THE WINDHAM EAGLE

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Dignitaries dedicate Windham Wastewater Treatment Plant with Ribbon Cutting event

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

It's been said that success in life is about project management in determining deliverables, making milestones, and always pursuing the critical path. For years, the Town of Windham has sought to find a solution to effective wastewater treatment and on Oct. 8, all those efforts were achieved with the dedication of the new Windham Wastewater Treatment Plant.

With U.S. Senator Susan Collins of Maine on hand to cut the ribbon marking the new facility becoming fully operational on the grounds of Manchester School, Windham Town Council members and representatives of the Portland Water District and RSU 14 spoke about the collaboration it took to bring the $48 million project to fruition at no expense to taxpayers.

After decades of proposals, studies, and rejections from voters at the ballot box, Windham residents resoundingly approved sewer and wastewater treatment project for North Windham in a special referendum in June 2022. Partnering with the Portland Water District and RSU 14 to create the massive infrastructure project, the Windham Town Council covered the remaining costs for the initiative through a combination of grant funding, a $38.9 million award by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and North Windham TIF funding supported by North Windham businesses.



Dignitaries watch as U.S. Senator Susan Collins of Maine cuts the ribbon to open the new Windham Wastewater Treatment Plant on the grounds of Manchester School in Windham on Oct. 8. From left are Scott Firmin and Bill Lunt of Portland Water District, Senator Collins, Windham Town Council Chair Mark Morrison, RSU 14 Superintendent of Schools Christopher Howell and Windham Town Manager Robert Burns. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

Now completed, the new wastewater treatment facility will address

see PLANT Page 4

Windham community mourns unexpected passing of longtime retired police captain

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

One of the most familiar faces in law enforcement in Windham has died at the age of 62.

Captain Ray Williams served for 38 years as a member of the Windham Police Department and from a young age always wanted to work as a police officer.

Growing up in Cumberland, he graduated from Greely High School in 1983, he attended Southern Maine Community College and earned an associate of science degree in law enforcement technology. His first job in law enforcement was as a reserve officer for the Windham Police Department, and he was hired as a full-time police officer by Windham on Sept. 4, 1986.

In March 1987, Williams graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, and he went on to successfully complete the Drug Recognition Expert School in 1991. He was the last active member of that first DRE School in 1991 who was serving with his department at the time of his retirement in May 2023.

He's worked for the Windham Police Patrol Division for 20 years, 13 of those as a motorcycle officer. In June 2010, he accepted an interim detective's assignment to the Criminal Investigations Division and was awarded the position permanently the following summer. Williams worked in investigations until November 2014, when he was promoted to Sergeant by the police department and was reassigned to the Patrol Division as one of two Evening Shift Commanders. He was promoted to the position of Patrol Captain in December 2020 and was instrumental in assisting the Windham Police Department's transition in the construction and expansion of the Windham Public Safety Building on Gray Road in 2022.



Retired Windham Police Captain Ray Williams passed away Oct. 7 at the age of 62 and spent nearly four decades in law enforcement serving Windham. Williams was known for his leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public safety. COURTESY PHOTO

As a certified instructor for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy, Williams taught Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and was also teaching Active Firearms and Urban Rifle Instruction there. He was a Drug Recognition Expert, skilled in the use of the Intoxilyzer 5000ES equipment to detect alcohol impairment and in firearms.

Starting in 2006, he ran the Windham Police Department's firearms program until his retirement and was the department's armorer. Williams also launched the department's first Motorcycle Unit using forfeited assets he seized in a traffic stop from a drug courier transporting drugs from Connecticut to Maine. Enough money was seized to fund the Motor Unit, K-9 program and purchase other equipment not in the normal budget.

Through the years, Williams was instrumental in training hundreds of police officers across the state in the techniques of detection and processing alcohol and drug impaired drivers. For his diligence at protecting Maine motorists and keen ability to recognize impaired drivers before they harm others, Williams was recognized by the Maine Bureau of Highway Safety and the Maine Criminal Justice Academy in 2021 for his lifetime contribution as a Drug Recognition Expert and his devotion to keeping Maine highways safe. He continued to serve as a certified instructor for the Academy, traveling to Vassalboro when needed to teach officers and academy cadets.

Williams passed away unexpectedly on Wednesday, Oct. 7 and Windham Police Chief Kevin Schofield said Williams was known for his leadership, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public safety.

"Among his many accomplishments was the creation of the Windham Police Department's motorcycle program," Schofield wrote on the department's Facebook page. "Over the years, he proudly escorted countless charity toy runs, memorial

see CAPTAIN Page 15

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INSIGHT

Born to be branded

Janet Robinson, the former Chief Executive Officer of the New York Times, thinks that there is a significant difference between customers who purchase for convenience and those who are highly loyal to certain products.

"Repeat business or behavior can be bribed. Loyalty has to be earned," Robinson once said.

I'm not entirely sure that's the case and taking a closer look into my upbringing shows that not all brand loyalty is passed down from parents to children. That's a process marketing agencies call consumer socialization, where family habits, emotional rituals, and shared identities shape long-term product choices.

Those who subscribe to that theory say that the routine of everyday domestic life can embed certain product brands deep into the emotional framework of our childhood. They can cite studies showing that a parent's passion for certain brands may transfer directly to their children through shared experiences and nostalgic association later in life.

No matter if it's a cleaning product, a brand of juice, or a breakfast cereal, marketers believe that children start identifying brand names as early as 24 months old, and many have developed favorite specific brands by the time they reach first grade.

As for me, I grew up in the 1960s and would accompany my mother on her shopping trips to the neighborhood grocery store. Having grown up in poverty during the Great Depression, she was set in her ways and fiercely loyal to her chosen products and brands.

She did most of the cooking for our family and would also make the lunches that my brother and I would take to school. We grew up eating the products she would select, and she had come to rely on as an adult.

Among her favorite products and brand names were Chicken of the Sea tuna fish in vegetable oil; Campbell's Pork and Beans, Campbell's condensed soups, Hellmann's mayonnaise, Heinz ketchup, French's mustard, Archway cookies and Del Monte canned fruit and vegetables. She also would bring home Peter Pan peanut butter, Mister Salty pretzels, Welch's grape jelly, Chase & Sanborn coffee, Lipton teabags, cartons of Sealtest milk, Swanson TV dinners, Dream Whip powdered topping, Minute Rice, cans of Franco American Spaghetti and Meatballs, and Chef Boyardee Beefaroni.

My mother didn't bake very much and instead would purchase Hostess snowballs, cupcakes and Twinkies. Sandwiches were made with Wonder Bread and cans of Hershey's Syrup were purchased for making chocolate milk. She'd buy Pepsodent toothpaste, Breck shampoo, Brylcreem hair cream, Oxydol laundry soap, Comet cleanser, Ivory soap for the bathroom, and Joy dish soap.

Purchases made by my father were usually something sweet to be shared with the kids like Fruit Stripe chewing gum, a tub of orange sherbet, boxes of Cracker Jack, bottles of Hires Root Beer or Grape Nehi soda pop.

In all the time that I lived with my parents growing up, they never wavered in the products and brands they were loyal to and were steadfast in their choices.

My own personal picks for products and certain brands came not from the theory of consumer socialization passed down by my parents, but from the reality of higher living expenses and inflation of the 1970s and new technology such as the invention of the microwave oven in the 1980s.

While still in college and making $2.50 an hour, I shopped for groceries based upon the most affordable price and value. A few years later, I was earning a regular paycheck while serving in the U.S. Air Force and my priorities changed. I could afford more brand-name products and a few of the products I grew up with became regular items in my food pantry.

An inspection of my kitchen shelves and refrigerator in the 1970s and 1980s would reveal new products created in the 1960s such as Pop Tarts, Shake 'n Bake coating mix for chicken and pork, Cool Whip whipped topping, Bugles snacks, and jars of Tang instant orange-flavored drink mix made popular by TV commercials with astronauts. I also developed a liking for crunchy peanut butter, but my brand of choice became Skippy or Jif. I brushed my teeth with Closeup toothpaste and sometimes every now and then, I would buy a package of Freshen Up cinnamon liquid center chewing gum.

One Thanksgiving Day around 2008 my mother was our guest, and she looked in our cupboard and spotted several cans of Campbell's Bean and Bacon soup, a jar of Hellmann's mayonnaise and a small can of Campbell's Pork and Beans. She mentioned to my wife Nancy that she always fed me Campbell's Bean and Bacon soup for lunch in the winter and she was happy that it was still a favorite of mine.

Maybe there's some truth to her embedding product brands deep into the emotional framework of my childhood, although now I purchase canned tuna fish in water, haven't bought Wonder Bread in decades and Swansons stopped selling TV dinners in America years ago. Hires Root Beer is long extinct and so is Freshen Up chewing gum. Franco American is no more, and the Mister Salty pretzel brand was phased out in the 1990s.

Time marches on. < *~ Ed Pierce*



OCTOBER 16

1701 – The Collegiate School is founded in Killingworth, Connecticut later moving to New Haven and changing its name to Yale College.

1829 – The first modern hotel in America opens in Boston, Massachusetts with rooms renting for $2 a day.

1916 – Margaret Sanger opens the first birth control clinic in New York City.

1923 – Walt Disney creates the Disney Company in California.

1962 – U.S. President John F. Kennedy is informed that there are Soviet missile bases in Cuba launching the Cuban missile crisis.

1964 – China detonates its first atomic bomb becoming the world's fifth nuclear power.

1967 – NATO headquarters opens in Brussels.

1978 – Poland's Karol Josef Wojtyla is elected to lead the Roman Catholic Church as Pope John Paul II.

1995 – The "Million Man March" takes place in Washington, D.C.

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

ON THE SPOT

What is your favorite Halloween candy, and what is your least favorite?

"Reese's peanut butter cups are a favorite. Orange peanuts are not." – Julie Mallett

"Circus peanuts, Charleston Chew, and malted milk balls make better packing materials than they do candy. Blech!" – Francesco Paredon

"Best – Reese's peanut butter cups, butterfingers; worst – Mike and Ike, licorice." – Jenn Babino Maynard

"I love Sugar Babies but detest Red Vines or any kind of licorice." – Chris Macklin

"Nestle's Crunch. I give a big yuk to Halloween Peeps." – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"My favorites are Tootsie Roll Pops, but I don't like Sour Patch Kids or Jolly Ranchers." – Louise V. Snider

"Anything chocolate is good. Thumbs down to candy with butterscotch and cinnamon." – Isabella Mongon

"Love Good n' Plenty. Hate York Peppermint Patties." – Deirdre Schulte

"Give me saltwater taffy any day. But no malted milk balls please." – Anne Glotchshuk

"Kit Kat Ghost Toast is the bomb!" – Rick Seacroft

"As a kid on Halloween, I preferred apples. Never cared for popcorn balls though." – David W. Tettley

"Hershey bars, M&Ms, Snickers, Skittles are great. Never like Airheads or Laffy Taffy because they are really chewy." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Full-size Payday candy bars are still my favorites." – Dean A. Smalley

"I always hoped I'd get Atomic Fireballs. Never liked candy corn or those candy pumpkins." – Mitchell B. Robinson

"Who doesn't love Twix or gummy bears? I don't like peppermint candy though." – Tawny Lambe-Punto

Eagle NEWS



Annual Pat Moody Foundation Gala a colossal success

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

This was the second year for The Pat Moody Foundation Gala which was held at Keeley's Banquet Center in Portland on Saturday, Oct. 10 and just like last year, the gala exceeded its fundraising goal of $35,000. Based on some preliminary results, the Pat Moody Foundation surpassed $40,000 and that money will go right back into the community in the form of scholarships, supporting youth sports and community outreach.

"Seeing so many people show up in support of the Pat Moody Foundation and to honor Pat's memory was truly emotional," said Pat's wife Sherma Moody. "It was a beautiful reminder of just how deeply loved Pat was, not only in our Windham community but far beyond it. I was fortunate enough to experience his love every day; to see the kind of man he was behind the scenes, and to witness firsthand how much he genuinely cared for others. But seeing so many people come together, each carrying their own memories, stories, and special connection with Pat, was something that touched my heart in a way that is hard to put into words.

"He didn't need recognition or a reason to help someone. If there was something that needed to be done or someone who needed a hand, he showed up," she said. "Even on his days off ... Pat was always finding something to do. Whether it was helping with basketball, building something, volunteering his time, or simply being there for someone who needed him, giving back was just a part of who he was."

While fundraising was part of the night, this gala was to continue to show Pat Moody's kindness and love through community support. Pat Moody Foundation board members Tyler Graves shared stories in remembrance of him, and board member George McCrillis read excepts from essays written to the Pat Moody Foundation and the impact receiving those scholarships had upon those students. Pat's daughter, Hayleigh Moody also gave a very moving speech.

Tracey Lydon, Pat's sister, said the community steps up again and again to support their own and The Pat Moody Foundation is beyond grateful and humbled by the support they continue receiving.



Hayleigh Moody, Pat Moody's daughter, delivers a very heartfelt speech to her mother as well as honoring her father at the Pat Moody Foundation's Second Annual Gala at Keeley's Banquet Center in Portland on Saturday, Oct. 10. PHOTO BY MJ PHOTOGRAPHY

"I'm already thinking about next year," said Volunteer Organizer Ashley Merrill. "I think this gala embodies Pat's character fully – the social aspect, the knowing people, the loving people, the spreading awareness to helping people. The entire night just screams Pat to me because he was so kind and giving and this is all of that."

Windham High School graduate and the first recipient of one of the Pat Moody Foundation scholarships, Erik Bowen, said he wanted to attend the Pat Moody Foundation Gala because of how much Pat meant to him and all he did for him and everyone else.

"Pat's such an important member of our community, his son grew up with our daughter and we miss him," said Windham resident Katie Delewski. "It's nice to be here and support the foundation and support his legacy and do great things for our kids. I love what his friend was talking about perseverance; it's a great word for what he embodied by showing up for everybody even when he was going through hard times. (It's important to support the Pat Moody Foundation because) it's something for the whole community."

Bowen said that Pat was like a father-figure to him and the whole town of Windham. Bowen wanted to show

see GALA Page 9

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PLANT Cont. from page 1

environmental issues in North Windham by removing 25,000 pounds of nitrogen and phosphorus pollutants each year being dumped by septic systems into the aquifer and watershed. The installation of sewers is expected to stimulate significant economic growth in Windham and lead to development in the area by industries and businesses not willing to locate here because of associated septic system issues and costs.

Through an agreement between RSU 14 and the Town of Windham, in exchange for locating the new wastewater treatment site at Manchester school, the town built four new playing fields for youth sports at the school.

The new Windham Wastewater Treatment facility uses Membrane Bio-Reactor technology with innovative drip dispersal and will be the first system to use drip dispersal of this scale in Maine. This technology is designed to improve the quality of local groundwater and local waterways, and was selected for its reliability, flexibility, and cost effectiveness.

Portland Water District officials say that the facility will clean and filter community wastewater that is currently being discharged untreated into septic systems. The cleaned, high-quality water, which is extremely low in nitrogen and phosphorus, will be released into an advanced drip dispersal system that will be 2 feet underneath the new athletic fields at Manchester School. They say the sandy soils native to the area are ideal for this system.

Because of the lack of an effective sewer system in North Windham, over the years contaminants have continued to pollute the aquifer, threatening surrounding ponds and lakes, and stifling economic growth. For the past two decades increasing nitrate levels have been observed in the underlying aquifer that threatened local water resources including Sebago Lake. Current levels of nitrates in the ground water have exceeded drinking water standards and septic system pollution entering the aquifer directly impacts surrounding valuable water resources, and this new wastewater treatment plant addresses the issue before the problem escalated and became irreversible.

Speakers at the dedication included Senator Collins; Windham Town Council Chair Mark Morrison; RSU 14 Schools Superintendent Christopher Howell; Windham Town Manager Robert Burns; Maine DEP Water Quality Division Director Gregg Wood; Bill Lunt of the Portland Water District Board of Trustees; and Portland Water District General Manager Scott Firmin.

Collins said she was surprised to learn that Windham did not have an existing sewer system but praised everyone who worked diligently to make this project a reality.

"I was shocked that an area this populated did not have a wastewater treatment facility," she said. "It was essential that we help."

Collins was able to obtain $2 million from Congress to contribute toward the project.

"It has the smallest carbon footprint, and this innovative technology will serve as a model for other communities in Maine," she said.

The project fits with an upcoming MaineDOT project for Route 302 redevelopment in Windham, the senator said.

"The two projects complement each other," Collins said. "The vision of community leaders and citizens is truly impressive."

Funding to support the Windham Wastewater Project included a $38.9 million Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund Award; a $3.25 million SRF Debt Forgiveness Grant, $1.7 million in American Rescue Plan Funds allocated to the town, $2 million in Congressional Direct Spending sponsored by Senators Collins and King, and $1.5 million from Cumberland County Government. <



Windham Town Manager Robert Burns thanks town staff for their work in helping to create the new Windham Wastewater Treatment Plant during its dedication on Oct. 8. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

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‘Misery’ a suspenseful tale of obsession and terror

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Two Raymond residents are prominently involved in the Lake Region Community Theatre production of Stephen King’s play “Misery” and say the local adaptation of the 1990 psychological horror film retains its highly suspenseful moments.

Based upon King’s book and film featuring Kathy Bates and James Caan, Annie Wilkes, portrayed by Mary McCormick of Raymond, rescues an injured author, played by Andy Whetzel of Bridgton, from the scene of a car accident. She nurses him in her remote house but becomes irate when she discovers that the author has killed off her favorite character in his latest book. She keeps him prisoner while forcing him to write a book that brings the character back to life. Brad Wears of Bridgton also appears in the play as Buster and Zoe Silvia of Bridgton is stage manager for the production.

The play is directed by community theater veteran Chris Madura of Raymond and will run for five performances over four days from Thursday, Oct. 22 through Sunday, Oct. 25 at Lake Region High School in Naples. Presenting sponsor for the production is Maine Community Bank supporting Lake Region Community Theater, a nonprofit organization that stages several musicals and plays each year using Lakes Region residents as talent.

Madura said he was part of a small group who approached the LRCT board about the possibility of producing Misery.

“I’ve been interested in directing for quite a while, so when the opportunity came up, I asked the board to consider me,” he said. “I’ve spent years working on different aspects of theater, and directing was something I really wanted to take on.”

His first experience with Lake Region Community Theatre was back in 2008 playing a Wickersham Brother in the LRCT summer production of Seussical the Musical.

“I’ve been involved with the organization in one way or another ever since,” Madura said. “It’s been a big part of my life for nearly 20 years.”

According to Madura, his first theater experience was in sixth grade when I played John in Peter Pan at Crooked River Elementary School.



Mary McCormick of Raymond, left, and Chris Madura of Raymond are involved with Lake Region Community Theater’s production of Misery running Oct. 22 to Oct. 25 at Lake Region High School. McCormick portrays Annie Wilkes in the play, based upon the Steven King novel and 1990 film. Madura is the play’s director. SUBMITTED PHOTO

“Since then, theater has been a huge part of my life,” he said. “Over the years I’ve been involved in almost 50 productions, both onstage and behind the scenes. I’ve spent a lot of time performing, designing and building sets, stage managing, and helping with different aspects of productions both for LRCT and Lake Region High School. I really enjoy the creative process and seeing everything come together, whether I’m onstage or behind the scenes.”

He says the two biggest challenges in staging Misery have been rehearsal time and creating the play’s suspense.

“LRCT doesn’t have a theater of its own, and while we’re incredibly fortunate to be able to use the Lake Region High School auditorium, we have to work around school events and other activities when scheduling rehearsals,” he said. “We also have a very limited amount of time to get our set into the space and prepare everything before opening night. There’s definitely some pressure that comes with bringing a Stephen King story to the stage, especially here in Maine. With Misery, so much of the tension comes from the actors and the relationships between their characters. We’ve really focused on making those interactions feel natural and believable. Sometimes the quietest moments can be the most unsettling and finding that balance has been an important part of the process.”

Madura grew up in Naples and has lived in Raymond since 2020. He works as a Customer Service Representative at Maine Community Bank

→ see MISERY Page 17

Town of Windham

ABSENTEE VOTING

ABSENTEE BALLOTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE for the
NOVEMBER 3, 2026
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All ballots must be returned to the Clerk’s Office no later than 8:00 p.m. on November 3rd to be counted.

Election Day voting will take place at the Windham High School, 406 Gray Road in the Windham Maine Gym. The polls will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

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Four RSU 14 candidates seek two board positions

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

During the general election on Nov. 3, two incumbent members are seeking to retain their seats on the RSU 14 Board of Directors representing Windham in a race that includes two returning candidates from the 2024 election.

Current RSU 14 Board members Joe Kellner and Marge Govoni are on the ballot along with Megan Potter and Adam Zajac. The two candidates with the most votes will win seats for three-year terms in the non-partisan election.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

★ MARGE GOVONI



Occupation: Retired

Previous Elected Experience: RSU 14 Board of Directors for about 17 years

Why are you running for this position and please be specific?

"I'm running because I care deeply about students and ensuring that every student who attends our schools is given an equal opportunity to succeed. I've been involved in many projects in the schools and bringing resources to students who need them and I also have been very involved with getting a new middle school and I would like to see that come to fruition. I also have a close association with staff, and I like to think they value the time I spend in the schools educating myself on how our education system works, and the effects on students, staff and families. I also work very closely with our vocational schools, which is WRVC (Westbrook Regional Vocational Center) and PATHS (Portland Arts Technology High School) trying to expand opportunities for our students because not everyone wants to be a doctor or a lawyer. I also want to make sure that staff know how appreciated they are whether they're in a room teaching, serving lunches, sweeping the floors or driving a bus."

If elected, what would you do to support the teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure they provide the best possible education to the students of this community?

"By supporting programs that keep up with the latest technology that they'll need when they leave high school, whether it be to go to college, join the military or go into a trade. I support broadening opportunities that allow them to get academic credits outside of high school and in the trade schools. Making sure that all our staff understand how they play a pivotal part in each student's education and giving them all the support they need to do their jobs. This has changed drastically over the years, and much more is expected of them, and we should constantly assure them that we are there for them."

Cite an example of when you successfully worked with people who disagreed with you and if elected, how do you plan to build bridges with members of opposing viewpoints?

"When I went before the Town Council to see if they would let me use the land down next to the public safety building for a community garden. They were opposed to this because it was their property, and didn't see the need, but I was able to rally up enough people who agreed with me and collectively we were able to convince the council that this was a good idea for the residence of Windham, now we have a very successful garden. Thanks to everybody's hard work. I think communication is a key factor and being able to calmly and logically discuss things so you can come to an understanding that everyone's thoughts and concerns need to be heard in a respectful way. There will always be times when you have to agree to disagree but hopefully there's an understanding that everyone tried."

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue currently facing the RSU 14 Board of Directors right now and how do you intend to address it?

"Challenges are something that we face all the time. Schools unlike your traditional businesses don't set all the rules and laws that we have to abide by. Sometimes it's difficult to leave your beliefs at the door and remember you are only one person and have no authority to make decisions for the whole board, we follow the law and that's not always easy, but it's the job we signed up for so we do it to the best of our ability. I'm not complain-

see RSU 14 Page 8



Kenny CIANCHETTE
STATE · SENATE
District 26
Casco, Frye Island, Raymond, Windham & Westbrook
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I AM READY TO WORK HARD TO:

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★ Balance the budget by cutting wasteful spending & exposing fraud.
★ Lower the cost of living by exploring energy options to reduce electricity prices, improving healthcare policies, & installing protection programs for seniors, families, Veterans & workers.
★ Protect individual & constitutional rights, including ensuring that girls are not forced to unfairly compete against biological men.
★ Prioritize economic growth & improve infrastructure to create lasting opportunities for future generations.

Please Vote Kenny For Senny on November 3!

Kenny is an advocate for our community since 2017 helping raise over $500,000 for over 20 organizations located in, or supporting, district residents and is endorsed by the late Bill Diamond's wife and daughters, Jane & Karyn, Tom Tyler, Gary Plummer, the late Pat Moody, and many others.

Follow me on socials & learn more at: KennyForSenate.com

RSU 14 Cont. from page 7

ing, only saying that we could have a new challenge at any time I think the biggest challenge we have now is the budget. The biggest opportunity we have presently is a brand-new middle school, with a lot more playing fields and the additional fields put in at Manchester School. This is something the town residents have been asking for what seems like forever. Another opportunity is at the new middle school students and staff will have a lot more outdoor education opportunities at their disposal. This is something that has been very limited in the past. The budget – every year we go through the budget with the intent of trying to still function on a reasonable level but every year the budget goes up whether we do anything or not staff contracts dictate raises (we want to retain our staff) and health insurance goes up similar to your own personal insurance. I understand because I'm also on a tight budget that we need to try to reign in expenses and I can only promise to try."

Public education determines the trajectory of our economy, our communities, and the nation. If elected as a member of the RSU 14 Board of Directors, what do you envision your role will be in preparing children to meet the challenges of the 21st century?

"I think my role in preparing students for what's to come in the future, after they leave high school, is to make sure that they have access to the most current programs available which are keeping up with what is going on in the world. AI is the latest technology that we are trying to look at while being careful that it is not something that gets away from us. We've seen and heard all the warnings out there about what could possibly happen so we can only try and do our best to make sure that they're ready. We must always make sure that what we offer students aligns with what's current."

Changes have been implemented by the Maine Legislature in how regional cost adjustments to school funding by the state starting with the 2027-2028 school year will incorporate a 10 percent adjustment for relative income levels based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. How will this affect RSU 14 and do you support this measure?

"I understand where they're coming from because districts and communities with a larger percentage of economically disadvantaged students cannot rely on the local taxes to offset their expenses to educate their students. Every time there is a change we all have to adjust but I think we are in a place where it won't have a major impact on RSU 14."

★ **ADAM ZAJAC**



Occupation: Custom fabricator and welder. Small-business owner who teaches free welding and machining classes for local kids.

Previous elected experience: None, previously ran for RSU 14 board in 2025

Why are you running for this position and please be specific?

"I'm running because these schools stopped putting kids first and somebody has to say it from a seat instead of the microphone. I'm a Windham dad with three boys. I've sat in those board meetings. I helped organize the 2022 walkout to get the mask mandate lifted. I stood there with my son after he brought an explicit book home from middle school. I ended up pulling my own kids and homeschooling them. I still pay the taxes, and I still care what happens to every other kid in this town. If I get on the board, I want reading and math taught first every day. I want

see RSU 14 Page 9

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Last Day for Early Voting & Requesting Absentee

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- ✓ Invested millions in our roads and bridges, without taking on new debt
- ✓ Expanded property tax exemptions and child tax credits
- ✓ Helped more Mainers access affordable prescription drugs

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Paid for and authorized by Tim Nangle.S

RSU 14 Cont. from page 8

parents told what their kids are learning and how they're doing. I want classrooms and buses safe. And I want a real trades program so kids can leave school with a skill. The old middle school is sitting right there. Use it to teach kids how to weld, machine, and get a job. And stop growing the front office while enrollment isn't growing with the tax bill."

If elected, what would you do to support the teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure they provide the best possible education to the students of this community?

"I'll support the teachers who are actually teaching. Give them time to teach reading and math, back them when they keep order, and pay the ones who move kids forward. I've trained welders for years, and I teach free classes for local students. Good people stay when the job is clear and nobody dumps nonsense on them. Administrators get support when they do the job they were hired for. They don't get a blank check. I'd put classroom spending next to front-office spending and ask what each job produces for a student. If a role isn't helping kids read, compute, stay safe, or learn a trade, it doesn't need to grow. Teachers don't need another initiative. They need fewer distractions and a board that will stand behind them when they hold the line."

Cite an example of when you successfully worked with people who disagreed with you and if elected, how do you plan to build bridges with members of opposing viewpoints?

"Most of my adult life has been in a shop. Customers, employees, and other tradesmen don't always agree with me on how a job should be done, what it should cost, or how long it should take. You still have to finish the job. I've trained a lot of the welders in this community, including guys who came in thinking they already knew better than me. Some of them did know better on a few things. We figured it out on the work not in an argument. That's how I'd operate on the board. I won't pretend the last few years were some partnership. Dealing with this board was rough and I got called a bully for speaking up. I can still sit down with people I don't agree with, stick to the budget, the scores, and student safety, and leave the personal stuff out of it. Agreement isn't required. Honesty is."

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue currently facing the RSU 14 Board of Directors right now and how do you intend to address it?

"The biggest problem is the board won't level with people. Costs are up, new housing is piling on taxes and traffic, and too many kids still can't read and do math at the level they should. Parents have had to fight over explicit material in schools and over safety, including what happens on the buses. That isn't a side issue. That's the job. I'd open the budget and show people what's in the classroom and what's in administration. I'd put a trades program in the old middle school, so kids leave with a skill that pays, and so that building does something besides sit empty. I'd require parental notice and age-appropriate libraries. None of that starts with another tax increase. It starts with the board telling the truth and spending the money we already have on kids."

Public education determines the trajectory of our economy, our communities, and the nation. If elected as a member of the RSU 14 Board of Directors, what do you envision your role will be in preparing children to meet the challenges of the 21st century?

"My job would be simple. Make sure a kid leaves RSU 14 able to read, write, do math, and do something with his hands or her hands if college isn't the plan. The future still needs those things. It also needs welders, machinists, electricians and people who can work around new tools instead of being scared of them. I ran a welding company here for years. I built my own shop. I teach free welding and machining to local students because the schools weren't doing it. That's what I want this district to do. Real tools, real standards, kids who can get hired. A board member doesn't need a slogan about the 21st century. He needs to watch the scores, watch the budget, and point the money at students."

Changes have been implemented by the Maine Legislature in how regional cost adjustments to school funding by the state starting with the 2027-2028 school year will incorporate a 10 percent adjustment for relative income levels based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. How will this affect RSU 14 and do you support this measure?

"In 2027–28 the state finally updates a regional salary adjustment that's been stuck on 2005 numbers, and it ties part of the local share to income by using the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. A 10 percent piece of the mill-rate expectation shifts for that. There's a hold-harmless, so districts don't get cut right away. The real RSU 14 numbers aren't out yet. We're in a higher-cost county with high property values, so I wouldn't count on this as a gift to Windham and Raymond. Poorer districts are the ones built to gain. I support fixing an outdated formula. I don't support using it as an excuse to spend more. Whatever Augusta does this board still has to cut waste and put the money in classrooms and trades."

★ **JOE KELLNER**



Occupation: CEO, LifeFlight of Maine

Previous Elected Experience: Currently first term on the RSU 14 School Board

Why are you running for this position and please be specific?

"I'm running for re-election because I believe deeply in our public schools and want to continue contributing to their success. I bring experience in finance, leadership, policy, and governance, including the perspective of both serving on boards and reporting to one. With a new school opening, expanded pre-K, and a continued focus on student achievement,

see RSU 14 Page 10

NOTICE TO ALL RAYMOND VOTERS

ELECTION DAY

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2026

State Referendum Election

Office Hours are Tuesday 8am-6pm and Wednesday through Friday 8am-4pm for any resident wishing to register to vote, to vote by absentee ballot in-person or to pick up an absentee ballot to take home.

The last day to request/receive an absentee ballot will be Thursday, October 29, 2026.

Voted ballots can be returned to the secure drop-box in front of the Town Office at any time before Election Day.

Residents may register and vote at the polling location on Election Day. You must provide proof of identity and residency. Raymond's polling location is Jordan-Small Middle School Gym, 423 Webbs Mills Road. Polls are open from 7am to 8pm.

GALA Cont. from page 3

his support and gather with all the people that Pat Moody loved.

"It's a unique thing that we have in Windham for a group of volunteers to do what they do in Pat's name and to be a part of that makes you feel good," said Windham resident Ben Delewski. "And we personally see what it did for our daughter, receiving the scholarship, she lit up when her name was called. I know Pat would have loved that. We're lucky to be in Windham and to be part of something like this."

According to Sherma Moody, to see that same love come back to Pat in such a powerful way is both overwhelming and incredibly comforting. She said it reminds her that although he is missed more than words can ever explain, the goodness that he poured into this world did not leave with him. It lives on in the people he helped, the relationships he built, and the countless lives he touched along the way.

"The outpouring of love and support has been emotional in the most beautiful way," said Sherma Moody. "It reminds me that Pat's life mattered, his presence made a difference, and his impact will continue for years to come. My heart is so full of gratitude for everyone who has shown up, shared a memory, offered support, or simply kept his spirit alive. From the bottom of my heart, thank you. It means more than you will ever know." <



RSU 14 Cont. from page 9

this is an exciting time for RSU 14, and I want to help build on that momentum. With two children attending school in RSU 14, I am deeply committed to ensuring that they have a great educational experience and to helping build a school system that continues providing that experience long after they graduate."

If elected, what would you do to support the teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure they provide the best possible education to the students of this community?

"A core responsibility of the board is ensuring our schools are appropriately resourced to meet the educational needs of our community and support all students in achieving their potential. I have made it a priority to learn about the challenges our educators face and to understand which programs are producing results. We have seen programs such as BARR and educational coaching improve student outcomes, and I believe we should build on demonstrated successes like these. We must also recognize that success looks different for different students and families. Our focus should be ensuring every student is prepared for what comes after RSU 14, whether that means continuing their education, serving in our armed forces, entering the trades, or going directly into the workforce."

Cite an example of when you successfully worked with people who disagreed with you and if elected, how do you plan to build bridges with members of opposing viewpoints?

"When I first ran for school board, I made a deliberate effort to listen to and read perspectives with which I disagreed, including through podcasts and social media. I have continued that practice while serving on the board. It has helped me better understand opposing viewpoints and, at times, caused my own views to evolve. On the Policy Committee, for example, I have raised ideas that did not have majority support. When that happens, I make my case, listen carefully to others, accept the decision of the group, and continue working constructively toward our shared goals. I do not take disagreement personally. I believe respectful discourse should always have a place at the table, and I remain genuinely open to having my mind changed when presented with compelling information or a better argument."

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue currently facing the RSU 14 Board of Directors right now and how do you intend to address it?

"Our biggest challenge is balancing the desire to deliver a high-quality education with the financial resources required to do so. In recent years, we have faced significant financial pressures, including maintaining competitive staff compensation and substantial increases in utilities, maintenance, supplies, and other operating costs. Our community has also supported investment in a state-of-the-art school for grades 5–8 which, despite substantial state funding, carries some additional local cost. As Finance Committee chair, I have valued the opportunity to work with our administration and fellow board members to scrutinize spending carefully and ensure our resources are directed toward improving student experiences and outcomes. Over the next several years, we must continue making thoughtful investments in education while recognizing the very real financial pressures facing taxpayers. Striking that balance will remain one of the board's most important responsibilities."

Public education determines the trajectory of our economy, our communities, and the nation. If elected as a member of the RSU 14 Board of Directors, what do you envision your role will be in preparing children to meet the challenges of the 21st century?

"My role is to help create the conditions in which our educators and students can succeed. The board establishes policy, provides governance and oversight, and ensures the district has the resources necessary to deliver an excellent education. Preparing

see RSU 14 Page 11

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Mark Cooper for Legislature District 107
Paid for and authorized by the candidate
Contact me! (207) 232-5842 ~ gmcooper81@aol.com

RSU 14 Cont. from page 9

students for the 21st century also requires recognizing that the world they will enter continues to change rapidly. We need students who can think critically, communicate effectively, adapt, solve problems, and continue learning throughout their lives. I will continue asking substantive questions, learning from our educators and community, focusing on measurable outcomes, and advocating for the resources and opportunities our students need to succeed; whichever path they choose after leaving RSU 14."

Changes have been implemented by the Maine Legislature in how regional cost adjustments to school funding by the state starting with the 2027-2028 school year will incorporate a 10 percent adjustment for relative income levels based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. How will this affect RSU 14 and do you support this measure?

"The school board does not make the laws that govern public education, nor do I believe its role is to take positions on those laws. Our responsibility is to understand them, ensure the district complies with them, and effectively manage their impact on our students, staff, taxpayers, and community. My focus will be on understanding its specific financial impact on RSU 14 and ensuring our schools remain properly resourced to support our vision and strategic plan. I expect RSU 14 to be treated equitably in the distribution of state education funding, and I hope changes made in Augusta do not create additional burdens for local taxpayers. Whatever circumstances we face, I will work with our administration and fellow board members to protect educational quality while remaining responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars."

★ MEGAN POTTER



Occupation: Case Manager Lead

Previous Elected Experience: N/A

Why are you running for this position and please be specific?

"I love this community, want to give back, and want every child to have the chance to thrive. As a parent of two students and someone shaped by my own challenges, I bring compassion, perspective, and resilience. Professionally, I lead a team at a local law firm, giving me strong leadership and problem-solving skills. I'll listen, stay open-minded, and put students first while balancing families, teachers, and taxpayers."

If elected, what would you do to support the teachers and school administrators at RSU 14 schools to ensure they provide the best possible education to the students of this community?

"I would listen. Teachers and administrators know what they need to do their job to the best of their ability. I would want to have open and honest conversations about what is working, what isn't and where they need more support."

Cite an example of when you successfully worked with people who disagreed with you and if elected, how do you plan to build bridges with members of opposing viewpoints?

"When I became a team lead, I had a case manager on my team who did not think I should have gotten the position. She felt she should have been chosen instead. I handled it the way that I handle most things: I addressed it head-on and had a direct conversation with her. I was honest with her, listened to her concerns, and we were able to move forward and work well together. I am not afraid to disagree with someone. I don't think we all have to agree to work together. I believe you can have a disagreement and still respect each other. If elected, I would be myself, listen to different opinions, and try to find common ground where possible."

In your opinion, what is the most significant issue currently facing the RSU 14 Board of Directors right now and how do you intend to address it?

"I believe the budget is the biggest issue facing the RSU 14 Board right now. Our taxes went up significantly this past year, and I think we need to take a hard look at what we can do differently moving forward. I would want to go through the budget line by line and look at where our money is going. I think we need to find areas where we can cut or be more efficient without hurting our students or teachers."

Public education determines the trajectory of our economy, our communities, and the nation. If elected as a member of the RSU 14 Board of Directors, what do you envision your role will be in preparing children to meet the challenges of the 21st century?

"I think our job is to prepare kids for whatever comes after high school. That will look different for every student. Some will go to college, some will go into a trade, some may join the military, and some will go right into the workforce. We need to prepare them for all those options. I think we need to make sure they have a strong foundation in reading, writing, math, and critical thinking, but also give them opportunities to explore different careers and find what they are good at. Technology and AI are going to be a big part of their future, so we need to make sure they know how to use those tools while still thinking for themselves."

Changes have been implemented by the Maine Legislature in how regional cost adjustments to school funding by the state starting with the 2027-2028 school year will incorporate a 10 percent adjustment for relative income levels based on the percentage of economically disadvantaged students. How will this affect RSU 14 and do you support this measure?

"I understand why this change was made, but I need to learn more about exactly how it will affect RSU 14. My understanding is that districts with a higher percentage of economically disadvantaged students could receive more state funding, but I want to see the actual numbers for our district and understand what that means for our budget and taxpayers. I support making sure our schools have the funding they need, but I also believe we have a responsibility to be careful with taxpayer money. I don't think it would be responsible to say I fully support or oppose the change without understanding the impact on RSU 14. I would want to ask questions, look at the numbers, and to make sure we are making the best decision for our students and our community." <

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RSU 14 Director of Technology ensures that students meet educational goals

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

As RSU 14's Director of Technology, Matt VanDerburgh is at the forefront of the school district's digital innovation and ensuring that student needs and educational goals are met.

It's a challenging task as VanDerburgh oversees the day-to-day technology needs for all staff and students throughout the district, including budgeting, vendor and software management, student data privacy compliance, and IT support. He also makes sure the school district's technology department is customer-service focused.

"Our customers are our staff, students, and families, and I want them to feel that their concerns are heard, that we communicate clearly, and that we follow through," VanDerburgh said. "I really enjoy working with the RSU 14 leadership team and our technology team. My colleagues bring so much knowledge and experience to their work, and I've learned a great deal from them. I also enjoy the opportunity to help people solve problems and make their work a little easier. When technology works the way that it should, it allows our staff to focus on what matters most which is educating and supporting students."

He joined RSU 14 a little over a year ago and says he enjoys working with the RSU 14 leadership and technology teams.

"Technology is constantly evolving, and the work never really stops. There is always something to maintain, improve, troubleshoot, or plan for next," he said. "Another important responsibility is protecting student data and ensuring we follow strict privacy guidelines. Sometimes that means telling someone we can't use a particular tool or approach, even when they have a good reason for wanting it. I try to explain the reasoning behind those decisions and work with people to find alternatives that meet their needs while keeping student information safe."



Matt VanDerburgh is the Director of Technology for RSU 14 and oversees the day-to-day technology needs for all staff and students throughout the district. COURTESY PHOTO

VanDerburgh says a commonly held misconception is that people sometimes assume technology decisions are made from a purely technical perspective.

"Having a background in education and teaching, I try to approach decisions with the classroom in mind first," he said. "Technology should support teaching and learning, understanding what educators and students actually need is just as important as understanding the technology itself."

According to VanDerburgh, one of the most rewarding aspects of his work for RSU 14 has been hearing positive feedback about the culture of our department.

"One of my main focuses has been prioritizing customer service and making sure staff and students feel comfortable coming to us for help," he said. "Hearing that the department feels positive and welcoming from staff, and seeing my team receive recognition for their knowledge and hard work has been extremely fulfilling. Any success I've had transitioning into the district is a reflection of the knowledge, professionalism, and dedication of the technology team."

Growing up in Buxton, Vanderburgh graduated from Saint Joseph's College where he earned a degree in History and Secondary Education. He realized about five years ago that his career was leading him toward technology leadership. VanDerburgh worked as an Ed tech, substitute teacher, and a coach for high school track, baseball, and softball. He started a technology career working with the MLTI program, repairing devices and managing and installing networks in schools throughout the state. He worked as a computer technician at Portland Schools and was a Network Administrator and later the Assistant Technology Director at Falmouth Schools before joining RSU 14.

"As I considered where I wanted to work, RSU 14 was at the top of my list," VanDerburgh said. "All three of my children attend RSU 14 schools, and my wife also works in the district. Because of those connections, I already knew the Windham-Raymond community and had a strong appreciation for the educational environment here. The opportunity to contribute to a school district that means so much to my family and community is extremely rewarding."

He says the public may not know that a lot of the work happens behind the scenes and in collaboration with stakeholders and he works in partnership with the district's curriculum director and other district leaders to make sure our use of technology aligns with student needs and educational goals.

"A technology decision isn't just about whether something works technically, we also have to consider how it will affect teaching and learning, student privacy, staff workloads, and the district as a whole," VanDerburgh said. "I've learned how important it is to listen, be willing to consider different perspectives, and communicate openly. You aren't always going to be able to give everyone the answer they want, but taking the time to understand their concerns, explain your reasoning, and then follow through makes a real difference. Building trust is just as important as solving the problem itself." <

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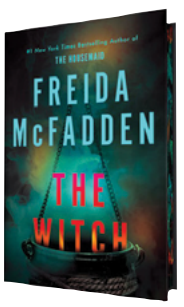
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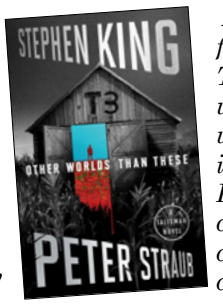


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Two candidates unopposed for Windham Town Council

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

One incumbent and one newcomer will earn seats on the Windham Town Council during the general election on Nov. 3.

Current Windham Town Council Chair Mark Morrison will now represent Windham's East District after serving as an at-large councilor. He will succeed incumbent councilor Brett Jones as East District councilor after Jones decided not to run for re-election to the council seat. First-time candidate Mark Cobb will serve in an at-large position on the council replacing Morrison as an at-large councilor.

Both Morrison and Cobb are unopposed on the ballot and are assured of positions on the nonpartisan town council in the election.

Profiles of Maine legislative candidates from Windham and Raymond will be published in the Oct. 23 edition of The Windham Eagle newspaper.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

★ MARK G. MORRISON



Position Sought: Town Council East District

Occupation: Independent Financial Advisor

Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: Town Councilor since November 2020, served two 3-year terms, Chairman 3 years, Vice Chair 1 year

What do you believe is the most pressing issue for the Windham Town Council and how do you intend to handle it?

"Provide town services to residents in a fiscally responsible way while in an inflationary economic environment. Keep our taxes tight without impacting programs and services. Recent tax increases have been heavily impacted by the school and county budget (both exceeding or about 10 percent). The schools represent two-thirds of our budget. Councilors have oversight of one-third of our budget, which has held to approximately 4 percent. Windham still has one of the best tax mill rates when compared to our neighboring towns, and this is one of the reasons why we are seeing strong growth. Windham is a safe and quiet place to live, and by comparison affordable. Manage growth at a sustainable pace. Council developed a growth ordinance for our town's growth and development, so growth did not get ahead of our infrastructure. This has been in place for six to seven years. The State of Maine has passed legislation recently, limiting our ability to have local control. Fellow councilors and I are advocating to keep our control which has been working. Maintaining local growth control policies is critical to long term sustainability, and we continue to advocate for our ability for such controls. Development concentrated in our growth zones per our long-term planning (commercial zones) so we may preserve our farms and rural open spaces so we may continue to maintain our rural character outside of our growth zones. We are a growing town. We must continue to manage and balance rural character with growth. We have a strategic comprehensive plan which we are managing against, and we must strive to preserve our rural farms and open spaces. That is why I moved here over 30 years ago, and why we have many multigenerational residents. Once you move to Windham, you want to stay. It's a great place to live. We must do all we can to preserve what makes us a friendly, neighborly safe town.

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

"I am seeking re-election to continue making Windham a safe and affordable community where children, seniors and families are well served in a fiscally responsible way. Windham is a desirous community to live and have a business. We are experiencing growth which we must manage and find the right balance for long-term sustainability. This is an ongoing issue requiring our continued focus. We must invest in ourselves in alignment with our long-term goals and objectives as detailed in our strategic plan, better known as our compre-

→ see COUNCIL Page 14

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STUDENT OF THE WEEK
Colten Pelletier



Grade: Kindergarten
School: Windham Christian Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Seavey
Favorite subjects: Math and Reading
Parents' names: Kyle and Selena
Reason for selection: Colten is kind, helpful and hard-working. Every day, Colten enters the classroom with a smile on his face and a "let's go" attitude. He is eager to learn new things and gives 100 percent effort to academics. Colten notices when his friends are in need and will lend a helping hand before they even ask! Colten is a great example to always try your best and he encourages his classmates to do their best as well. His favorite subjects are Math and Reading. He enjoys playing with his friends, playing gaga, soccer, hockey, and learning new things. When he grows up, Colten would like to be a firefighter.

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COUNCIL *Cont. from page 13*

hensive town plan. We are investing in needed infrastructure so we can continue to grow and serve our residents optimally. I want to continue to be involved with updating our comprehensive plan for the future, continue with the sewer implementation, and going to "Phase 2" serving more businesses, with sewer expansion along Route 302. Further, we will be breaking ground on the Windham Moves Project (1.6 miles of new roads designed to relieve traffic stress in North Windham) which I want to be a part of as well. Sewer and Windham Moves are two big investments which will help to significantly improve our town for many years to come. I want to continue to have a hand in both."

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of Windham?

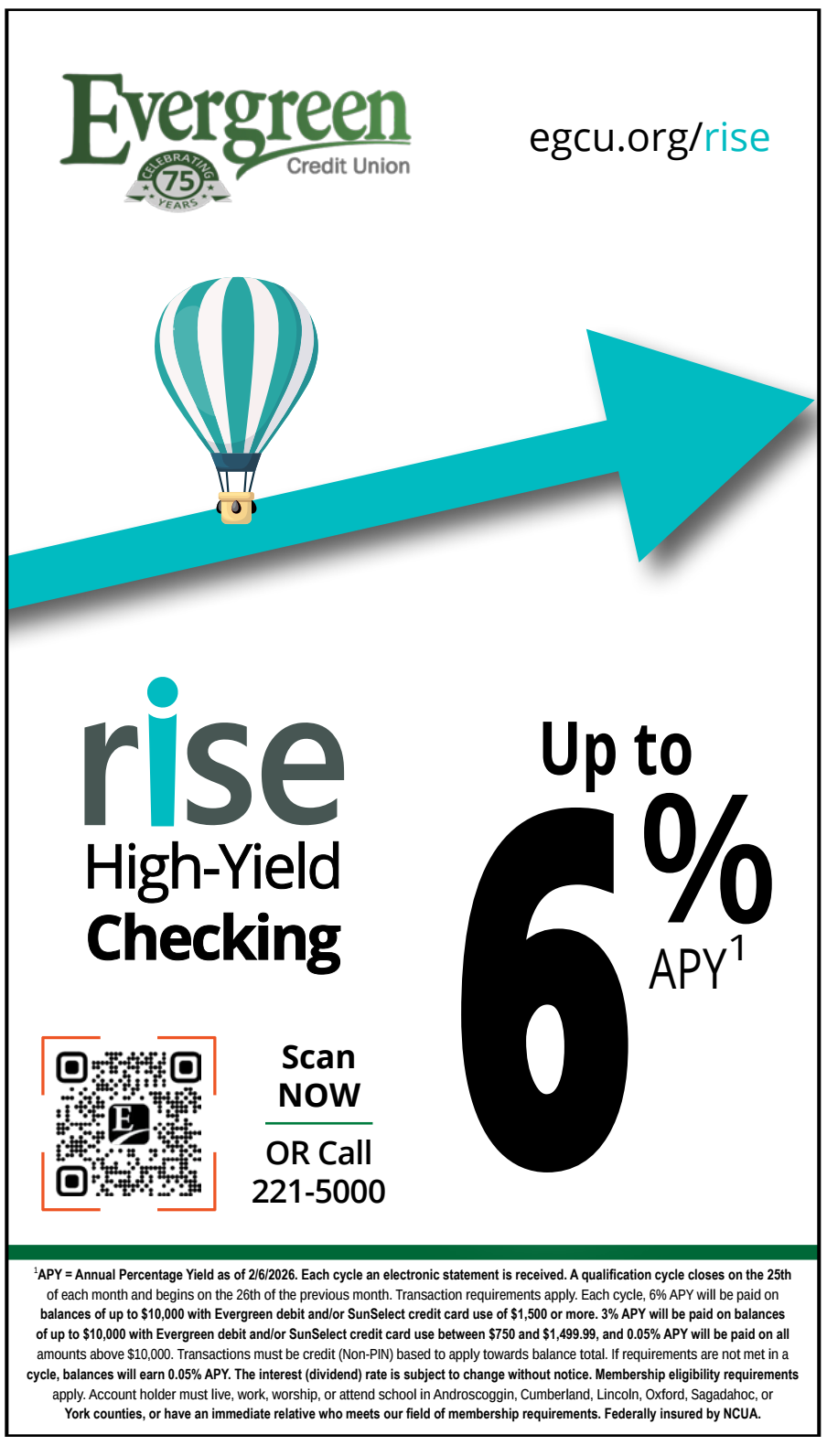
"We must stay on top of our budget and spend wisely. Our two infrastructure projects of sewer and Windham Moves will greatly improve our business district in North Windham. The sewer will allow current businesses to expand and to also attract new business to our town. By growing our business base, we are increasing town revenue from businesses. This will have a positive impact over time, providing some relief to our residents and homeowners. Growth. Wise, strategic growth helps shift the burden from our resident taxpayers as businesses shoulder more of the overall tax burden. These two projects will make our North Windham business center more attractive and efficient – first for our residents and second for our out-of-town visitors. The "moves" project (making Route 302 traffic safer and less congested) will improve business in North Windham which has a positive spill-over effect to our resident taxpayers."

What is your definition of teamwork and what makes you a great team player?

"Definition: Working with others productively and effectively to meet a common goal. Working together to find the win-win. To do this, it requires first analyzing the current situation and separating fact from fiction. Dealing with the facts and collaborating on viable solutions requires working with others respectfully. In sports, we call this good sportsmanship. Winning with good moral character. The same applies in business and government. It is working with others collaboratively who may have different perspectives. It is all about individuals working together to achieve a common goal. If the team is clear on the goal, then it is a matter of finding the best path to get there. To get there effectively is less about the individual and self-interest and all about common interests. How do we help each other get what we both want. Listening respectfully to others is more than half the battle. People work together well when they feel heard and respected. If they feel valued, it's even better. My entire professional career has been focused on team and a reason for my success. Collaborating respectfully whether in management, sales, financial advising or town government leadership. I would say serving on a team comprised of seven councilors and being elected as Chairman by my councilor peers for 3 years, and 1 year as Vice Chairman is testament to me being a good team player as one example."

What would be your ideas for im-

see COUNCIL Page 15





COUNCIL Cont. from page 14

provements to Windham Town Council?

Voter participation. One big improvement is how we conduct our annual town meeting. This is one of three items that our residents will be voting on this Nov. 3 on the local ballot. For over 20 years we have had Town Meetings each June with our seven councilors and manager, where our town budget is approved. The meeting in the past has been held on one day, a Saturday, spanning about 3 to 4 hours, in an open and public forum. It is a very small window for such important decision making. Attendance for our Annual Meeting has averaged only 87 townspeople in 20 years, with a low of about 25 citizens and a high of 135 citizens – obviously not ideal for a town of almost 20,000 people or approximately 14,000 registered voters (less than 1 percent participation rate). We as a council analyzed the situation and considered solutions. Council, including my involvement, has recommended we go to a similar process that the school uses for our town meeting with respect to voting on the budget. We have proposed that the ballot be available for multiple weeks to vote early, including a full election day with a secret ballot – well communicated in advance. By adopting this voting process, hopefully we can get the participant count in the thousands with many more citizens participating. Citizen participation is key to a healthy town. Next is finding ways to boost council meeting participation. Working on how to improve town meeting attendance (second and fourth Tuesday each month at 6 p.m.). I would like to see an open forum for townspeople to ask questions of councilors – held once a quarter on a Saturday morning. Hopefully such a forum will get more citizens curious about the town's activities and goings on, leading to more residents in the seats at council meetings. Last week we did this with our business community, and we hope to make this a quarterly event as well (coordinated by the Windham Economic Development Corporation – WEDC). We had 40 or more business people attend."

Cite an example of when you successfully worked with people who disagreed with you and if elected, how do you plan to build bridges with members of opposing viewpoints?

"Being an effective councilor is working with residents from all backgrounds and viewpoints. That also applies to fellow council peers. Working with people with whom you disagree needs to be focused on having a respectful dialogue, stick to the facts and don't make it personal. It's a simple model, but often it can get off track. You just have to be aware when things are starting to go sideways and then make a correction. Often times, if you listen some common ground can be found and then that can be used as a means to go forward. Again, it's simple but powerful. I have built a reputation for working with people with whom I may disagree. It's all about fairness. Sometimes we end and agree to disagree, and that is OK too, so long as each person feels heard and respected."

★ **MARK COBB**



Position Sought: Town Councilor At-Large

Occupation: Entrepreneur/Business owner 43 years

Previous Elected Experience/Terms in Office: None

What do you believe is the most pressing issue for the Windham Town Council and how do you intend to handle it?

"Rising Property Taxes: Working with the information available and full council input and support, I will closely examine the current budget – both revenue and expenses, all fixed costs and all variable costs, and all current projects and capital improvements – to project 5, 10, and 20 years out to pinpoint needs and the likely impact on Windham taxpayers. Many factors go into rising property taxes, and it will take extremely close examination to identify any areas that might be able to be adjusted, minimized, or eliminated, if possible. I will also look at what possible additional revenues the town could see with public-private partnerships, and other possible areas that could offset the expense side of the balance sheet."

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

The Town Council at Large seat is

see COUNCIL Page 16

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CAPTAIN Cont. from page 1

rides, and community events throughout the State of Maine. He also served as a Range Officer and Firearms Instructor, helping to train and mentor generations of officers."

Fellow police officers say that the expertise and dedication shown by Williams helped to advance impaired driving enforcement and officer training statewide.

Beyond his accomplishments in law enforcement, Williams was known as a trusted friend and someone with a knack for finding great fishing spots and was a registered Maine Fishing Guide.

"His sense of humor, willingness to help others, and passion for the outdoors left a lasting impression on everyone fortunate enough to know him," Schofield wrote on the department's Facebook page. "We extend our deepest condolences to Ray's family, friends, and all who had the privilege of serving alongside him. He will be greatly missed, and his memory will never be forgotten."

Williams is survived by his partner Dawn Freeland, his sister Rhonda Williams, his brother Brad Williams, sister-in-law Renee Williams, nieces, nephews and great-nieces. He is predeceased by his son Nicholas Williams and his parents Scott and Nancy Williams.

A Funeral Service honoring the life of Captain Ray Williams will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 18, at the Windham High School Performing Arts Center in Windham. <



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Gray, New Gloucester



Bradley Youngs
Maine House, District 106
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Joseph Campbell
Maine House, District 107
Windham

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COUNCIL Cont. from page 15

the only seat I qualified for in this upcoming election based on the location of my home. My decision to run stems from over a decade of observing rising property taxes, accelerated growth, decreasing lot sizes, and the conversion of commercial properties into housing – all occurring with minimal oversight. Having served on the 21st Century Downtown Committee, I believe this latest rapid development does not fully align with the concepts our committee discussed for Windham's long-term future. If elected, I will work to manage this growth and enhance oversight. I plan to review our current development frameworks and listen to suggested revisions that could ensure residents retain a meaningful voice in our community's future. Ultimately, my goal is to lessen the burden on taxpayers while ensuring municipal services are delivered at the highest possible level."

What solid steps do you believe can be implemented to alleviate the property tax burden for residents of Windham?

"I think my statement above highlighted some of them: oversight, increased revenues from sources outside property and excise taxes, close examination of all expenditures, and strong control over capital improvements and building projects can all help keep the tax burden lower. Public involvement is a big part of this. We need many minds brainstorming, and the council needs to hear any, and all ideas. The council may not be able to implement a particular idea because of legal requirements or other limitations, but some part of an idea might spark a process or procedure that could help. It is time for people to get involved. I welcome and encourage input on every issue. I will listen, and I will do what is legally possible to implement sound ideas."

What is your definition of teamwork and what makes you a great team player?

"To prevent any misunderstanding, I define the "Team" as the tax-paying residents of Windham, whereas the Town Council serves as the supporting squad. If entrusted with the voters' confidence to serve on the Council, I believe all councilors must actively listen, learn, and participate. Effective collaboration requires engaging with opposing viewpoints. While councilors need not compromise their core beliefs or agree on every issue, we must maintain civility, professionalism, and respect for everyone's right to an opinion. Ultimately, the Team – our taxpayers – establishes the strategic goals. The Town Council's role is to execute that vision through well-researched, strategic planning. Every stakeholder deserves a voice, and I deeply respect those who bring constructive solutions to the table."

What would be your ideas for improvements to Windham Town Council?

"If elected, I will observe current operations while actively addressing the complex challenges facing Windham. There is no simple fix for our town's issues, and I will not hesitate to speak up firmly on all current matters or advocate for changes to past decisions wherever legally permitted. I respect the dedication of the Town Council, but my role would be to offer constructive, independent input using my business background and life experiences. Every councilor begins as a rookie, but new members must participate dynamically from day one rather than sitting back. Beyond following Robert's Rules of Order and maintaining professional conduct, our focus must remain entirely on what is best for our taxpayers. I am fully prepared to challenge the status quo to ensure my contributions have a lasting, positive effect on Windham."

Cite an example of when you successfully worked with people who disagreed with you and if elected, how do you plan to build bridges with members of opposing viewpoints?

"Throughout my adult life, I have worked with people who held different opinions from mine. In my business, I help consumers recover what they are entitled to by carefully reviewing documentation, gathering relevant facts, and presenting evidence clearly. This approach has helped me resolve disagreements, and reach successful outcomes, even when others initially viewed an issue differently. If elected, I will bring that same approach to public service. I plan to listen respectfully to opposing viewpoints, focus on shared goals, and rely on facts and sound evidence when evaluating proposals. I believe bridges are built through open communication, mutual respect, and a willingness to consider information that may challenge our initial perspectives. While I will stand firmly by my principles, I will remain professional, approachable, and committed to finding practical solutions." <

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MISERY *Cont. from page 6*

in Windham and what he hopes to take away from this experience of directing Misery is learning to trust the process.

"As a director, you have a vision for how you want things to look and feel, but you also have to give your actors the freedom to explore their characters and make their own choices. It's been a lot of fun working with Mary, Andy, and Brad," he said. "They've each brought something different to their roles, and it's been really rewarding to watch their characters develop throughout rehearsals. It's definitely been a learning experience but one I've really enjoyed. I'm grateful to have had the opportunity."



McCormick was born in Boston, grew up in Northern Virginia, and spent her high school years in Atlanta, Georgia. She attended college at the University of San Diego and received a master's degree in teaching from Santa Clara University. Her family moved to Raymond in 2007 after she graduated from high school, but she moved to Raymond permanently in 2024.

She saw LRCT's production of Beauty and the Beast in the summer of 2024 and decided to audition for 9 to 5 the next summer.

"Although I was anxious about being new to their community, I was so touched by how quickly they embraced me," McCormick said. "Misery is my third production with LRCT. I was first cast as Judy in 9 to 5 and this summer I was Atina as well as a tapping seagull in The Little Mermaid."

Taking on the role of Annie Wilkes, who works outside of community theater as a teacher, has been a significant opportunity for McCormick.

"Annie is a very complex character, and I've really enjoyed challenging myself to successfully depict each aspect of her. I hope to do her justice," she said. "The most difficult aspect of preparing for this show has been the time required to memorize all of Annie's lines. It has not been difficult with only three cast members because I have worked closely with both individuals as well as our director in other productions, so I have a very strong sense of trust and respect for each of them."

Her first involvement in community theater was when McCormick was 9 years old and she says that she continued to participate in shows throughout her whole childhood and high school years. But until the LRCT production of 9 to 5, she had not been in any productions since graduating from high school.

"I look forward to continuing to work with LRCT for years to come in any capacity, on stage or off," she said. "LRCT is an incredibly loving, welcoming, and supportive group of people and I am honored to be a part of their productions."

"Each role I've had the pleasure of portraying has given me the opportunity to explore and express different types of personalities," McCormick said.

Show dates and times for Misery at Lake Region High School are 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 22; 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23; 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 25. Admission is $15 for adults, $10 for seniors and students ages 14 and over. To learn more about Lake Region Community Theater, visit lrctmaine.org <

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Editor,

As a former business owner, mother of a female student athlete, and observer of the Maine legislature, I support Barbara Bagshaw for state representative. One of the hardest working politicians that I know, she stays informed by talking with Windham citizens, attending council and school board meetings, and engaging with town officials, schools, and businesses. She is my go-to for answers.

Barbara favors small, efficient government and lower taxes that burden lower-income and fixed-income residents. She fought insurance reform to end billing fraud by dishonest home care facilities like Gateway Community Center. She supports strong schools focused on higher learning, not harmful ideology, and believes biological boys should stay out of girls' sports and locker rooms-a fairness issue women have fought for since the 1970s. She insists elections remain fair and limited to Maine citizens.

An active listener and problem-solver, she has represented Windham well for four years and deserves to return to Augusta.

~ Carolyn Brodsky, Windham

Editor,

It is without hesitation that I offer my complete support for Representative Barbara Bagshaw for District 106, Windham

Barbara is tenacious in her conviction to do what's right for all the people of Windham. She understands the issues that are truly affecting us and will always present effective and common-sense solutions. After eight years of single party rule the quality of life in Maine has certainly deteriorated. High taxes, an unfriendly business atmosphere, lack of job growth, numerous fraud cases and so many other pressing issues where it is now, more than ever, that we need Barbara in Augusta.

Please vote for Barbara Bagshaw and return her to the position that we so vitally need her to occupy.

~ Pasquale Popola, Windham

Editor,

I worked in Maine's child welfare system in the early 2000s.

I see local candidates trying to elicit votes based on their intention to legislate DHHS to make reforms to reduce child abuse, neglect, and deaths.

This is laudable but misdirected. DHHS has made many "reforms" over the years, and abuse, neglect and child deaths continue. Structural reforms at DHHS itself will not prevent these – child welfare is a stressed system, and likely always will be, even if more money or reforms are made.

see **LETTERS** Page 19

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LETTERS to the editor

LETTERS Cont. from page 18

Child abuse, neglects and death will sadly continue if the root causes – poverty, mental health, addiction, generational trauma – are not addressed. DHHS is not the root cause. It can intervene, try to help, and even cause more harm. Think, however, about the root causes they are responding to.

If you really want to support Maine children, vote for the candidate you believe will address the root causes.

~ Christina Fay, LCSW, Windham

Editor,

I have had the pleasure of getting to know Kenny Cianchette over the past eight years, both personally and professionally, right here in Windham. I am involved with several organizations that rely on fundraising just to keep the lights on. Kenny welcomed us with open arms and helped with whatever we needed. He always helped when asked. Always.

That is not talk. In 2023 the Sebago Lake Region Chamber of Commerce honored him with Business of the Year. In 2018, they gave him their Community Service Leadership Award.

I served in the State Legislature, and I can promise you this: Kenny's dedication to this community, and the way he handles his professional work, will make him an exceptional State Senator. He is a hard worker. He communicates well. He will work to get other legislators to join him in moving Maine forward.

Please join me in voting for Kenny Cianchette to be our next State Senator.

~ Thomas M. Tyler, Windham

Editor,

I am supporting Tim Nangle for our State Senator. He has built a record of making a difference through his efforts and experience of helping Mainers. He listens to people and helps solve problems.

He has helped to protect Maine waters, housing for veterans, help survivors of human trafficking, consumer protection, enable mobile home communities take ownership of their property, improving school bus safety for children, and supported funding for education.

Given his experience as a paramedic, he is well versed in the importance of health care and is a strong supporter of healthcare for all. Because of the federal cuts coming, this is an especially crucial need for the citizens of Maine. He is a clean election candidate, answering only to the people and working for them. It is no wonder that he is endorsed by so many groups such as Unions, Conservation, and Education.

~ Stephen Parenteau, Windham

Editor,

We need leaders who make the interests of Maine people a priority. Finding affordable housing is a challenge for many Mainers. Frequently, mobile home communities are affordable places to live.

Unfortunately, large out-of-state private equity firms and investors are attempting to buy these communities. These businesses care little about the people in those communities. After the purchase, lot rent increases drastically and fees are added for things like having a pet.

Our Senator Tim Nangle identified this problem and acted to help Mainers. He drafted and helped pass LD 1145 which gives mobile home residents the right of first refusal to purchase their community. It also encourages the residents to come together as a community and protect their housing and gives them more control over their lives and where they live.

Tim Nangle is a Senator who works to help Mainers with not only his words but delivers with his actions.

~ Patricia McKeen, Windham

Editor,

I write as a colleague and friend of Representative Mark Cooper to urge you to support him.

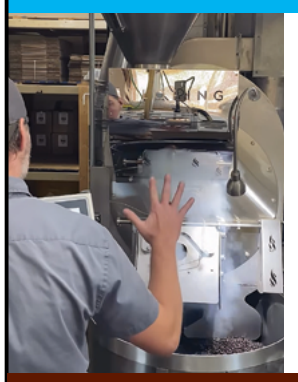
Mark is a husband, father, grandfather, and a farmer. He is an excellent legislator who knows how to work across the aisle without abandoning his principles. Soft-spoken by nature, he is nonetheless an effective communicator. Public speaking is not his favorite activity, yet when he does rise to address the chamber, he delivers powerful remarks. One speech that remains vivid in my mind concerned Bill Diamond and the protection of children.

I have also noticed that Mark is quick to stand and speak when the matter at hand affects Windham. That combination of quiet competence, principled bipartisanship, and steadfast advocacy for his community is rare and valuable.

I am proud to serve alongside him. We need Mark Cooper in the Legislature. Please vote for him on Nov. 3.

~ Barbara Bagshaw, Windham

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Parents organizing dance for homeschooled students

By Erin Rose
STAFF WRITER

Children who are homeschooled in the Windham area will soon have a chance to join the fun of going to a dance.

Local parent Julia Russell is working with other homeschool families to put together a dance for kids in grades 5 through 8 who are learning at home, to be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4 at Fire and Ice in Windham.

"With homecoming season approaching, I started thinking about how I didn't want homeschoolers to miss out on experiences like dances and other social events," Russell explained. "My goal with this dance is to bring new families together, give our kids an opportunity to meet others their age, and help build a supportive homeschool community as we navigate this new journey."

Russell began homeschooling her 11-year-old son, Malachi, this year, and doesn't want him to miss out on social opportunities available to his peers.

"I think that just because kids are homeschooled doesn't mean they should miss out on having fun, letting loose with kids their own age, making new friends, and having experiences that feel like they're just for them," she said. "These are the kinds of memories they'll look back on when they're older. Homeschooling may look different from traditional school, but I don't want our kids to feel like they're missing out on the fun parts of growing up."

The dance will also help families who homeschool their children build connections and find new friends.

"Once I started talking with a few other moms, we realized there were other families who wanted the same thing, and the idea just kind of grew from there," Russell said. "I also wanted him to have the chance to get to know more families within the homeschool community."

With the venue now finalized, some local businesses have stepped forward to provide donations for both the event and a raffle will be held to raise funds.

Fire & Ice Maine generously donated the space for the event. Pat's Pizza and Domino's will be providing food and Root's Café in Westbook will be donating chocolate chip cookies, in addition to homemade baked good prepared by some of the homeschool parents. Studio Flora Designs and Farmhouse Flowers have also offered flowers for the dance.

"The response has honestly been incredible," Russell said. "I had high hopes that our community would come through, and they absolutely have."

Russell is also organizing a raffle of 14 different prizes, donated from local businesses, including a gift card to Mow's Munchies, a deep clean by Kimmie's Cleaning & Organization, admission to the Pride's Corner Drive In, services at Studio Aerie and Spruce Salon, and baked goods from Hailey's Kitchen, Kneedful Things, and Four Chickens Farm Stand. The Maine Dance Center is also offering a free month of lessons. The prizes could expand as more businesses come for-

see DANCE Page 21

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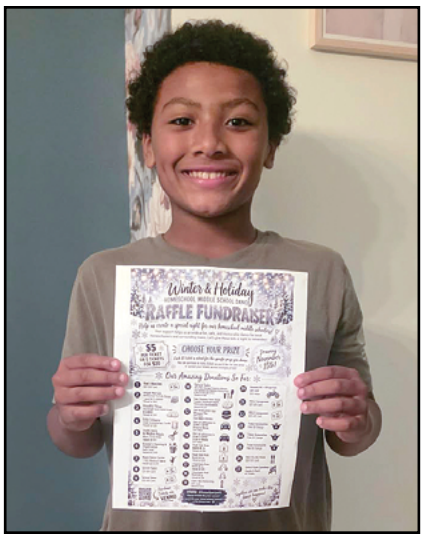
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DANCE Cont. from page 20

ward and become involved.

Tickets for the raffle are $5 each or five tickets for $20 and may be purchased through Russell's Venmo account. The winner of the raffle for each item will be pulled on Sunday, Nov. 15. The funds raised will be used to help offset costs for the event, and any remaining money will be spent on future events.

"The money raised will help cover things like the venue and DJ, if needed, drinks, paper products, and hopefully a photo booth or some type of photo setup where the kids can take pictures and have them sent to their phones," Russell detailed. "If we have money left over after the dance, we'll put it toward our next homeschool event, which will probably happen toward the end of the school year. We're really hoping this can become an annual tradition for the kids."



Homeschooled sixth grader Malachi Russell of Windham displays a flyer that he is distributing in the community promoting a dance for kids in grades 5 through 8 to be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 4 at Fire and Ice in Windham. SUBMITTED PHOTO

"As the entries come in, I keep track of each person's name and the item they entered for," she added. "So far, we've already had $75 worth of raffle entries, which is really exciting."

Parents are welcome to attend the event with their children, and Russell invites any parents who are open to volunteering to help the dance run smoothly.

"Parents are welcome to stay for the dance or drop their kids off, whatever they are most comfortable with," she said. "We have a great group of moms who have been involved from the beginning, tossing around ideas, helping with planning, and sharing their opinions. I think we are in a really good place when it comes to volunteers for setup and chaperoning, but we are always grateful for anyone who wants to help make the night special for the kids."

The excitement for the event is growing, as the kids are looking forward to the chance to have fun with their peers.

"My son lit up when I mentioned wanting to put together a dance," Russell said. "I also had a few moms reach out to let me know that their kids are already excited about the dance, which has been really fun to hear."

Russell lives in Windham with her husband Joe, who volunteers to coach Malachi's football team, and has four children.

For more details about the dance or raffle, Russell recommends searching the Windham Maine Community Board Facebook page for her updated posts, or by calling 207-754-0011. <

HAVE A STORY IDEA? WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU! Send your ideas to editor@thewindhameagle.com or call Ed at 207-894-3500

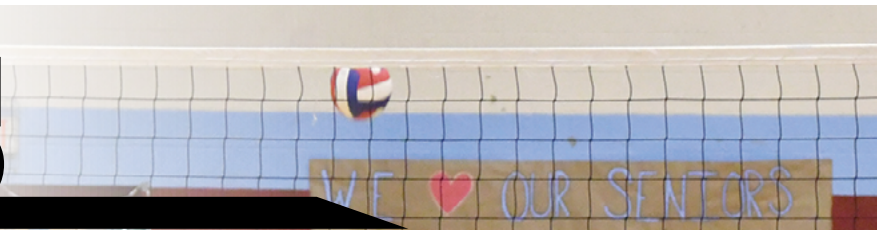
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Eagle SPORTS



Varsity volleyball drops match to Marshwood

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

It was Senior Night for Windham varsity volleyball in their final home game against Marshwood on Thursday, Oct. 8 and seniors Arihanna Ramos, Shaylin Burrell, Taelyn Morris, Chloe Poitras and Zoi Candelmo were each presented with a small gift to thank them and their families for their time and efforts to Windham Athletics. Windham played two very strong sets against the Hawks and kept their heads up during the third set. Despite their efforts, they fell 3-0 to Marshwood.

"We had a lot of motivation for beating this team for playoffs; this would have been our bridge to making playoffs," said Ramos. "I think the fact that it's our Senior Night tonight gave us a lot of motivation. The plan for this game was to have fun and celebrate the seniors ... I'm very glad I got to work with this team. I think we did great, the first two sets were one of the best we've played. We fought, we put in a lot of energy, we didn't want to give up. What went well in this game was our attitude, our effort. We were setting up, we were playing simple; we were playing the game that we usually play."

During the first set, Windham began strong with a small lead and smart volleys. The game was soon tied 5-5. Marshwood took the lead, but Windham was working hard to make up the difference.

Junior Avalon Sibley had a solid block. Now, the game was tied 15-15.



(L to R) Windham junior Avalon Sibley bumps the ball during a pep volleyball game against Marshwood at Windham High School on Thursday, Oct. 8. Senior Shaylin Burrell gets under the ball in time to send it back over the net. Senior Arihanna Ramos sets the ball. Junior Alyvia Kenney hits the ball back over the net from mid-air. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Windham kept it up with only two points separating the teams at one point. The Hawks pulled ahead and won this set 25-19.

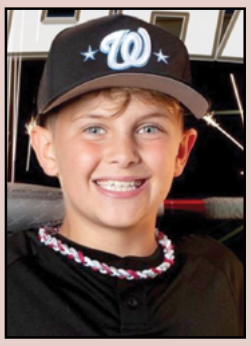
The Eagles pressured early on, and the game was tied 8-8. Marshwood began to pull away again, but Windham worked to close the points gap. Marshwood won this set 25-19.

"We really wanted to win tonight; we wanted to go into it with a positive mindset and play our hearts out for our seniors," said Windham junior and libero Alyvia Keeney. "I think we played our hardest, we did our best and that's what matters. We were getting the swings on the balls we were attacking well, but we need a lot more work on communication, because we are still a very young team."

Windham was not about to give up in the third set. However, Marshwood took a big lead early on and stayed out in front. The Eagles kept their heads up but trailed by 10 points. Soon it was game point and Marshwood won 25-12.

"We know that Marshwood has been working hard in the offseason, so we knew we couldn't underestimate them," said Windham varsity volleyball assistant coach Cassie Fleck. "Tonight our main goal was to anticipate and read instead of react, which in the first two sets they did very well, I'm very happy with them. In the third set they got a little tired. Our talking, pulling out who needs to play that ball ahead of time, was getting better. Recently we had just worked on our out-of-system setting, so getting a ball to a hitter that's from not the ideal spot. I'm very pleased with how they did that, too. Endurance (needs work). Being able to go five sets – it's hard for any team. We're looking from our players that we can have that core group that we can trust; but then keeping that energy going for however many sets we play." <

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Ashton Belanger

Age: 11 **Team:** Windham Little League fall baseball
Coach: Kevin Rancourt
Parents' names: Shannon and Alex Belanger
Reason for selection: Ashton is a gifted athlete who is up for any challenge. He is the first to volunteer to play in a position that others may not be prepared to step into. This season his team only had one catcher to start the year, and Ashton took it upon himself to develop at the position giving the team much-needed depth and competition. His competitive nature raises the bar for his teammates and sets the tone for success. He never questions or challenges an assignment, and gives it his all. Ashton continues to develop in all phases of the game on a weekly basis. His pitching continues to excel, his defense is top tier, and he is establishing that he is a solid contributor from behind the plate catching. He is very receptive to feedback and coaching and applies it instantaneously.

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Tuesday, October 27, 2026 • 7:00 PM

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APPLICANT: Eric Kollman-Furnish
LOCATION: 90 Tenney Hill Road; Map 18/Lot 15
Zone Rural
DESCRIPTION: Administrative Appeal of Notice of Violation dated August 7th, 2026 in connection with cannabis cultivation on the premises

SCAN HERE TO REGISTER IN ADVANCE FOR THIS MEETING OR GO TO:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/q6PhLUyRQZmtqF5gVC93nw

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Windham High School golf posts strong showing in Class A Maine State Golf Championships

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham High School's varsity golf team sent three participants to the Class A Maine State Golf Championships at the Natanis Golf Course, a par 72 course, in Vassalboro on Friday, Oct. 9. Freshman Stella Veilleux and sophomores Emma Mathieu and Hunter Pulkkinen each played in the championship for their first time.

Veilleux tied for third place with a score of 99 and birdied on the fourth hole. Mathieu finished sixth with a score of 100; Pulkkinen shot a 93, and birdied on hole 13, while finishing in the top 60.

"Stella started on junior varsity this year and worked her way into varsity matches halfway through the year," said Windham varsity golf coach Adam Manzo. "She learned a lot along the way and will be a big part of our team the next three years. Emma started the year fairly strong, then went through a rough patch and turned around at the end of the year. She's a competitor and will have two more opportunities to win a championship. Hunter has really been steady and an excellent teammate all year, so to be rewarded with an 81 at Qualifier and the opportunity to compete today is a great way to cap off his sophomore season."

By finishing in the top 10 both girls will play in the New Englander Qualifier at the Natantis Golf Course on Saturday, Oct. 17.

"I was really excited to have made it this far, and I went into the tournament with a positive attitude and an open mind," said Mathieu. "My goal going into the championship was to stay positive, play my best, and enjoy the experience. My drives and putting were probably the strongest parts of my game that day, but overall, it was a challenging round for me."

For Mathieu, she's really been working on the mental side of golf. She's struggled with staying focused and not letting a bad shot impact the next one. She knows she has the skill to compete at this level, but she's learning how much of golf is mental. Sometimes having confidence in yourself is just as important as making a good swing. She's excited to have made it this far and for another chance to compete on Oct. 17.

"How it felt going to states as a freshman was something I didn't expect I would make it to," said Veilleux. "All I thought about was to do my best and my goal was to be top five. Tying for third was good, but ... I was hoping for a better score or better shots of the day. On hole seven I was short of the green having to chip it close to save par. Then made the par putt for a score of a three. On hole four I hit a light nine-iron because my pitching wedge had been not going straight the whole round. I ended up one putting for a birdie with a score of two."

Pulkkinen said he had a good mindset coming into the championship and he planned to try his best. His goal for the championship was to have fun and push himself to become a good player. He was not pleased with his score and said he did better during the Qualifier. The conditions during the championship were not the best and Pulkkinen said it was very windy and the ball didn't go where he wanted it to. His chip shots they were so dialed he had an easy putt for every good chip shot he had. Pulkkinen struggled with tee shots; they weren't as accurate as he wanted.

"I know all three are competitive kids and all wanted to have played better today, but all are underclassmen and 100 percent should be back again," said Manzo. "I'm highly encouraged about the team's future. It was tough conditions, and the kids fought hard and, in my eyes, never quit. Really, all you can ask for." <





(L to R) Windham sophomore Hunter Pulkkinen focuses on his putt during the Class A Maine State Golf Championship at Natanis Golf Course in Vassalboro on Friday, Oct. 9. Sophomore Emma Mathieu watches her ball after teeing off. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA



Freshman Stella Veilleux hits the ball with a lot of force.

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BRIEFS

Forest celebration

The public is welcome to attend a Windham Community Forest Celebration at 9 a.m. Saturday, Oct. 17 as the new Universal Access Trail at the Atherton Hill Trailhead of the Windham Community Forest, 189 Falmouth Road in Windham. The event includes the unveiling of a new name for the combined conservation lands formerly known as the East Windham Conservation Area and Lowell Preserve and marks an important step in expanding outdoor recreation opportunities and accessibility while recognizing the beauty and value of these protected natural spaces for generations to come in Windham. Following the ribbon-cutting and naming ceremony, participants are invited to enjoy a guided walk along the Universal Access Trail, weather permitting, and experience the improved access and natural features of the property. FMI, call 207-892-1905.

Saturday Storytime

Raymond Village Library, 3 Meadow Road in Raymond, offers a Saturday Storytime with stories and fun for kids of all ages at 10 a.m. every Saturday. FMI, call 207-655-4283.

Bean Supper

A Bean Supper hosted by the Windham Veterans Association will be held starting at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. There will be a variety of beans, hot dogs, sides and desserts. The cost is $10 and kids under 12 eat for free. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. To learn more, call 207-892-1908.

Blood Drive

Windham American Legion Post 148 will conduct a monthly Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 21 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. To donate, call 1-800-REDCROSS or download the Red Cross app for an appt.



Spooktacular Supper

Casco Village Church United Church of Christ, 941 Meadow Road in Casco, will host a "Spooktacular Saturday Night Supper" from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 24. This month's supper will feature Halloweenies, chili, salads, casseroles, bread, beverages and homemade pies and desserts. The cost is $12 for adults and $5 for children ages 8 and under. FMI, call 207-627-4282.

Global Bites

Windham Public Library offers Global Bites for teens every fourth Tuesday of the month. We will have country specific snacks, facts, trivia and more while supplies last. This month's session runs from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 27. Open to all teens in Grades 6 to 12. FMI, send an email to Cassandra at cclull@windhammaine.us.

Chess Club

Chess enthusiasts meet from 10 a.m. to noon every Saturday at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road, Windham. All ages and abilities are welcome. FMI, call 207-892-1908.

Clothing assistance

Cressey Road Christian Church, 81 Cressey Road in Gorham, offers a free clothing closet from 9 a.m. to noon on the first and third Saturdays of every month. Donations are accepted during closet hours. Volunteers are always welcome. FMI, visit www.cresseyrdcc.org

Raymond Pantry

The Raymond Food Pantry is open from 4 to 6 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at the Lake Region Baptist Church, 1273 Roosevelt Trail in Raymond. Donations for the food pantry may be dropped off at the Lake Region Baptist Church. FMI, call Gary Bibeau at 207-655-6594.

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.

Meals on Wheels

The Meals on Wheels program provides up to five meals for homebound participants each week. Volunteers and agency staff deliver meals four days a week. No deliveries are made on Wednesdays. Meals generally arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and are delivered either frozen or preheated based upon request. There is a suggested donation of $3.50 per meal. This service is provided by the Southern Maine Agency on Aging. Call 1-800-400-6325 for more details.

Craft and Bake Sale

The North Sebago United Methodist Church, located at 820 Sebago Road, Route 114 in Sebago is hosting a Craft & Bake Sale with light lunch available on Saturday, Nov. 14 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in becoming a vendor or for more information call Mabel at 207-787-2530.

Eagle REAL ESTATE & Home

The ultimate antidote to social media chaos

By Warren O'Shea
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Warren O'Shea
Owner, O'Shea Builders

In the digital age, when a homeowner faces a leaky roof, wants to knock down a kitchen wall, or dreams of building a cabin from scratch, their first instinct is usually to grab a smartphone. Crowdsourcing advice on Facebook, Nextdoor, or Reddit has become the modern shortcut for home improvement. But looking for construction wisdom in the internet's public square is a lot like asking a crowded room of strangers to diagnose a weird medical symptom – you are going to get a lot of noise, some wild theories, and zero accountability.

Social media algorithms feed on drama and engagement, not building codes. A simple post asking for contractor recommendations can quickly devolve into a chaotic flood of conflicting opinions. Well-meaning neighbors might passionately recommend an unlicensed handyman who "does great work on the cheap," suggest risky DIY shortcuts that completely ignore basic safety, or throw out outdated pricing that has nothing to do with today's real-world costs. If you follow flawed advice from an anonymous comment thread and wind up with a sagging ceiling, a voided manufacturer warranty, or a nasty fine from the code department, those internet strangers won't be there to bail you out. In an industry where mistakes cost thousands of dollars and threaten your physical safety, relying on internet crowdsourcing is a massive gamble that usually ends in major financial heartbreak.

When it comes to your biggest financial asset – your home – the ultimate antidote to social media chaos is vetted, real-world expertise. That is where the Home Builders and Remodelers Association of Maine (HBRAME) steps in to save the day. Think of HBRAME as the ultimate league of extraordinary housing professionals. Affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), this non-profit association acts as a shield for homeowners and a launchpad for local businesses. Every single member pledges to follow a strict Code of Ethics, promising to play by the rules of state building codes, warranty laws, and the Maine Home Construction Contracts Act.

But a house isn't built by a single person in a vacuum. It takes a village of professionals to get a family into a safe, beautiful home. The true magic of HBRAME happens when contractors, sub-contractors, specialty trades, real estate agents, lenders, title companies, and home inspectors all team up under one roof. When these industries collaborate, everybody wins, and everyone's business grows.

If you are a contractor, sub-contractor or specialty trades professional, joining HBRAME gives you instant bragging rights. HBRAME membership tells clients you are legitimate and ethical. Even better, membership pays you back. The association's exclusive Rebates Program puts actual cash back in your pocket for buying the brands and materials you already use. Plus, you get automatic dual membership with the NAHB, unlocking free access to national legal, safety, and business consultants whenever you hit a roadblock.

For real estate agents, HBRAME is the ultimate backstage pass. By rubbing elbows with the state's top builders and developers, you get a first look at new housing developments and upcoming inventory before it ever touches the MLS. You also build a golden rolodex of trustworthy pros. When a home buyer asks you for a renovation recommendation after closing, you can hand over a name confidently, knowing your own reputation is safe.

Lenders and mortgage pros get massive advantages here, too. Building direct relationships with top-tier builders takes the stress and guesswork out of complicated construction loans. Since builders are always looking for sharp lending partners to pre-qualify their buyers, you walk right into a steady stream of solid business leads.

Title companies get a smoother ride, too. When you hang out in a network of code-compliant, ethical professionals, your risk drops through the floor. Say goodbye to the nightmare of unrecorded mechanics' liens, messy permit drama, or contract disputes that stall a closing at the eleventh hour.

Finally, home inspectors get to sharpen their tools. HBRAME's continuous educational programs ensure you are always ahead of the curve on the latest Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC) updates. Instead of playing the "bad guy" on a job site, you get to build mutual respect with local builders, understand modern techniques, and expand your own business reach.

Ultimately, HBRAME replaces internet guesswork with bulletproof skill. It keeps the Maine housing market healthy, safe, and moving forward. If you are ready to ditch the solo grind, build an unbeatable network, and seriously scale your business, head over to www.hbrame.org to submit your application and claim your state and national perks. Don't forget to mention that you heard about HBRAME from yours truly and Maine's best weekly newspaper; The Windham Eagle.

This article was brought to you by Warren O'Shea, the owner of O'Shea Builders LLC, Maine's most award-winning remodeling contractor. He has 35-plus years of residential remodeling experience. He is a certified home inspector and has been featured on HGTV, Food Network, and Maine Cabin Masters. He is a recipient of the Portland Police Department's "Citizen Award," and is a staunch consumer advocate. Warren has, and continues to, co-author articles for nationally distributed trade magazines. <



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Owner, Warren O'Shea is a Certified Home Inspector (ASHI) licensed through the American Society of Home Inspectors (License #15055)

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Eagle

PLEASE NOTE: FOOD AND GAMES FEATURE ALTERNATES WITH MOVIE REVIEW

FOOD AND GAMES

THE WINDHAM EAGLE'S Cooking Corner

Wild Rice Chicken Casserole

This is simple to prepare, includes balanced and healthy ingredients, and is a dish that's perfect for a meal to make ahead of time to reheat or when you are pressed for time after work or school. It's comfort food that's tasty and features a creamy sauce. No matter when you make it, the casserole flavors will taste as good as when it's first served. You can cook it, store it covered in the refrigerator, or just freeze it until you're ready to reheat the leftovers to be served again.

Preparation time is about 20 minutes.

INGREDIENTS

1 small onion (chopped)
1/3 of a cup of butter
1/3 of a cup of all-purpose flour
1 1/2 teaspoons of salt
1/2 teaspoon of pepper
14 1/2 ounces of chicken broth
1 cup of half-and-half cream
2 cups of frozen French-style green beans
4 cups of sliced or cubed cooked chicken
4 cups of cooked wild rice
1 tablespoon of minced parsley
1/3 of a cup of slivered almonds
1 can of Cream of Mushroom soup

INSTRUCTIONS

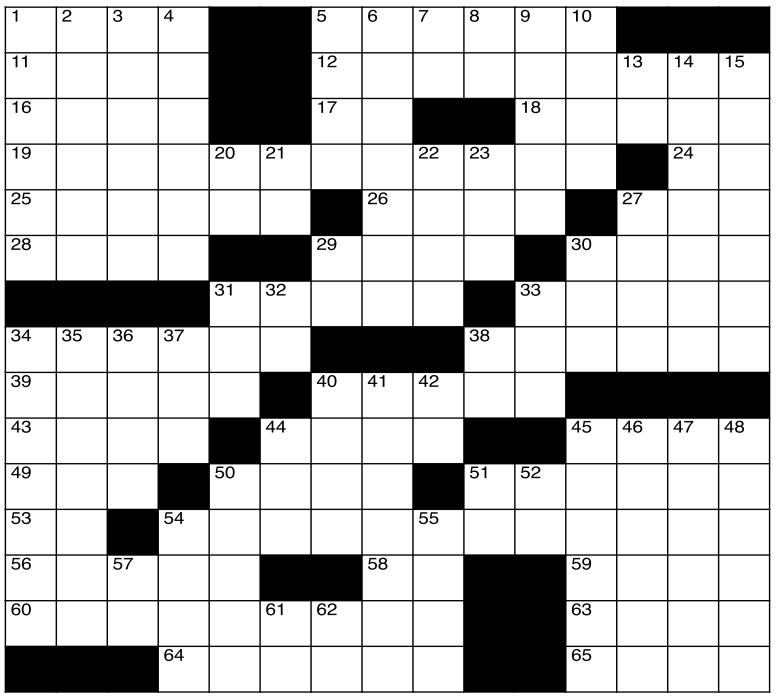
Saute the chopped onion in butter until it is tender in a large saucepan. Stir in the flour, salt and pepper until blended. Gradually stir in the chicken broth and bring to a boil. Boil and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened and bubbly. Stir in the half and half cream, the chicken, the wild rice, the green beans, the Cream of Mushroom soup and parsley and heat through. Transfer to a greased 2-1/2-qt. baking dish. Sprinkle with slivered almonds. Bake uncovered at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until bubbly. If desired, top with additional parsley just before serving.

Makes approx. 8 servings

Cooking Corner proudly sponsored by Mills & Co.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

1. Nocturnal rodent
5. Requesting
11. Give temporarily
12. Frivolousness
16. Military arm
17. "Westworld" actor Harris
18. Persian Gulf port city
19. Air hostesses
24. Partner to "Pa"
25. Percussion instrument
26. Raincoats
27. Lower the light
28. Asian mountain range
29. Every one of two or more
30. Lack of difficulty
31. A public announcement of a proposed marriage
33. Reduces in size
34. Make an impact
38. Serviceman
39. A French river
40. Prehistoric people
43. Messenger ribonucleic acid
44. "Layla" singer Clapton
45. Ancient Greek sophist
49. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
50. "Top Gun: Maverick" actor Powell
51. A way to disentangle
53. Atomic #93
54. Manifesting approval
56. Indigo bush
58. Larry and Curly's pal
59. Off-Broadway theater award
60. Fencers
63. Masses of fish eggs
64. Passerine birds
65. Arrange systematically

CLUES DOWN

1. Colorless part of blood
2. Of a main artery
3. Photog's tool
4. Blues Traveler hit "But __"
5. Grew older
6. Not the leader
7. __ Lang: country singer
8. A driver's license is one
9. Nests of pheasants
10. Antelopes
13. One quintillion bytes
14. Japanese lute
15. A type of cat
20. It cools your home
21. Dorm official
22. Pouches
23. German trigraph
27. Form of Persian
29. __ route
30. Upper body part
31. Bridge building degree
32. Indicates position
33. Political action committee
34. Edible nuts
35. Front part of a quadruped
36. Locate
37. Geological time
38. Of I
40. Northern Utah city
41. They work in the trenches
42. Hammer is one
44. Tall deciduous tree
45. Performers
46. Slang for mistake
47. More open
48. Most slick
50. Provokes
51. Home of the NCAA's Flyers
52. Sodium
54. Large fish of the mackerel family
55. Not one
57. __ and behold
61. Atomic #21
62. "The Great Lakes State"

SUDOKU

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	4	2			8			5
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	6			7		9		

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

		R	O	E		U	L	S	T	E	R	
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SUPPORT Local BUSINESSES

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

Eagle BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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North Windham Veterinary Hospital

The staff at North Windham Veterinary Hospital believe that providing kind and gentle medical care for pets and offering superb and friendly service for clients results in a thriving practice.

Located at 1 Badger Run in Windham, North Windham Veterinary Hospital has been delivering exceptional veterinary care for decades and moved into their 6,000-square-foot facility in 2007. They offer veterinary general practice services including annual exams, vaccines, and bloodwork as well as sick pet exams. The practice also provides surgical services, abdominal and cardiac ultrasounds, x-rays, and dental services.

Featuring competitive pricing and an explanation of why each service is being provided, they perform an array of services including spay and neuters, mass removals, biopsies and everything from a new pet's first checkup through to their golden years. Visitors will find a spacious reception area; six examination rooms; an intensive care unit; an isolation ward; an operating room; a dentistry suite; a radiography room; and separate canine and feline wards.

"We genuinely care about your pets, and we have a building full of compassionate and loving staff members with diverse veterinary backgrounds that will only offer the best possible care for your pets," said Sarah LaFore, Practice Manager. "We offer caring and compassionate doctors that take the time to understand and explain the situation with the pet. We are also able to see exotics, such as reptiles and birds, as well as pocket pets like rabbits and hamsters."

She said the most challenging aspect of what the staff of North Windham Veterinary Hospital does is to ensure that every client who walks through their door feels like they have been listened to and heard.

"We try in every instance to explain what we are doing and why we are suggesting the diagnostics service be performed," LaFore said. "We want our clients to know that we know times are tough financially, and we will work to provide the best care within each budget. In the event we receive a review that is less than 5 stars, we always respond and want to understand what we could be doing better. We believe it takes a strong team to uphold the gold standard for veterinary medicine."

Hours are convenient and open from 7:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. with new patients always welcome.

According to LaFore, what makes North Windham Veterinary Hospital stand out from competitors is the level of expertise, professionalism, and compassion shown by staff members, and working together as a team.

"Our wellness examinations provide an excellent opportunity for us to conduct a thorough physical examination and develop a health profile for your pet. This information will help us identify medical problems and any other issues that can affect your pet's health and quality of life," she said. "We are so good with kittens and puppies and exceptional at end-of-life care."

North Windham Veterinary Hospital also offers the helpful free Pawlicy Advisory service to assist clients in finding a pet insurance policy based upon a pet's age, location, and breed and to compare top pet insurance brands instantly.

Reviews posted online continue to be outstanding.

"*We just moved to the area, and this was the best veterinary clinic we have ever been to. So happy with our choice!*" ~ Mary D.

"*Everyone at the North Windham vet loves my dogs and cat seemingly as much as I do. Very professional. Everything is so clean and you never feel too close to another family. Feel great going there and dogs like it too!*" ~ Karen L.

"*I have been using this Veterinary Center for the past 25 years with all of my cats. I can honestly say they are the best around, so caring, transparent about the cost and gives you options based on cost, honest caregivers. We recently had to euthanize our cat, and the experience was so good, peaceful, and they actually sent me a sympathy card with handwritten personalized messages from the vet as well as all of the vet techs – way above and beyond.*" ~ Angela L.

To learn more about North Windham Veterinary Hospital or to make an appointment, visit nwindhamvet.com or call 207-892-8953. Find them on Facebook and Instagram under northwindhamvet.

To see up close what they do, meet the staff, and take a tour of their facility stop by their Open House on Monday, Oct. 19 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. They will also have vendors, pet raffle prizes, goodie bags and a pet costume contest and photo ops. <

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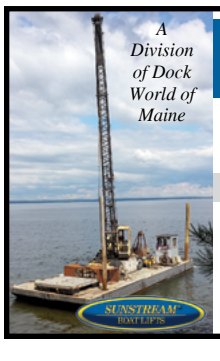
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ANSWER: Starting

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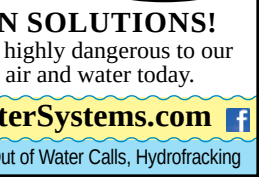
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