology afterlife location

21. Stood up

22. Car mechanics group

23. Weather forecasters use it (abbr.)

24. Broken branch

26. Astronomy unit

29. East Asian nursemaid

31. "Airplane!" actor

32. Exclamation that denotes disgust
34. "Batman" villain

35. Downfalls

37. Philippine province

38. Once-vital TV part

39. Valley

40. Tax

41. Classic Scorsese film

43. Subway dwellers

45. Book part

46. Taxi

47. Pancakes made from buckwheat flour

49. Swiss river

50. Founder of Babism

53. Have surgery

57. Withdrawal from a larger entity

58. Lot's father

59. Greek war god

60. 2,000 lbs.

61. Lemur

CLUES DOWN

1. Quarrels

2. Right away

3. Comedian Carvey

4. Egyptian unit of weight

5. A Brit's mother

6. Tropical tree

7. One who speaks Gaelic

8. NHL legend Bobby

9. Vacation spots

10. Military personnel

11. Shakira's don't lie

12. Wimbledon champ

13. Teletypewriter

16. Mistakes

18. Whale ship captain

22. Thus

23. From end to end

24. Kids love him

25. One and only

27. Fencing swords

28. Taxis

29. Basics
30. Refuse of grapes

31. Go quickly

33. French ballet dynasty

35. Most open

36. Popular soap ingredient

37. US time zone (abbr.)

39. Items of food

42. Backbones

43. Infrequent

44. Blood type

46. "Let It Snow!" songwriter

47. Dutch colonist

48. Pike

49. Egyptian sun god

50. A cardinal is one

51. From a distance

52. Bolivian river

53. N. American student organization (abbr.)

54. River (Spanish)

55. Chinese life force

56. Chinese surname

HOW TO SOLVE:

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

SUDOKU

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3	6							
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	1	7	5	3		8		

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

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

For many quilters, part of the final finishing of their lovingly sewn quilt top into a fully completed piece that’s both durable and beautifully textured is the most challenging step. That’s where LaPrino Longarm Quilting Services comes in. It is owned and operated by Gail LaPrino who has become a trusted solution for quilters who want professional-quality finishing work with the personal touch of a lifelong fiber artist. With decades of sewing experience, top-tier equipment, and a reputation for clear communication, LaPrino has created a business that blends artistry, precision, and reliability for customers.

LaPrino describes her work with a mix of practicality and pride: “I like to say I quilt quilts for quilters.” It’s a simple phrase, but it captures her role perfectly. Customers bring her their meticulously pieced quilt tops and backing fabric. She offers Quilter’s Dream batting if needed. Using her longarm machine and Pro-Stitcher robotic software, she stitches the layers together with carefully selected decorative designs. Her machine spans a full 12-foot frame, allowing her to finish anything from small home décor pieces to king-sized quilts with accuracy and consistency.

Despite the high-tech tools at her side, longarm quilting demands far more than pushing a button. It took LaPrino two months of daily training to fully learn the software, master the design tools, and understand how to adapt to the quirks of each individual quilt.



LaPrino  
Longarm Quilting Services

The Pro-Stitcher allows her to resize and modify thousands of available stitching patterns, but her experience, technical judgment, and attention to detail is what makes each project exemplary.

Her primary service is edge-to-edge (E2E) computerized quilting, in which one cohesive pattern runs across the entire quilt. This method is precise, efficient, and affordable, making it ideal for most quilts intended for everyday use. E2E quilting gives customers a polished finish without the higher cost of custom free-motion quilting.

LaPrino also offers add-on services that customers appreciate. For a small charge, she prepares and machine-sews the binding to the front of the quilt so customers can hand-stitch the binding at home. She provides design help when needed, such as choosing thread colors and pattern choices.

While her equipment and skill set are major strengths, what many customers highlight most is her professionalism, attention to detail, and customer care. “I want people to know this is a true business, not just a hobby,” LaPrino says. She keeps consistent work hours, maintains realistic turnaround times, and communicates thoroughly from the moment a quilt arrives until it’s ready to go home. If she encounters a question or concern, she contacts the customer with photos before beginning. And when the work is complete, she sends an image of the finished quilt and the invoice so that the pick-up process is clear and simple.

Her dedication has earned strong praise throughout the quilting community. Molly Phoenix, of The Sewing Exchange in Portland, told LaPrino she is the only longarm quilter she recommends after LaPrino presented samples of her work at the shop and customers they referred to her returned expressing how pleased they were with the experience. The steady stream of repeat clients, LaPrino notes, speaks volumes as does feedback such as from Pat H. who says “Gail always makes every quilt she has done for me look absolutely beautiful!” and Catherine H. of Catherine’s Fabric Creations noting “The quality, fast turnaround time and service are beyond my expectations. I highly recommend Gail!”

Her expertise is built on a lifetime in fiber arts. Taught by her Nana, the town dressmaker in Monroe, ME, LaPrino began sewing at age 8 and later became a dressmaker and tailor at age 20 while attending the University of Maine. She

trained in tailoring under her former mother-in-law, studied pattern making at Newbury College in Boston, and spent years sewing wedding gowns and professional dance costumes, even seeing one of her gowns featured on the cover of New England Bride Magazine. She authored a book on sewing dance costumes and ran her own dance costume business, Dancing Designs, until she retired in 2012. She had always done quilting but in 2019 was really bitten by the bug and has been prolific since in quilting for family, friends and the charity “Linus’s Blanket” local chapter.

LaPrino started her independent longarm quilting business in 2024. “Mainly I started the business to pay for the machine and software, which ranges from \$20-40k” she revealed. The robotic features of her longarm machine allows her to engage fully in the craft she loves without the strain on her joints that sewing caused.

LaPrino is happy to accept mail-in quilts from anywhere, providing an additional option for people who can’t visit in person. For quilters who prefer hands-on involvement, appointments are encouraged so they can visit her studio, view sample stitches, choose thread colors, compare patterns, and discuss the best design for their quilt. Gift certificates are also available.

To learn more, call 207-400-9504, visit [www.laprinolongarm.com](http://www.laprinolongarm.com) or find her on Facebook under Gail LaPrino Longarm Quilting. <

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