THE WINDHAM EAGLE

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# Windham High School's production of 'The Music Man' to open next week

By Erin Rose
STAFF WRITER

An upcoming musical will take audiences on a journey to small-town Iowa in 1912 to witness the redemption of a con artist thanks to the power of love. Students from Windham High School will present "The Music Man," with performances at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and Nov. 14 and again Nov. 20 and 21, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15 and Nov. 22.

"The Music Man' is about a small town in Iowa, which is very uptight and set in their ways," explained Rob Juergens, the show's director. This will be Juergens' 18th musical for the school, and his 25th year of working on shows with students. "A traveling salesman comes through town and decides he's going to sell the town on the idea of having a boys' band. Of course, he's a con man, so it's all to make himself richer and then skip out of town."

The salesman, Harold Hill, soon finds himself entangled in small town life, falling in love, and unable to plot against the people he has come to care for.

"He becomes involved in the day-to-day happenings of the town and, in essence, becomes stuck and cannot escape," Juergens said. "He's become involved in the town and romantically involved with the librarian."



The student cast of 'The Music Man' rehearses at Windham High School's Performing Arts Center in advance of the performances of the legendary musical at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, Nov. 13 and Nov. 14, and again Nov. 20 and 21, and at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 15 and Nov. 22. COURTESY PHOTO

Maddy Sabine, a WHS junior who will play the librarian Marian Paroo in the production, says she loves her character and her growth as the story continues.

"She is a confident and independent woman who grows so much throughout the show," she said. "Marion starts off sheltered but becomes a more outgoing person when introduced to Harold."

The show was chosen as it met several criteria, Juergens said, including having a cast large enough to support the school's talent and being an essential part of a musical theater education.

"One of the big criteria for choosing musicals for a high school is the number of parts it has that allows for our ever-expanding talent to express itself," Juergens said, explaining that the cast is 35 students. "So, the show has a good number of principals across the board, not only singing parts but dancing and acting, so that's one of the

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# New coordinator leads Age Friendly Windham

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Age Friendly Windham may have a new coordinator, but its mission of working to help members in the community to live and age in place while maintaining the independence of the town's residents and helping them thrive remains strong.

Chantel Huckins was appointed Age Friendly Windham's program coordinator in July, succeeding Erica Bell-Watkins in that role. Working with Age Friendly participants is not new for Huckins as she managed the program's transportation program for the past two years.

"As the Age Friendly Windham Program Coordinator, I help connect older adults and caregivers with resources and services that support healthy, independent living," Huckins said. "My responsibilities include coordinating community programs, overseeing transportation services, fostering partnerships with local organizations, supporting outreach efforts, assisting volunteers, and developing initiatives that allow residents to age in place, maintain their independence, and remain active members of the community."

She said one of Age Friendly Windham's most impactful programs is its transportation service, which provides older adults with rides to medical appointments, social programs, and shopping destinations in North Windham. According to Huckins, during the past year, the program provided 1,927 rides, helping residents access essential services, maintain social connections, and continue living independently.

"Last month, the program was awarded a grant from Lifelong Maine to help reimburse volunteer drivers for fuel expenses," Huckins said. "This funding will support the continued growth and sustainability of the transportation program, ensuring that older adults in our community can remain connected to the services and activities they depend on."

Originally from Waterford, Maine, Huckins earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Bates College and then obtained a master's degree from Boston University where she studied Anatomy and Physiology. She also holds certifications in Athletic Training, Orthopaedic Technology, and as a Personal Support Specialist.

"I spent several years working in healthcare before transitioning four years ago to supporting programs with Windham Parks and Recreation and, later, Age Friendly Windham," she said. "Through the experience of managing Age Friendly Windham's transportation program, I developed a deep appreciation for the connections I was able to build with community members and the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in people's daily lives. Those relationships and the organization's mission inspired me to become more involved."



Chantel Huckins has been appointed as Age Friendly Windham's program coordinator and helps connect older adults and caregivers with resources and services that support healthy, independent living. Huckins has managed the Age Friendly transportation program for the past two years. SUBMITTED PHOTO

As the Age Friendly Windham program coordinator, Huckins said that she wants to continue building strong partnerships throughout the community and work collaboratively on new initiatives.

"There are so many resources that can be shared and utilized in creative ways to benefit more people," she said. "A great example is the book and food mobile that was developed through a partnership between the Windham Public Library, Windham Parks and Recreation, the Windham Food Pantry, RSU 14, and Age Friendly Windham. By working together, these organizations were able to provide fresh fruits, vegetables, and books to residents throughout Windham. It was a tremendously successful initiative, and a perfect example of what can be accomplished when community partners combine their efforts to meet local needs."

Huckins said she thinks the biggest misconception that many people have about Age Friendly Windham is they simply don't know everything Age Friendly Windham does.

"Our mission is to help people age in place, maintain their independence, and thrive in the community," she said. "We focus on enhancing the quality of life for older adults through community activities and programs, disaster preparedness initiatives, connections to resources and

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# INSIGHT

## An inseparable bond

For many Americans, Veterans Day is a day when groups of old guys march around carrying the flag or cash in a promotional card for a free haircut or a dinner entrée at their favorite restaurant.

Some might even post photos of themselves on social media while trying to fit into their old military uniform from 25 years ago. Others attend a gathering of veterans and sit around telling old war stories.

For the first 23 years of my life, I observed such behavior from afar and then that all changed on June 10, 1977, when I raised my right hand and pledged that I would support and defend the U.S. Constitution as a new member of the United States Air Force.

My military journey took me from Albuquerque, New Mexico to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas to Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas. From there I went on to Maurice Rose Army Air Field near Bonames, West Germany, The Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and finally to Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona.

At each one of those stops, I became close friends with others serving in my unit and some of those friendships endure to this very day.

I suppose that if you ask anyone who served in the military, they'll tell you that it was the people that you served with that helped to make the work different from nearly every other occupation. Each member of the units I was assigned to or on the air bases I was stationed at raised their right hand like I did and affirmed that they were willing to put their lives on the line to defend this nation.

From basic training all along the way as I rose up through the ranks in the Air Force, there was a sense of camaraderie and a realization that at any given time we could all be sent into harm's way and yet, every military member I knew was willing to make that sacrifice to defend those back home.

Once you experience that, it kind of forms an inseparable bond between friends that survives anything thrown your way like hostile weather, sudden transfers to new duty locations, or helping others in your unit who need assistance.

I can recall our unit being sent on a military exercise in the middle of winter in Germany. We pitched tents on thick sheets of ice in sub-zero temperatures and set up diesel stoves to try and keep warm. For meals while on that excursion we ate C-Rations, canned food left over from the Viet Nam war. Those who got to pick what meal they wanted were considered lucky and usually selected pork and beans or spaghetti and meatballs instead of tuna noodle casserole. C-Rations also included a stale cracker, a decade-old candy bar, an instant coffee packet, a four-pack of old Winston cigarettes and a P-38 can opener tool to open the C-Ration cans.

It always felt like I had just arrived at my new unit and just made good friends when one of us was transferred elsewhere. I lost touch with my buddy Airman First Class James Smith from Los Angeles, California when he was reassigned stateside from Germany. I never saw him again after 1979 and with as many James Smiths as there are in Los Angeles, I decided I probably never will.

Then there was the time we were ordered to take a marksmanship test, and no one could leave until everyone passed the M-16 rifle test. Because of my poor eyesight, I tried and failed three times, scoring less than 30 each time out of 100 shots at the target. With darkness nearing, on my fourth try, two Air Force captains stepped forward and requested to shoot on each side of me to boost my confidence. It worked because I somehow achieved the impossible and scored 89 out of 100, while both of those officers, who had both scored 95 or greater earlier on the test, suddenly hit less than 40 each while trying to inspire my confidence.

Those are memories I can't ever forget and gave me a greater understanding of the reasons that people chose to join the military. You see, I believe each American generation possesses individuals willing to defend America and who cherish the possibilities that this nation holds for all of us.

For me, Veterans Day isn't just about thanking those who have worn the uniform of the United States, it's understanding that not everyone is cut out for that job and it takes all kinds of people to ensure America's continued freedom, both in and out of uniform. Many step forward every day to volunteer as school crossing guards, visit elderly neighbors, donate to a food drive or simply hold a door for a total stranger.

Now as a military veteran myself, I am grateful that Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans, those still with us or who have made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of future generations.

More than anything, Veterans Day to me has come to symbolize the choices each veteran made in raising their right hand and pledging to support and defend the Constitution. < *~ Ed Pierce*




**NOVEMBER 6**

**1789 – Rev. John Carroll is appointed by Pope Pius VI as first Catholic bishop in the U.S.**

**1844 – The Dominican Republic gains independence from Spain.**

**1860 – Abraham Lincoln of Illinois is elected as the 16th President of the United States.**

**1917 – New York State adopts a constitutional amendment giving women the right to vote in state elections.**

**1936 – RCA unveils its first TV set for commercial sales.**

**1944 – Plutonium is first produced at the Hanford Atomic Facility in Washington state and is used in the Fat Man Atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki, Japan.**

**1947 – Meet The Press makes its television debut on NBC-TV.**

**1971 – The U.S. Atomic Energy Commission tests the largest U.S. underground hydrogen bomb on Amchita Island in the Aleutian Islands.**

**1986 – U.S. President Ronald Reagan signs a landmark immigration reform bill.**

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# ON THE SPOT

## If a natural disaster was inevitable, which type would you prefer?

**"I love a good blizzard! An excuse to surround myself with family, hunker down, and wait! Seriously-prep is key."** – Denise Buhelt Dyer

**"Avalanche, the mountains aren't that tall here."** – Julie Mallett

**"Having been through seven major hurricanes in Florida, I'll take a blizzard any day over those."** – Ed Pierce

**"Around here I don't believe a mud slide wouldn't do much damage."** – Tommy Matthews

**"Massive cold weather dry snow blizzard."** – Brian Butler

**"Earthquakes, landslides and volcanic eruptions. Those don't scare me much."** – Mitchell Robinson

**"My house is way up on high a hill, so if there was a flood, we'd be OK."** – Dean Smalley

**"Hurricanes. If one got this far north it probably would lose a lot of punch by the time it reaches Maine."** – David D. McCoombs

**"A major heat wave wouldn't bother me. I have A/C."** – Anne Glotchshuk

**"A tsunami – Raymond is too far inland for those."** – Benjamin Lee

**"Every winter we're used to getting snow here. So, I guess a blizzard would be my answer."** – Oscar F. Kellner

**"Prefer a snowstorm. We live in a densely wooded area so a wildfire breaking out truly frightens me."** – Chris Macklin

**"Torrential rainfall."** – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

**"A drought might be the least harmful disaster here unless you're a farmer."** – Louise Snider

**"Sinkholes as we never seem to get a lot of them in Maine."** – Isabella Mongon

**"Having lived in California I am accustomed to earthquakes and aftershocks."** – Lois Fuller

Eagle NEWS

# Many incumbents fall in general election races

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

It was not politics as usual in the 2026 general election as incumbents were ousted in Windham and Raymond and referendums proposed by the Windham Town Council were defeated.

Republican State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw, who had served in the Maine House for two terms, lost by 139 votes to Democrat Bradley Youngs for the right to represent part of Windham in the House District 106 race. Youngs, a former golf professional, restaurant manager, stay-at-home father, received 2,637 votes to Bagshaw's 2,498.

Democrat Joseph Campbell also won the Maine House District 107 seat representing part of Windham by defeating incumbent Republican Mark Cooper. Campbell, a substitute teacher, received 2,631 votes to Cooper's 2,318.

In Raymond, Democrat Abigail Geer leads incumbent Republican Rolf Olsen by 30 votes with 98.2 percent of voting reported for the House District 86 seat, representing Raymond, Casco, Frye Island, and Poland. Geer, a community organizer, received 2,536 votes to Olsen's 2,506. If that margin holds, Olsen could request a formal recount.

For State Senate District 26, representing Windham, Raymond, Casco, Frye Island and part of Westbrook, incumbent Democrat Tim Nangle won a third term defeating Republican challenger Kenneth Cianchette. Nangle, an IT Help Desk lead, received 11,307 votes to Cianchette's 7,876.

In a statement to the press, Nangle said he was ready to get back to work in Augusta on behalf of his constituents.

"I'm honored that the people of Senate District 26 are once again trusting me to fight for them in Augusta," Nangle said. "I'm ready to get back to work to lower costs for Maine's working families and seniors, defend our rights and freedoms and build a strong future for the state we all love."

State legislators will be sworn in on Dec. 2 with the 133rd Maine Legislature convening in Augusta on Jan. 8, 2027.

The top two recipients receiving the most votes out of four candidates were elected to RSU 14 Board of Director positions representing Windham for three-year terms. Winning re-election to the RSU 14 Board was incumbent Marge Govoni, who received 3,769 votes. Also winning a RSU 14 Board position was Megan Potter, a Case Manager Lead, who received 3,617 votes. Incumbent Joseph Kellner was third with 3,266 votes and Adam Zajac was fourth with 3,223 votes.

Two unopposed candidates were elected for three-year terms to serve on the Windham Town Council. Mark Cobb, a business owner, and incumbent Mark Morrison, a financial advisor, will be sworn in by Windham Town Clerk Anthony Blasi. Morrison received 7,068 votes to represent Windham's East District on the council. Cobb received 7,629 votes to serve in an at-large position on the council.

Both Windham Town Council and RSU 14 Board of Directors positions are non-partisan.

In Cumberland County races, incumbent sheriff Kevin Joyce was unopposed for re-election as was Probate Judge Paul Aranson and both will continue to serve in those roles following the election.

With about 89.2 percent of precincts reporting, incumbent Cumberland County District Attorney Jacqueline Sartoris was leading Stephanie Anderson by more than 36,000 votes and appears to have won re-election for a second term.

In Windham, three referendum measures were rejected by voters.

The first referendum would have modified the Windham Town Charter to scrap the annual town meeting held every June on a Saturday where the municipal budget is discussed and voted on by residents. It would have changed municipal budget approval to a public vote held on Maine Primary Day on the second Tuesday in June coinciding with the annual RSU 14 school budget voting. Voters defeated the proposal with 5,637 voting no and 3,821 voting yes.

The second referendum would have raised the threshold requiring voter approval for offbudget spending from $25,000 to $500,000. Windham Town Councilors said this measure would give the council flexibility in presenting either a single upordown budget vote or departmental line items. They said raising the threshold requiring voter approval for offbudget spending would have allowed the council to approve purchases up to a $500,000 limit without going to a town-wide vote for approval. Councilors said this measure is currently being used

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# VFW's Veterans Day observance nearing in Windham

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

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

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

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




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

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

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

VFW Post 10643 Commander Jeff Cook of Windham is a retired Navy Seal and will serve as the Master of Ceremonies for this year's Veterans Day event at the Windham Veterans Center.

Cook was 40 years old when he first went to serve in Afghanistan.

"I was part of the group that was sent to build the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan which was the epicenter of the war against the Tailban and al-Queda for 20 years," he said. "During this time, many military service young men and women tasked with this job, died. It is important that we remember them for their sacrifice."

The Veterans Day observance will include patriotic songs and Windham Boy Scout Troop 805 will assist with seating and the Presentation of the Colors. Members of Windham's state delegation and the Windham Town Council will attend.

Cook will announce the winners of this year's VFW-sponsored essay competitions who will read their essays for the audience in attendance for the Veterans Day observance. The theme of this year's Patriot's Pen contest for students in grades 6 to 8 and for the Voice of Democracy contest for students in grades 9 to 12 is "What a Veteran Taught Me About America."

Veterans Day is a federal holiday recognized each November to celebrate and honor all U.S. veterans, those who are deceased or living. No matter what day of the week, Veterans Day always falls on November 11 each year and is recognized as a federal holiday nationally.

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

# DR. MASON HUNTER CLINE, 44



Dr. Mason Hunter Cline, 44, of Glorieta, New Mexico died on September 4, 2026. He was a beloved father, son, brother, husband, and friend. Mason was born on September 26, 1981, in Bangor, Maine, the son of Michael and Denise Cline. He grew up with his three sisters on Raymond Cape Road—just a stone's throw from Sebago Lake, where he learned to cut, split, and stack firewood at a young age and often tagged along when his forester father cruised timber or tapped sugar maples. His childhood was a lively one, encompassing a diversity of escapades in the Maine mountains, lakes, and forests. At home, he was fascinated by dinosaurs, traded baseball cards, played trumpet, ran track and field, and loved to whip up a batch of pancakes for the entire family on Saturday mornings. He attended Raymond Elementary School and later Windham High School, graduating in 2000. Following in his father's and elder sister's footsteps, he studied biology in undergraduate school, which he conducted at the University of New Hampshire.

After graduating in 2004, he spent several years touring the U.S. while working as a field technician on several projects investigating bird ecology and conservation. This work took him to Hawaii, South Carolina, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oregon, California, and New Hampshire, where he joined Dr. Allan Strong's avian ecology lab at the University of Vermont in 2007 to pursue a Master of Science. After graduating from UVM in 2009, he built on his lifelong love for birds and learning through a PhD program with Dr. Robert Cooper at the University of Georgia. He spent the next six summers researching Black-throated Blue Warblers in the North Carolina mountains, a place dear to his heart.

Following graduation from UGA, Mason became the Bird Program Manager for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. In that role, he was responsible for managing the state's migratory gamebird populations for the entire state and represented the agency on the Central Flyway Council. During his ten years with the Department, he most relished his time in the field—watching prairie chickens dance in the early-morning light or recapturing a duck or crane that had been banded elsewhere. He secretly loved warblers the most, and every May he looked forward to his time on the Rio Chama Wildlife Management Area banding Virginia's Warblers. Mason was an intelligent, trusted, and reliable coworker and friend, and he will be missed by the many people he worked with at the Department and across the flyway.

Mason had a remarkable knack for understanding how things worked. He loved finding something old and bringing it back to life, and was particularly skilled at restoring vintage cars, guitars, and recently, motorcycles. He believed deeply in the value of hard work and that putting things back together—fixing what was broken, making something work again, and preserving it for the future—was his way of making the world a better place. That same passion extended to his work in taxidermy, both as a tribute to the animal's beauty and as a way for others to learn from them. Mason approached life with a strong, independent, can-do attitude and got great satisfaction from working with his hands. This outlook led him to develop skills well beyond his academic training, from woodworking and carpentry to automotive mechanics, tree felling, and home renovation.

In 2023, Mason and his wife, Joanna, welcomed their son Lindal. Lindal's name was inspired by a caretaker that lived on Santa Cruz Island where Mason worked for the Smithsonian Institute, a place and time in his life that he greatly treasured. Lindal adored Mason and inherited his love for all automotive things. By age two, he was already picking the black-and-white repair manual off the shelf for his Dada to read to him.

Having played throughout his childhood, Mason was an avid baseball fan and enjoyed attending the local Santa Fe Fuego and Albuquerque Isotopes games. He was an excellent snowboarder, teaching lessons in his youth and continuing to ride into adulthood. Mason had a love of music and was a musician all his life. While he was an especially talented guitarist, he also played the banjo, accordion, and trumpet. He also loved traveling to new places, seeing other cultures, and exploring novel ecosystems, taking many trips birding in tropical locations over the years. Mason was an angler throughout his life and relished time spent on the water, pond fishing in his youth, fly fishing streams and rivers and, most recently, saltwater fishing. He was lucky enough to land a Blue Marlin while visiting Saint John and was especially fond of his trip with Joanna to the US Virgin Islands; it was the only place he said he'd ever go twice. Eager for any way to connect with birds and the natural world, he hunted various migratory birds and other game species. Mason was happiest spending time outside—be it birding, hiking, angling, hunting, splitting firewood, or paddling.

Mason was a strong, dependable pillar for his family and a dedicated father, brother, and son. With a sharp wit and sense of humor, he had a way of bringing laughter and levity to those around him in their times of need. Never one to take the easy way out, he was guided by an unwavering moral compass and met life's difficult moments with tenacity and determination. While he lived many places throughout his life, home was with his family and wherever the migratory birds took him. His early departure from this world leaves a void that will never be filled and he will be greatly missed.

Mason is survived by his son, Lindal Cline; his wife, Joanna Hatt; his mother, Denise Cline; his sister, Dr. Brittany Cline and husband, Jereme Frank, and their sons, Oliver and Leif of Orono, ME; his sister, Berkley Sadana and husband, Sunpreet Sadana, and their children, Jade and Ian of Durham, NH; his sister, Logan Maxwell and husband, Cooper Maxwell of Winthrop, WA; and his beloved cousins, uncles, and aunts in Colorado, Ohio, and Kentucky. Mason was predeceased by his father, Dr. Michael Cline, and maintained a special relationship with his dad's brother, Dr. Gary Cline.

A gathering to celebrate Mason's life will be held at the Henderson Pavilion at Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe on November 14th at 10:30 AM. ***In lieu of cut flowers, please consider planting his favorite flower, poppies, or enjoying a quiet moment outside in his memory.***

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# Windham man among 12 finalists vying for $1 million prize

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

Kaullen Winter of Windham is one of just 12 nationwide finalists set to compete in the "Million Dollar Affordability Showdown" in Georgia and a chance to walk away with a $1 million prize.

Winter, 32, works for Cintas in Westbrook as a maintenance technician and has worked as a maintenance technician for the past 13 years. He first heard about the contest while online.

"I found the program via an ad on Instagram I believe," he said. "There was a commercial or reel that was talking about the affordability crisis and if we thought we knew why everything is so expensive. All I had to do was take a quiz and I would be entered in a sweepstakes drawing to compete in Atlanta for the grand prize of $1 million."

The "Million Dollar Affordability Showdown" is held in Atlanta, Georgia and is the culmination of "The Million Dollar Question," a national initiative that challenged Americans on their knowledge of economics, affordability and the issues affecting everyday life.



**Kaullen Winter of Windham, right, is one of 12 nationwide finalists competing in Atlanta, Georgia in the 'Million Dollar Affordability Showdown' and hopes to win a $1 million prize for his wife, Kassaundra, and their family.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

As just one contestant out of hundreds of thousands of participants from across the country, Winter made it to the final 12 contestants and will be flown to Atlanta to compete in the live competition. This summer, he answered questions at the "Million Dollar Question Official Site" covering a range of affordability topics like housing, wages, healthcare, groceries, childcare, and government spending.

The "Million Dollar Affordability Showdown" contest is sponsored by The Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) which launched a national campaign asking Americans a question they're already asking themselves: "What's Behind the Affordability Crisis?"

The questions that were posed in the online quiz this summer were designed to enable respondents to understand the economic forces causing America's affordability problems such as inflation, tariffs, indebtedness and soaring

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*Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel*

## ROBERT "BOB" BLAIR STULTS

**September 13, 1958 – October 17, 2026**



Robert "Bob" Blair Stults, 68, of Raymond, Maine, passed away peacefully on October 17, 2026, following a brief illness, surrounded by his family.

Bob was born on September 13, 1958, in Portland, Maine, to Everett and Patricia Stults. He graduated from Windham High School and spent most of his career as a finishing carpenter. He was known for his beautiful, detailed craftsmanship and took great pride in his work. He especially enjoyed making furniture for family members, creating pieces that would be treasured for years to come.

Bob married Sybille on July 19, 1997, and together they celebrated 29 years of marriage this year.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Sybille; his daughter, Stephanie; his stepsons, Sean and his wife, Rebecca; Jeremy and his wife, Julie; Jeffrey and his wife, Aimee; and Seth and his wife, Kimberly. He also leaves behind eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Bob is also survived by his brothers, Bill and his wife, Andrea, and Shep and his wife, Jenn; his sisters, Sue and her husband, Carl, Kate and her husband, Bruce, and Lee and Lynn; as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Patricia Stults.

Memorial services were held at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at Dolby, Blais & Segee 434 River Road South Windham, ME 04082.

*In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that memorial contributions be made to the Animal Refuge League of Greater Portland.*


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# Cub Scout Pack 805 organizes 'Fill the Boat' food drive

By Ed Pierce
STAFF WRITER

The father of scouting, Robert Baden-Powell once wrote that a scout's duty is to be useful and to help others. With that in mind, Windham Cub Scout Pack 805 will be conducting a food drive at the Shaw's Supermarket in Windham to assist those in need.

From 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, Cub Scouts Pack 805 will be leading a food drive at Shaws, located at 770 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. The initiative is known as "Scouting for Food" and every item collected will benefit the Windham Food Pantry and the St. Ann's Episcopal Church Essentials Pantry.

This year's Scouting for Food theme is "Fill the Boat," with a boat on hand to hold all donations prior to delivery.

Josh Smeltzer of Cub Scouts Pack 805 says participating in the food drive instills character, citizenship, personal fitness and leadership in young scouts.

"One way Pack 805 does this is through teaching kids how to not only respect and safely enjoy the outdoors but also respect and give back to their country and their community through projects like Scouting for Food," Smeltzer said. "The aims of Cub Scouts Pack 805 are character, citizenship, personal fitness, and leadership. One way Pack 805 does this is through teaching kids how to not only respect and safely enjoy the outdoors but also respect and give back to their country and their community through projects like Scouting for Food."

He said that joining the Cub Scouts is the first step in a journey to become a responsible citizen who cares about their neighbors and the community.

Smeltzer said 2026 marks the 41st anniversary of the national Scouting for Food program. It was launched in 1981 as an Eagle Scout Project by Christopher DuBois of Boy Scout Troop 643 in St. Ann, Missouri, and the program was officially implemented as a council-wide project of the Boy Scouts of America, Great Saint Louis Area Council, in 1985.

In 1988, Boy Scouts of America (now Scouting America) adopted the program, rolling it out nationwide, Smeltzer said.

Both the Windham Food Pantry and St. Ann's are in need of canned vegetables and meats, fresh fruit and vegetables, pancake, cookie and muffin mixes, pasta and rice, prepared meals like Hamburger Helper, cold and hot cereal, peanut butter, jelly, and bottled water and juices, he said.




"Thank you for your help this giving season," Smeltzer said.

Cash donations and gift cards will also be accepted during the Nov. 14 food drive at Shaws.

For more information about Windham Cub Scout Pack 805, send an email to scoutpack805me@gmail.com or visit www.beascout.org. <

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# Local sculptor finds connection and creativity in granite

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

For sculptor Isabel Catherine Kelley, granite is more than a hard stone. It is a material that allows her to explore emotions, relationships and the connections people share, one carefully carved piece at a time.

Kelley has spent more than a decade developing her craft, transforming granite into sculptures that reflect her interest in duality and the ways people connect with one another. A New England native, Kelley works out of her garage studio in Windham, where she creates her granite sculptures.

Her interest in sculpture began in high school, when she started working with clay. She later attended the Maine College of Art, where she experimented with plaster, building forms only to take them apart again. That attraction to removing material eventually led her to stone.

A turning point came when she received an internship with the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium, where she spent a summer working alongside international artists.

"That was the summer where I figured out that I loved working with granite," Kelley said.

She has continued working with the material ever since, drawn to its physical demands and the hands-on nature of carving. As a New England native, she also appreciates that granite is a familiar part of the landscape in the region.

Her creative process varies depending on the sculpture. Sometimes, she begins with a detailed drawing, often using exaggerated colors. She may create a drawing years before turning the idea into a finished piece. Other times, she begins with a piece of granite and carves directly into it, allowing the work to develop as she goes. Much of her inspiration comes from emotional connections with other people.

Kelley said she has increasingly recognized themes of duality throughout her work, including the feeling of being divided between different thoughts and the search for common ground. Her sculptures often explore the idea that, even when the world seems divided, there can still be a meeting point between people.

Working with granite requires patience, planning and specialized equipment. Kelley creates her sculptures in her garage and has a small gantry crane capable of lifting a ton. Moving larger pieces around her yard, however, can require renting a truck or finding people to help. The carbide-steel tools and diamond bits she uses in the process can also be expensive. Still, Kelley embraces the challenges.



**Windham sculptor Isabel Catherine Kelley works with granite to create sculptures exploring human connection, emotion and the experiences that shape her life.** COURTESY PHOTO

"I like the challenge of working with granite and having to think a few steps ahead of the process," she said.

Recently, she has been exploring ways to work with multiple pieces of granite rather than a single block. One example is a sculpture that has been installed outside the Ellsworth Public Library along its Riverwalk Trail. The piece combines different colors and grains of granite, with Kelley working to make the separate pieces appear seamless, as though they were one.

She is also developing a sculpture that draws on her own life experiences. The work begins with a butterfly form that she hopes to transform into an exaggerated, shield-like shape. She plans to engrave its surface with small scenes and stories reflecting her childhood, girlhood and motherhood.

The project has taken on additional significance since she became a mother to a 2-year-old, a change that has affected both her life and the time she can devote to her art.

see SCULPTOR Page 10

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SCULPTOR Cont. from page 8

Beyond the sculptures themselves, Kelley said that one of the most rewarding parts of her career has been the community she has found through stoneworking. She has been involved with the Maine Stoneworkers Guild for more than 10 years and currently serves as its chair. The organization brings together masons and artists across the state who share an interest in working with stone.

Kelley began working seriously with granite around 2011, and the relationships she has built through the community have remained an important part of her artistic journey. She hopes more people will consider trying granite sculpture themselves, saying that while the work requires particular tools, it is not as impossible as it might appear.

Next summer, Kelley plans to participate in a two-week sculpture symposium with seven other artists at the Boothbay Region Land Trust. Visitors will be able to watch artists transform raw granite blocks into finished sculptures, with the event concluding in an auction benefiting the land trust.

For those interested in seeing her work, Kelley has public sculptures at the Newagen Inn in Southport, outside the Ellsworth Public Library, at Riverfront Park in Hallowell and at the Andres Institute of Art in Brookline, New Hampshire.

She also shares her work on Instagram under the handle @callmeickshmael. Although she does not have an immediate project planned for Windham, Kelley said she would welcome the opportunity to create something for the community.

For an artist who finds meaning in the connections between people, that possibility offers another chance to turn a solid piece of granite into something that brings people together. <

# Best Buddies program to conduct Thanksgiving 'Turkey Trot' fundraiser

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Last year, Windham High School started their section of the Best Buddies program which pairs individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities with a peer buddy without a disability to help foster genuine friendships, reduce social isolation, and promote inclusion. The program will hold a two-mile walk, run or relay fundraiser, the Turkey Trot, on Thanksgiving morning, Thursday, Nov. 26 at Windham High School's stadium and the course will take participants around the campus.

Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. on Thanksgiving Day with the race starting at 8 a.m.

"I have always wanted to participate in a Thanksgiving morning Turkey Trot, and I thought this would be a great way to bring our town together while supporting a cause that means so much to me," said event organizer and Windham senior Bailey Ward. "Our goal is to bring the community together for a morning of fun, friendship, and inclusion while raising awareness and funds for Windham High School's Best Buddies program."

The money raised will directly support the growth of the Windham Best Buddies chapter and allow us to provide more opportunities for our members. It will help them purchase supplies for meetings and activities ... that encourage students to connect and build friendships.

The Turkey Trot will not just be a race. There will be raffles featuring gift card baskets and other fun prizes, donation opportunities, face painting, activities for children and adults, and free food and beverages at the stadium. The hope is that people will stay, connect with others, and enjoy the morning even if they are not participating in the race.

When Ward began the Best Buddies program at WHS last year, it was an immediate success and this year the membership has more than doubled. This shows how much interest there is in building a more inclusive school community.

During our meetings, it is incredible to see how excited our members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) are to connect with other students their age, participate in activities, and develop friendships," said Ward. "At the same time, the other students genuinely enjoy coming to meetings and getting to know their buddies. Everyone has the opportunity to learn from one another. We have also started seeing these connections extend beyond our meetings, whether it is students interacting in the hallways or sitting together at

see TROT Page 11

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TROT Cont. from page 10

lunch. Those moments are especially meaningful because they show that inclusion is becoming part of everyday life at our school. I have also seen a significant increase in participation in Unified Sports, which has been another exciting development."

Whether you live in Windham or outside of the community, all are welcome. Registration is $30 a person with a discounted rate of $20 for Windham students. If you register by Nov. 11 a shirt will be included in the fee. Children 8 and under can participate for free. Payment can be made through the online registration link or at the race. They welcome cash, checks, and online payments.

The event has been posted on Facebook and the Windham community board, and registration information has also been sent to parents throughout RSU 14. You can view the Google Form through the Best Buddies Instagram page, @windhambestbuddiess.

"I think this helps to make the community more aware of this program, its impact, and provides an opportunity for more people to help support the program," said Peter Small, Assistant to the Race Coordinator. "And one of the biggest missions of this run is to bring community together. The opportunities, initiated by students, have provided experiences that students might otherwise not have. Being a part of this group and supporting this group has an immediate impact on the experiences of all students involved."

Everyone is welcome to run, cheer, participate in activities and support Windham's Best Buddies program.

If anyone has questions you can reach out to Ward at bdward2027@rsu14.org

"Along with awareness, the run has the opportunity to bring the community together to start the Thanksgiving holiday," said Small. "I am excited to have the town of Windham and people from neighboring communities to come together to start the day and to support an amazing cause." <

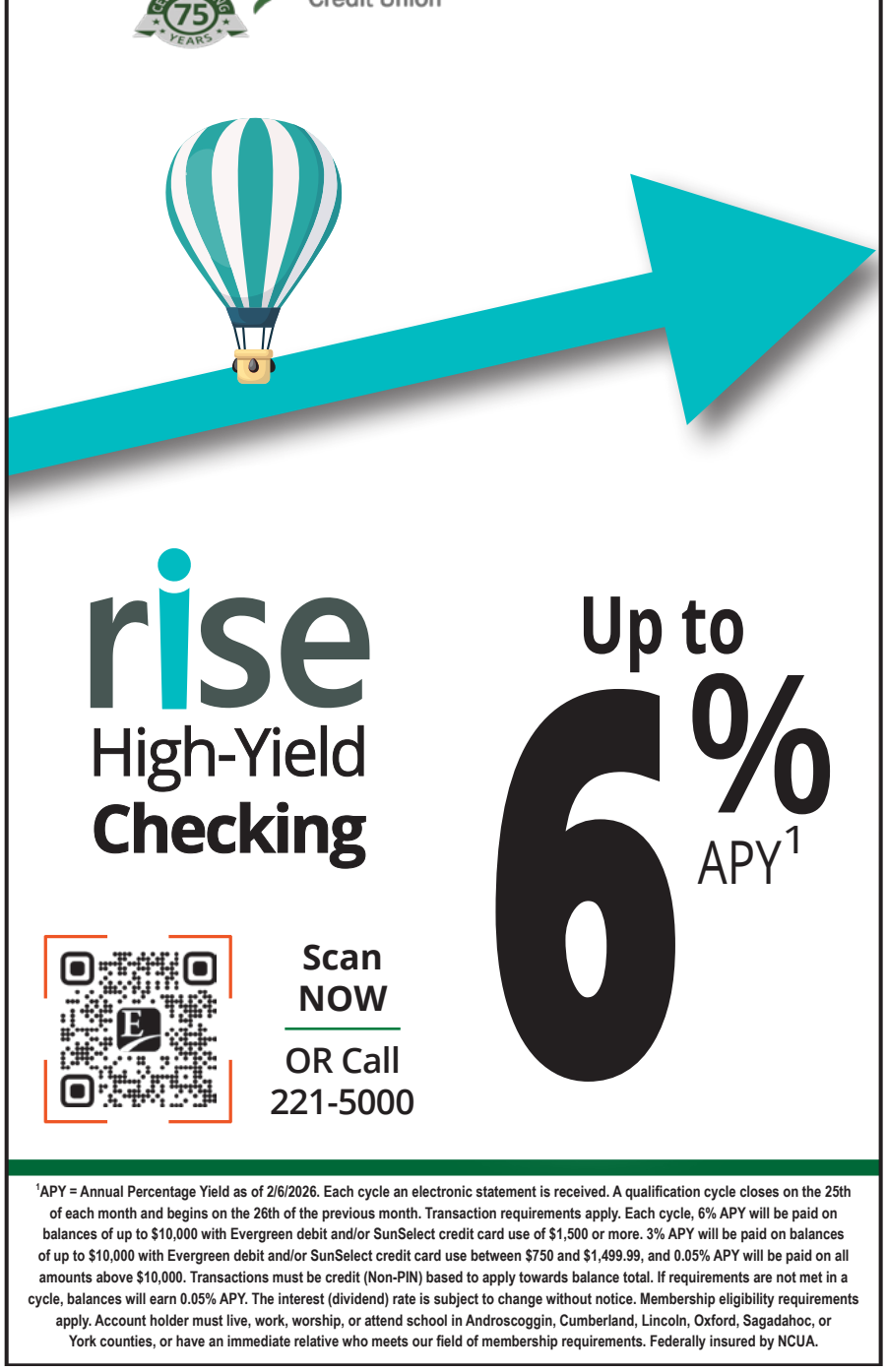












# Annual holiday craft fairs bring communities together

As the holiday season approaches, communities throughout Maine prepare for one of their most cherished traditions: holiday craft fairs. From school gymnasiums and church halls to town centers and community buildings, these festive gatherings bring together local artisans, shoppers and neighbors in celebration of creativity, craftsmanship and the spirit of giving.

For generations, holiday craft fairs have been an important part of small-town life, offering more than an opportunity to purchase gifts. They provide a place where traditions are shared, friendships are renewed and communities come together to support the talents and hard work of local residents.

Throughout the Lakes Region and southern Maine, craft fairs have become annual events that many families and groups of friends eagerly anticipate. Some shoppers return to the same fairs year after year, while others enjoy discovering new events and meeting the talented individuals behind the handmade creations.

Tables filled with knitted mittens, handcrafted ornaments, homemade candles, woodworking projects, jewelry, pottery and holiday decorations offer shoppers an alternative to mass-produced merchandise. Homemade jams, baked goods, maple products and other Maine-made specialties add to the festive atmosphere while providing unique gifts that reflect the region's character.

One of the greatest appeals of holiday craft fairs is the personal connection between shoppers and artisans. Unlike traditional retail shopping, visitors often have the opportunity to speak directly with the person who created an item, learn about the materials used and discover the inspiration behind the work.

These conversations add meaning to purchases and help preserve skills and traditions that have been passed down through generations. Whether someone specializes in quilting, woodworking, knitting or painting, craft fairs provide an opportunity to share those talents with others.

Supporting local craft fairs also has an important economic impact. Many participating artisans operate small businesses from their homes, creating products during evenings, weekends or throughout the year. For some, holiday fairs represent a significant portion of their annual sales.

Purchasing handmade goods helps these individuals continue their craft, invest in materials and contribute to the local economy. Money spent with local artisans is more likely to circulate within the community, benefiting other businesses and residents.

Craft fairs also frequently serve as fundraisers for schools, churches, nonprofit organizations and community groups. Proceeds from vendor fees, raffles, food sales and other activities often help support educational programs, charitable initiatives and a variety of other community services.

Beyond their financial benefits, these events encourage meaningful connections during a season that can sometimes become dominated by commercial shopping and busy schedules. Attending a craft fair offers an opportunity to slow down, enjoy holiday traditions and appreciate the creativity of neighbors.

They also introduce younger generations to the value of handmade craftsmanship. Children who attend fairs with their families may discover an interest in creating their own projects, helping ensure that traditional skills continue into the future.

As holiday shopping begins, residents are encouraged to consider visiting local craft fairs before turning to large retailers or online marketplaces. Even small purchases can make a meaningful difference to artisans and organizations that depend on community support.

Ultimately, holiday craft fairs represent something that cannot be purchased online: a sense of belonging, personal connection and hometown pride. By supporting these seasonal gatherings, residents help preserve cherished traditions while supporting local nonprofits and vendors.

Check out the ads in this week's paper for many fairs going on this year. <










ELECTIONS Cont. from page 3

by surrounding towns and the current limit of $25,000 no longer provides for emergency operations or acquisitions in a meaningful way. Voters defeated this proposal with 5,310 voting no and 3,943 voting yes.

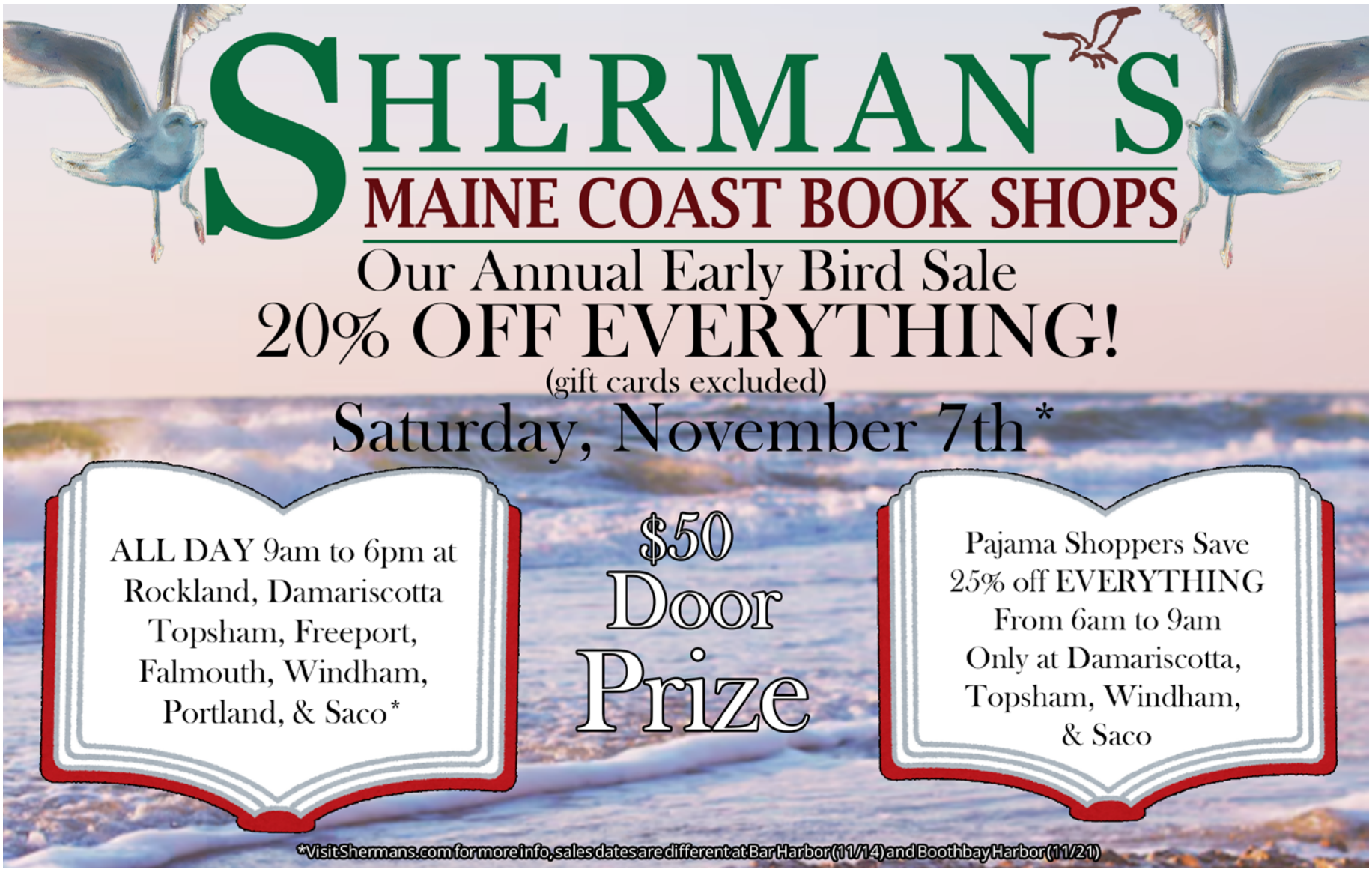
The third referendum asked if the town should purchase Windham Middle School for $1 from RSU 14 once it becomes vacant in the fall of 2027 and then repurpose the building into a Community Center and housing for town offices and the Windham Public Library. The cost would be estimated at $19.5 million by issuing general obligation bonds for the project and includes design work, engineering, professional services, site preparation, construction, renovation, operating expenses, and other improvements and furnishings as may be required in connection with the project. The proposal included leveraging up to $2 million of the town fund balance as the Windham Town Council deems reasonable and necessary to reduce the borrowing amount and directly pay costs of the project. Voters defeated this proposal with 5,267 residents voting no and 4,548 voting yes.

Despite the Community Center referendum failing, the Town of Windham does retain the right of first refusal for the purchase of the Windham Middle School building once it is vacant. <







# Civil War reenactment group seeks new members

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

Windham and Raymond residents interested in history, military drill or experiencing what life was like during the Civil War have an opportunity to get involved with Company A, 3rd Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry, a reenactment group seeking new members from the area.

The organization portrays a Union Army company from the 3rd Maine Regiment, one of the regiments Maine sent to fight in the Civil War. A full regiment included about 1,000 soldiers, divided into 10 companies. Company A, which the group represents, would have included about 100 soldiers when it was first organized. As the war continued, illness, injuries and deaths reduced its ranks. By the middle of the war, the company had about 20 to 30 soldiers, a number similar to this group's size when it portrays the unit at events.



**Members of Company A, 3rd Maine Regiment Volunteer Infantry, participate in Civil War reenactments and living history demonstrations, bringing Maine Civil War history to life while educating the public about the experiences of soldiers and civilians.** COURTESY PHOTO

"We are always looking for new people," said Joe Donahue, president and member of Company A.

He said the group welcomes recruits from throughout Maine, including Windham and Raymond, to bring new energy and ideas while helping preserve the memory of those who served. Members take part in a range of activities, from monthly military drills to weekend encampments and large-scale battle reenactments. During the spring and summer, the group generally meets about once a month to practice military movements and procedures.

At encampments, members set up tents, march and demonstrate what a camp might have looked like during the war. Visitors can walk through the site, speak with participants and learn about daily life for soldiers. The group also travels to larger reenactments, sometimes joining hundreds or thousands of participants from across the country to recreate portions of actual battles.

Last July, about 20 to 30 members traveled to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where they joined other reenactors in portraying parts of the Battle of Gettysburg, including Pickett's Charge.

Education is another important part of the organization's work. Members visit schools and other community settings to show people the uniforms, equipment, food and medical supplies used during the Civil War. Donahue described a recent program at Ellsworth High School, where students had the chance to examine items and ask questions about soldiers' experiences.

The group also visits retirement

see REENACTMENT Page 15

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## REENACTMENT
Cont. from page 14

homes to share artifacts and talk about the Civil War.

Although most members portray soldiers, there are opportunities for people interested in other aspects of Civil War life. The group includes women portraying civilians, musicians who play fifes and drums, and participants who bring instruments such as banjos and fiddles. Some women also portray soldiers.

"Families and children take part, making the organization a family-friendly activity," Donahue said. "Evenings at encampments can include campfires, music and singing after visitors have left."

Joining Company A does not require previous reenactment experience. Donahue said the main requirements are having an interest in the Civil War and a willingness to learn and make a genuine effort to portray the period accurately. However, participating as a soldier also does require a financial commitment. Members need a uniform and equipment, including a musket.

Annual dues are $25, but the cost of clothing and equipment is separate. The organization tries to make getting started more affordable. New recruits may also be able to borrow a coat and trousers at an event, giving them a chance to march and drill before deciding whether to commit to purchasing their own gear.

The group generally meets for drills and events during the spring, summer and fall, with members potentially spending one or two weekends a month participating, though the time commitment varies. Those seeking voting membership are expected to attend at least six events each year.

For Donahue, he especially enjoys the battle reenactments and the evenings spent around the campfire.

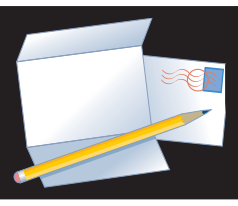
For those considering joining, he recommends first visiting the website, thirdmaine.org, and its Facebook page, to learn more and check the event calendar. Interested residents can attend an event, meet members and ask questions before making a decision about joining. Those who decide they would like to join can contact Donahue through the email address listed on the website.

For residents of Windham and Raymond who want to explore Civil War history beyond books and exhibits, Company A offers a chance to learn more about the Civil War by taking part in reenactments. <



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# LETTER to the editor

**Editor,**

We usually write these letters looking for donations, but this time it's about gratitude!

There are not enough ways to thank everyone that has donated to this program since its inception. We usually send thank you letters to contributors, but there are also those who just donate without any recognition. Recently we have lost community members who have supported our program in one way or the other and we received donations in their names. The program was blessed that two of these people were also volunteers that showed up to help pack food bags for students every week, Reggie Minott and Tricia Blanchard. We also received a donation, in memory of Gil Michaud and Tamara Pontremolli, and a generous donation from the Bill Diamond Estate (Walk a Mile).

There is never a time or way that we can adequately thank the individuals, organizations and businesses that support and help keep this program running so I'm hoping that if you have helped sponsor our program by donating then this thank you is meant for you too.

We love what we do, and the volunteers and us thank you again!

*~ Marge Govoni and Franny Etheridge, RSU14 Backpack Program Coordinators* <

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# THE ROOKIE MAMA

THE ADVENTURES OF MOTHERHOOD



## NEVER SAY NO NAY NEVER

By Michelle Cote
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

This past summer, my husband and I took a deep breath, boarded our kids on a direct flight to Dublin, and exhaled in a green, green land amid endless fields of sheep and cows and castle ruins in the epic, marvelous wonder that is Ireland.

For 22 straight days, I navigated GPS (Gaelic Positioning System?) as my husband drove a giant VW Multivan on the left side of winding narrow country roads bordered by tall stone walls and miles of yellow, violet and orange wildflowers, which added a touch of beauty to oft-tumultuous blind curves.

Of course, if you've driven in Ireland, you know well that sometimes the left feels like the right side too as the country roads aren't nearly wide enough for two actual lanes. After all, they evolved from ancient land patterns, cow trails and cart paths centuries, with ancient property boundaries still intact which prohibit widening roads.

But narrow roads are small matter when you've majestic storybook views in the distance.

Much of any escapade requires understanding that at least two things are beyond any traveler's control – No matter your best laid plans, there's no controlling the weather or one's health.

Galavanting as a sextet around the Emerald Isle came with risks. Weather in Ireland can change at a moment's notice, as can health with four kiddos in tow.

We anticipated that assuming any sort of foolproof itinerary was a fool's errand indeed, yet somehow the luck o'the Irish was with us, and dreams encapsulated in those tiny color-coded and timestamped spreadsheet cells came to life in a vivid landscape of a rich experience.

We sprinted the streets of Cong where we toured the 'Quiet Man' filming locations which wound us up at the Ashford Castle grounds, took a jaunty car ride in Killarney exactly during the final moments of the County Kerry and County Mayo Gaelic Football Match, complete with all the hype comparable to Americans' Super Bowl, where a legendary curse comparable to Babe Ruth and the '04 Series was broken, and where our driver also followed the game in tandem on his phone and we whooped and hollered along.

We re-enacted the final parting glass scene from 'Waking Ned Devine' atop the Cliffs of Moher, toured the 120-acre Killarney dairy farm of our AirBnB host as we dodged cow poo along the walk, loaded up on daily groceries in every Centra on every corner, and trailed giant Guinness trucks everywhere we went.

We appreciated the public transportation Dublin gave us, basked in the serenity of green through Tipperary, admired the quirky colors of Dingle, danced along the cobblestones of Galway, grew fully awe-struck at every castle – whether via immersive tour or randomly located on the side of the M50.

We explored ancient burial sites along the Aran Islands, spotting dolphins, seals and random Clydesdale horses along the way as we enjoyed our Callipos and coffees, looked at each other, shrugged, and asked ourselves what sort of dream we were in.

The final leg of our trip was our entire travel's purpose – We witnessed the wedding of two dear friends; an American girl and Irish lad, and our third son served as mini-groomsman.

And this magical evening of dance, music, bubbles in Galway Cathedral and a lot of love and glow sticks made for a night our family will never forget.

But what perhaps surprised us more than grocery aisles filled with products and flavors we've never seen by American brands, more than the realization that gas station ready-made meals are the best meals, was that everything we ever heard about the Irish being hospitable, kind and welcoming was true.

We never felt anything but welcome, as evidenced in the oft-spoken Irish line: "Céad Míle Fáilte." Every local person we encountered was joyful, willing to help an American family with our maps a bit backward at times. Maybe there's something in that Barry's Tea that holds the secret, like many other ancient secrets of a most magical, musical, wonderful nation.

Now, logistics.

My family decided to make this epic journey for two big reasons. Our four boys were in a sweet age range spot, ranging 5 to 14 years. All old enough to be long out of the potty training and scheduled naps, but young enough to still be under one roof. But the other big reason, my tip for you all today, friends, is that we were blessed with enough time to plan and budget ahead.

My kids had never been on a plane, and my husband and I haven't in 20 years, so we were a bit rusty – A truly organized and color-coded spreadsheet was in order.

We had nearly a year to book fights and lodging, from which we benefited greatly after procuring a travel rewards credit with fantastic travel insurance.

We researched, chatted with friends who'd traveled before. We found discounts for nearly every experience when booking online tickets ahead.

And because large families aren't as rare in that country as they are here, acquiring tickets for a family of six is actually a common thing.

We mapped a route and considered what best suited all ages along the way – As it turns out, Ireland is super family-friendly and there truly is something for everyone. Yes, this most certainly includes the pubs.

My husband and I thrive on planning, we aren't really winging-it types, but we were sure to leave room for improvising should the need arise, because that's reality in any country.

Upon returning home, as we descended in Logan Airport's embrace, with vinyl-sided homes strewn along our familiar coastline, we knew we had been awoken from the dream.

But as The Dubliners' 'Wild Rover' lyrics remain in our hearts, we're so grateful to have said yes to this once-in-a-lifetime epic journey, rather than no, nay, never.

And we're so much obliged to spreadsheets and the gift of time to plan, which made this possible.

So get your color-coding on.

Ireland awaits, along with your Guinness pints. Céad Míle Fáilte. <

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HUCKINS Cont. from page 1

services, and partnerships with local organizations that strengthen support systems throughout Windham."

The original Windham Age-Friendly Committee was spearheaded by the late Human Services Advisory Committee member, Deb McAfee, when the town enrolled in AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities in January 2019. McAfee, who passed away in May of 2022 following a lengthy battle with cancer, was the driving force behind establishing this committee. The committee formed and completed a public survey in October 2019. It was voted upon and granted by the Windham Town Council in 2020 that Windham would be a part of AARP's Age-Friendly Community, and Age-Friendly Windham was officially launched by the town. It offers programs for residents and advises the Windham Town Council about infrastructure and policy that will make it easier and safer for Windham residents to live in our community.

"I love that Maine is full of resilient, self-reliant older adults who take pride in their independence," Huckins said. "However, those admirable qualities can sometimes make it difficult for people to take the first step and ask for help when they need it. One of the challenges is helping individuals understand that accepting assistance can be an important part of maintaining their independence and quality of life."

She said the best part of her job is seeing the gratitude and relief on the faces of community members when we are able to connect them with the resources they need.

"Whether it's providing a ride to a medical appointment, distributing food from the food mobile, or supplying window inserts to help conserve heat during the winter, every interaction is an opportunity to make a positive difference," Huckins said. "It is truly a privilege to serve and support the Windham community."

To find out more about Age Friendly Windham programs visit agefriendlywindham.org. To volunteer, call 207-892-4649 or send an email to ckhuckins@windhammaine.us <


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MUSICAL *Cont. from page 1*

first criteria. The second is it's a classic. It's a good learning experience for them to experience the golden oldies. They're going to have to know these if they want to go on and do work in this field in any instance. It's always good to be exposed to these classics."

The students are excited about getting to perform such a famous show. It was written by Meredith Willson and won five Tony Awards during its run on Broadway, beginning in 1957.

"Almost everyone has heard of it, and it uses a different type of arrangement than many other shows," said WHS senior Ashlynn Cuthbert, who will play the role of Mrs. Paroo in the show. "It's a classic."

Rehearsals for the show began as soon as students returned to school in September, thanks to an audition process held before students left for summer vacation in June.

"We audition before school gets out so that during the summer the principals can get their scripts and start learning their lines," Juergens explained. "When we hit the ground in September, we're ready to go."

The practice sessions hit a peak last weekend when the first run-through with costumes and sets showed that the students are nearly ready to perform for audiences.

"Saturday was the first time they were all in costumes and we used all the set pieces, and that's always an adventure of 'where are my tights' and 'who's got my hat' and 'why is this giant set piece in my way,'" Juergens said. "That is always a big rehearsal with the costumes and the sets. I think we're in a good place."

The students share the excitement of the impending performances and are looking forward to showing off their efforts to audiences.




"We've seen small parts of the show, but we want to see the full story come alive," Cuthbert said. "I think we are excited to see the show come together."

The work and effort make the debut of the show more meaningful for the students.

"The cast is amazing," Sabine said. "The hard work and time we have to put into it has really paid off. The cast and crew have put so much hard work into making it so great, which is why I am so excited to do this show."

Other cast members agree.

"I really enjoy The Music Man. It has so many fun parts and dances, funny lines that are said.," said WHS senior Leanna Rogers, who is playing Zanneta Shinn, the town mayor's eldest daughter. "I think what excites me the most is for people to come see all the hard work we put in."

WHS senior Brenna Small, playing Alma Hix in the show, says that the cast's energy brings a special element to the stage.

"The relationships in the cast keep energy high on stage and it helps create a community that feels like a family outside of the rehearsal space," she said. "I love the energy and connections between each and every character, and all of the opportunities to dance, sing, and act."

Behind the scenes, Aiden Hall will be running the light board to control the lighting effects in the show, while Elyse Sylvia operates the sound. Sawyre Grendell and Ari Green will head the backstage crews responsible for the sets, props, and all the details that help a show run smoothly.

Tickets for the show will only be available at the door, with adult tickets costing $15 and children, seniors and student tickets reduced to $13. Payment may only be made by cash or check. <

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## Surprise recognition



State Representatives Barbara Bagshaw (R-Windham) and Mark Cooper (R-Windham) recognized Tim Greer of Windham with a Legislative Sentiment in celebration of his 80th birthday on Thursday, Oct. 22. 'Mark Cooper and I had the pleasure of delivering Legislative recognition to Tim Greer at Erik's Church,' Bagshaw said. 'Tim is a good friend of mine, so I was extra pleased to give him some recognition for this milestone. Please join us in wishing him a very happy birthday." From left are Tim Greer, State Rep. Barbara Bagshaw, and State Rep. Mark Cooper. SUBMITTED PHOTO

# Norway Savings Bank to conduct holiday food drive

To better assist individuals and families in need this holiday season, Norway Savings Bank will conduct a month-long Share and Care Food Drive at all its branches in Maine and New Hampshire, including in their Windham location at 10 Franklin Drive. The drive runs from Monday, Nov. 16, through Monday, Dec. 14.

All customers and community members are encouraged to drop non-perishable food items in special designated areas at each branch, with all items collected to be hand delivered by NSB team members to local food pantries and food banks located in each respective community.

"Many food pantries have reported that donations of these items can slow down or drastically decrease once Thanksgiving is over. The Share and Care Food Drive will run through mid-December to ensure we can provide additional support throughout the holiday season," said Darci Hamm, President of NSB. "For 160 years, NSB has been guided by a commitment to being a good neighbor and helping those in need when we can. This food drive and all our outreach initiatives and programs are great points of pride and enthusiasm felt in every corner of the bank, and we're grateful for any generosity that customers and community members can extend."

The Share and Care Food Drive is being organized by the bank's Impact Team, comprised of over 40 team members who help the bank be good stewards of financial, natural, and social capital to make a real and positive impact in Maine, New Hampshire and beyond. <


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## AFFORDABILITY

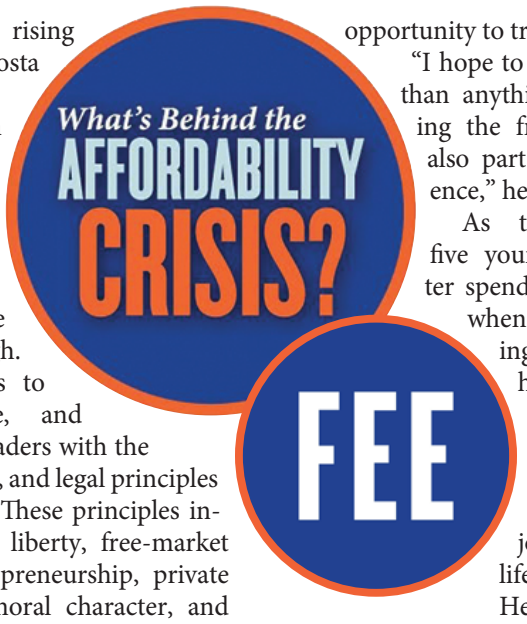
*Cont. from page 6*

interest rates.

National finalists were randomly selected by The Foundation for Economic Education to compete in the "Affordability Showdown" game show taped finale in Atlanta hosted by comedian and political satirist Andrew Heaton.

"Affordability problems are often bottleneck problems," said Diogo Costa, FEE's President. "If we do not build enough homes, train enough doctors, produce enough energy, or make it easier for businesses to serve people, the result shows up as higher prices and tighter family budgets. The 'Million Dollar Question' asks Americans to look at the bottlenecks behind the bills."

For FEE, the contest is a bridge to teach Americans about the real economics behind rising costs of living, Costa said.




Founded in 1946, FEE has been helping Americans understand the real economics behind what they're living through. FEE's mission is to inspire, educate, and connect future leaders with the economic, ethical, and legal principles of a free society. These principles include: individual liberty, free-market economics, entrepreneurship, private property, high moral character, and limited government.

"Affordability isn't abstract," Heaton said. "It's rent, groceries, childcare – stuff people deal with every day. This quiz turns that daily pressure into a national conversation and, for 12 people, into a shot at the Affordability Showdown finale in Atlanta with a $1 million prize."

Winter says he has no expectations for the national finals but welcomes the opportunity to travel to Atlanta.

"I hope to win it all more than anything, but enjoying the free vacation is also part of the experience," he said.

As the father of five young girls, Winter spends a lot of time when he's not working playing with his children, playing video games, working on equipment, and enjoying whatever life has to offer.

He says he's looking forward to competing in the "Million Dollar Affordability Showdown." Taping of the national finals will take place later this month.

"New experiences are always a bonus," Winter said.

To learn more about FEE visit fee.org and find them on Facebook. To learn more about the Million Dollar Question contest visit milliondollarquestion.org. <

## TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE
# PLANNING BOARD
## NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

**Monday, November 9, 2026 • 6:00PM**
**Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road**

- #25-27 Eventide Subdivision - Tax Map: 1; Lots: 8, 8-1, 8-2, 9 - River Road
  Major subdivision final plan review for a 17-lot residential conservation subdivision.
- #26-18.2 ALDI Grocery Store - Tax Map: 70; Lot: 5 and Tax Map: 18A; Lots: 48A, 48A-1
  Roosevelt Trail & Landing Road
  Major site plan sketch plan review for a new grocery store.
- #26-24 Code of the Town of Windham, Chapter 120 Land Use Ordinance
  Text amendments to Articles 8 and 9 to address Site Law Delegated Review Authority standards.

There are no public hearings scheduled for this meeting.

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



See more sports on next page

# WHS field hockey plays phenomenal playoff game

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Seventh-place Windham met second-place Biddeford in the Class A South quarterfinal playoff game at Waterhouse Field in Biddeford on Wednesday, Oct. 28 and Windham showed the Tigers they had improved greatly since the two played each other during the regular season. After more than 55 minutes of scoreless play, Biddeford scored late in the game for a 1-0 win.

"We have been working so hard the past couple weeks, coming in the lower seed we knew we had nothing to lose," said Windham senior Sarah Smyth. "We left it all out on the field. We had to try our best, give it our all and we did that. Every single minute, everybody on this team tried their hardest and it was a great team game today. We knew where each other were on the field. We were communicating well, quick passes, we were aggressive, we were stepping to the ball. We all connected and grew so close as a group, and I'm really thankful for that this year."





**(L to R) Windham junior Mia Kri keeps the ball away from her Biddeford opponent during the Class A South quarterfinal field hockey playoff game at Biddeford on Wednesday, Oct. 28. Senior Sarah Smyth stays with the ball.** PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

The Eagles took the field with intensity and their strong defense shone right away as they held back one of the strongest teams in the conference for the first 15 minutes as they kept the game scoreless.

In the second quarter, Windham had a strong shot at goal that almost got by. Biddeford defense was also strong. Windham continued to pressure as the half ended with the score tied 0-0.

"I think what made us play great against Biddeford is how we came together as a team overall," said Windham junior Mia Kri. "We gave it our all and pushed each other on. Our mindsets were the best during this game, and really just keeping positive energy even if there was a tiny mistake within our team during a play. I think we played our hardest, but if I had to specifically say something that could've changed the game is just staying collective if a call was bad or another player did something and just move on to the next play quickly."

The second half brought about the same exceptional defense from both sides for the remaining 30 minutes. Windham goalie and sophomore Courtney Cotter had many solid saves while Windham continued to pressure the Tigers.

"It was very stressful, but you got to have a good mindset," said Cotter who had 23 saves over the course of 60 minutes. "It was way more intense – Biddeford wanted it; we wanted it; we definitely wanted it more this game (than when we played them in the regular season). It's been fun and good to get to know the girls, make those saves and have that trust in my teammates."

On a corner, in the final play of the game, Biddeford scored.

"It was a gift to be able to play another 60 minutes of field hockey today," said Windham varsity field hockey coach Maddy Perfetti. "Windham came out wanting to win, they really believed in themselves. We played a phenomenal game; the best game we played all year. This may have not been the prettiest or the cleanest field hockey we've ever played, but from being able to compete with a team that's consistently at the top of our division and perhaps the state, it feels really good to (play against) them. Our growth and the growth mindset (stand out). Seeing (Windham) improve from our first scrimmages ... to going 1-0 to the final minute against one of the best teams in the conference, it's hard to beat that character arc." <





**(L to R) Senior Morgan McLain keeps her eyes on the ball as she turns to stay with it. Sophomore Lucy Stretch hits the ball toward her teammates.**

## WHS PLAYOFF SCOREBOARD

★ **GIRLS' SOCCER:** Second-place Windham played third-place Kennebunk in the Class A South girls' soccer semifinal at Windham High School on Friday, Oct. 30. In another defensive battle, the first half was entirely scoreless, but Kennebunk scored twice in the second half to win, 2-1. With a little more than 15 minutes left in the second half, Windham sophomore Logan Curry scored off an assist from junior Emily Wardwell.

Moments later, Kennebunk answered and tied the game, 1-1.

Before the final buzzer sounded, the Rams scored once more to advance.

Windham finished the season with a record of 11-4-1.



**Windham sophomore Logan Curry follows the ball toward the goal in the second half of the Class A South girls' soccer semifinal playoff game at Windham High School on Friday, Oct. 30.** PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



### Gracie McPherson

**Age:** 17 **Team:** Windham High varsity field hockey
**Coach:** Maddy Perfetti
**Parents' names:** Renee and Todd McPherson
**Reason for selection:** Gracie is super focused; she is very competitive and she also comes up with big saves. Gracie is an aggressive defender, where she can push up, she can fall back while still playing her position. She's really concerned about the team and her teammates and making sure everybody is on the same page, making sure they are competitive and showing up to practice and being focused. Coaches say she is one they can turn to and say 'we've got to get focused and have a good practice today,' and she really brings that energy. She leads by example; always working hard. When Gracie is talking on the field, her teammates trust her and she has great vision of the field. She's built that trust with her teammates to be able to communicate directly.

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# WCA soccer falls in championship on penalty kicks

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER

Windham Christian Academy's varsity coed soccer team played over 100 minutes against Oxford Hills Christian Academy in the Maine Christian School Sports League Championship game at Edward Little in Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 29. After regulation play was over, the game was tied 1-1. Windham Christian Academy (WCA) kept up their intensity for two 15-minute overtimes and the game came down to penalty kicks as Oxford Hills won, 2-1.

"My team was very excited going into the championship," said Windham Christian Academy eighth grader Haddie Coppersmith. "Even though I'm still in middle school and was swinging up to varsity, I knew it was going to be a hard game because we had tied Oxford Hills in overtime during the regular season. We did a good job supporting each other, communicating, and our passes were great. Everyone on our team didn't give up and gave it all they had."

The Warriors (WCA) had multiple shots on goal as they worked to score.

About 20 minutes into the first half, Oxford Hills Christian Academy scored.

WCA continued going hard after the ball. At the half, Oxford Hills Christian Academy led, 1-0.

"Our approach was really just to play our game; a good passing game, they play as a team really well," said WCA varsity coed soccer coach Kayla Sinclair. "We've done a lot of double overtimes and they like nailbiters, they play well under pressure. We played as a team ... and keeping possession of the ball a lot and never giving up."



(L to R) Windham Christian Academy senior Anna Knights keeps her focus on the ball as she rushes toward it during the Maine Christian Student Sports League varsity championship soccer game against Oxford Hills Christian Academy in Auburn on Thursday, Oct. 29. WCA sophomore Jeremiah Gorlov races to be first to the ball. WCA eighth grader Haddie Coppersmith settles the ball. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

In the second half, WCA came onto the field with a lot of intensity. Windham Christian Academy sophomore Elija Popov had a strong shot on goal almost immediately.

A short time later, Windham Christian Academy sophomore Jeremiah Gorlov scored; the game was tied 1-1.

As the clock would down, WCA hustled to break the tie.

"We've tied this team 6-6 (in the regular season) and we thought if we locked in more, we could win," said Gorlov. "Our passing in the second half we locked in and did much better. Our team warms up more in the second half, and it was 1-0 so we had more of a fire in our bellies. We could have been more aggressive. There's nothing we could have done better except for score."

After regulation play, the score remained tied 1-1.

Both overtimes were a testament to the strength of these players, who had already played a full 80 minutes and now continued to give their all for another 30-plus minutes. At the end of the second overtime, the game remained tied 1-1.

It was now onto penalty kicks. Each team chose three players to go head-to-head with the opposing team's goalie. The winner was whoever made more shots in three kicks. WCA missed the first two kicks, while Oxford Hills Christian Academy scored on their first two kicks.

"We got to the championship, everything that we've practiced, everything that we've done in games is really what we're here to do," said Sinclair. "I think they did it. They're a good group of kids, with big hearts. They love the game of soccer and they work really well together."

Senior Dillon Diggins said they were trying their best to win. He said he thought their communication was pretty good, they were talking a bit on offense and defense. Diggins said penalty kicks are high-pressure, even if you've practiced a lot. They could have tried to get their passing more to the middle.

"We could've won more 50-50 balls, said Coppersmith. "It came down to penalty kicks, which in my opinion is about luck. "My overall takeaway is that sometimes we lose, and you have to keep your head up. This was one of the best games my team has played. I'm so proud of how far we made it and how hard we worked." <

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# WYSA's U-10 girls' soccer finish season undefeated

By Matt Pascarella
STAFF WRITER





**(L to R) Windham Youth Soccer Association's Under-10 girls' travel soccer team fourth grader Maddie Duffy, left, goes after the ball in the Pete Levasseur Fall Classic against Sanford on Saturday, Oct. 24.** PHOTO BY SAGE BOWIE **Members of Windham Youth Soccer Association's Under-10 girls' travel soccer team gather after winning the Fall Classic. This win earned the team a perfect season.** PHOTO BY NATE BOWIE

Windham Youth Soccer Association's Under-10 girls' travel soccer team is a non-competitive league that doesn't have playoffs or tournament games. However, this team had an amazing season this fall. The team played a total of 14 games and went undefeated. The team had six shutouts and never gave up more than two goals during a game.

Its coaches, Nate Bowie and Catherine Chase, set team responsibilities to live by at every practice and game. Have fun, no talking while the coach is talking, always to give your best effort and be a good teammate. The kids took these to heart and doing so was the key to their success. Each member trusted each other and their team-first mindset really made the season special.

"Our season started with a mix of new and returning players with varying experience and skillsets which creates both opportunities and challenges for any coach," said head coach Bowie, now in his third year of coaching WYSA travel teams. "We focused each training session on fundamentals: footwork, dribbling, passing, and shooting. We made sure each practice session maximized the amount of time they had with the ball. I can say that hands down we were the best passing team in the league this season which created tons of great scoring opportunities and really fun games to watch for the crowd."

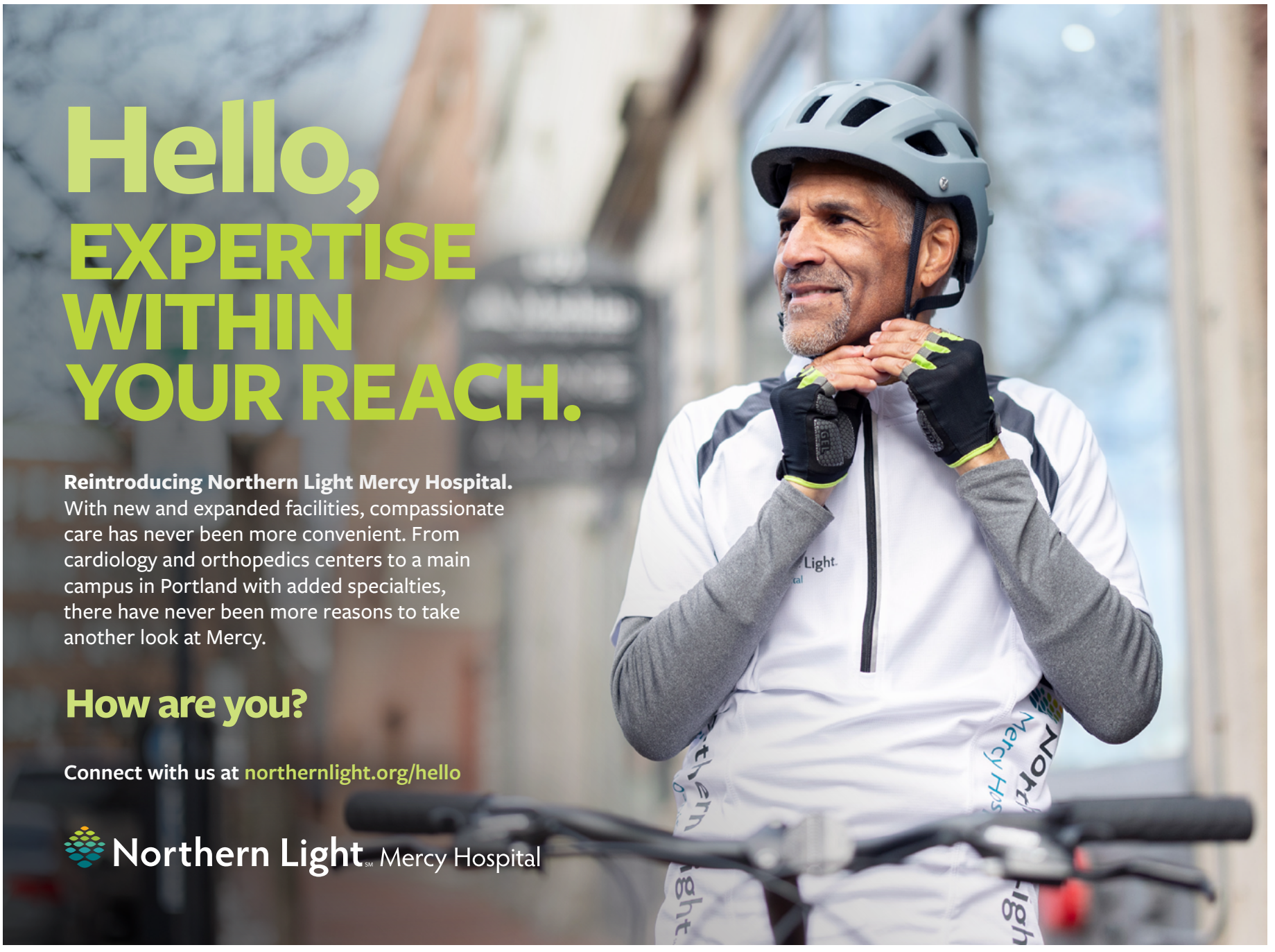
According to Bowie, what's amazing about the strength of this team, consisting of fourth graders Emery Chase, Olivia Chartier, Libby Mitchell, Layla Wetherington, Maddie Duffy, Neilia Hebert, Trinity Walsh, Blake Bowie and fifth grader Reagan Gillies is every player on the team played every position throughout the season including goalkeeper. This versatile team was offensively strong with each player on the team scoring more than one goal throughout the season.

When looking back on the season, there were two games that really challenged the team, and this Windham Under-10 team rose to the occasion. When Windham played undefeated Falmouth late in the season, Windham was down 1-0, then tied the game 1-1. Later in the game, it was tied 2-2 and Windham came back to edge ahead 3-2 for the win.

In its last game of the season, the team played undefeated Sanford. Windham was motivated to keep its record intact and stepped up their game a notch (or two) to overcome this very tough Spartan team. The game was tight, physical, and exciting. Windham won, 3-1, after a last-minute goal to keep their strong record perfect.

"I think we had good shots and we played really well," said Duffy about the Sanford game. "The first half was tough, and we really stepped it up in the second half. We had a great group, and everyone played well as a team. (My favorite part of the season was) playing for Coach Nate and Catherine again and I got to meet new friends. We were a really strong team. Our spacing got much better and everyone played well together."

Bowie said he wanted to give a special thank you to the parents and families who supported this team so well throughout the season. He said he really enjoys teaching the kids not just soccer skills, but also about being good teammates and creating a good work ethic. <



Eagle REAL ESTATE & Home

# Five creative home buying incentives that could make a big difference

By Carrie Colby
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE


— Carrie Colby
Allied Real Estate

Buying or selling a home? The best real estate deals aren't always about negotiating the purchase price. Sometimes, the right incentives can make all the difference.

When it comes to buying or selling a home, most people immediately focus on the asking price. But there's another side to real estate negotiations that can create tremendous opportunities.

In today's ever-changing real estate market, motivated sellers may be willing to offer additional benefits to attract qualified buyers, generate more interest in their property, or move a transaction toward a successful closing.

For buyers, these incentives could mean lower monthly mortgage payments, reduced upfront expenses, or added value with their purchase. For sellers, they can provide creative ways to make a property stand out without necessarily reducing the asking price.

Here are five incentives worth considering during your next transaction.

**Mortgage Rate Buydowns: Make Monthly Payments More Affordable**

One of the biggest concerns for today's home buyers is mortgage affordability. Even a small difference in interest rates can have a meaningful impact on monthly payments over the life of a mortgage. That's where a mortgage rate buydown can become an attractive negotiating tool. A seller may agree to contribute funds toward reducing the buyer's mortgage interest rate. This contribution can help lower the buyer's monthly mortgage payment, either temporarily or for the life of the loan, depending on the type of buydown. For buyers: Rather than negotiating only for a lower purchase price, consider asking the seller to contribute toward a mortgage rate buydown. Depending on the loan terms, this may provide greater monthly savings and improve your overall affordability. For sellers: Offering a rate buydown can make your property more appealing to buyers who are concerned about higher borrowing costs. It may even help your home stand out against competing listings. Sometimes, helping a buyer afford the monthly payment can be more attractive than simply reducing the asking price.

**Furniture, Appliances, and Window Treatments: Add Value Beyond the Home**

Moving into a new home can be expensive. Between moving costs, furniture purchases, window treatments, and other household necessities, the expenses can add up quickly. One creative solution? Negotiate to have certain furnishings or household items included in the sale. If a seller is relocating, downsizing, or simply doesn't want to move everything, they may be willing to leave behind select furniture, appliances, window coverings, or other items. For buyers: If you love the furnishings or see items you'd like to keep, don't hesitate to ask. Having certain items included could save you money and make your transition into the new home much easier. For sellers: Including select furnishings may help make your property more attractive while saving you the expense and inconvenience of moving, storing, or selling unwanted items. Just remember to identify any included items clearly in the purchase agreement so everyone understands what stays and what goes.

**Closing Cost Credits: Reduce the Buyer's Out-of-Pocket Expenses**

Buying a home involves more than the down payment. Buyers must also prepare for closing costs, prepaid expenses, inspections, and other transaction-related fees. A seller contribution toward allowable closing costs can be an effective way to help bridge the financial gap. For example, following a home inspection, a buyer may identify repairs or maintenance issues that need attention. Instead of arranging and completing the repairs, the seller may agree to provide a credit toward the buyer's eligible closing costs, subject to lender approval and applicable loan guidelines. For buyers: A closing cost credit can help reduce the amount of money you need to bring to closing, leaving you with more financial flexibility for moving expenses, furnishings, or future home improvements. For sellers: Offering a credit may be a practical alternative to coordinating repairs, hiring contractors, and potentially delaying the transaction. It can also help keep negotiations moving forward. The key is finding a solution that works financially for both parties while satisfying the lender's requirements.

**Buyer-Agent Compensation: Another Negotiating Opportunity**

Real estate compensation is an important part of today's home buying and selling process. Sellers may consider offering compensation toward the services of a buyer's agent as part of their overall marketing and negotiation strategy. This can be particularly relevant when a property has been on the market for an extended period or when sellers are looking for additional ways to attract qualified buyers. For sellers: Discuss your options with your listing agent. Offering buyer-agent compensation, when appropriate and properly structured, may help make your property more accessible to buyers who need assistance covering representation costs. All compensation arrangements are negotiable and should be clearly documented. Sellers should evaluate these offers as part of their overall financial strategy rather than assuming that a higher commission automatically produces a better result.

**Closing-Date Incentives: Turn Timing Into an Advantage**

Sometimes, timing is everything. A

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 25

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REAL ESTATE *Cont. from page 24*

seller may need to complete a sale quickly because of a job relocation, another home purchase, financial considerations, or other personal circumstances. When a seller has a preferred closing date, offering an incentive to a buyer who can accommodate that timeline may help make the transaction happen. For buyers: If you're financially prepared, have your financing in order, and can accommodate an earlier closing, you may have an opportunity to negotiate a credit or other concession in exchange for meeting the seller's preferred timeline. For sellers: If completing the sale by a particular date is important, consider whether offering a closing-date incentive could attract buyers who are ready and able to move quickly. Of course, a faster closing should never come at the expense of proper inspections, financing approvals, title work, or other important protections. The goal is to create a timeline that works for everyone involved.

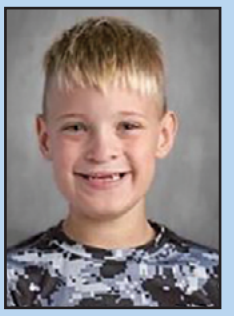
**The Bottom Line: A Smart Real Estate Strategy Goes Beyond Price**

Whether you're buying or selling, remember that the purchase price is only one part of a real estate transaction. The right incentives can create opportunities that benefit both parties. Buyers may be able to reduce monthly payments, lower upfront expenses, or receive additional value. Sellers may be able to attract more interest, overcome objections, and move closer to a successful closing. The most effective strategy depends on the property, current market conditions, each party's financial goals, and the terms of the transaction. Before making a decision, consult with your real estate professional and mortgage lender to understand which incentives are available and how they may affect your transaction. Mortgage concessions, closing cost credits, and other incentives are subject to loan program limits, lender approval, and applicable regulations. Thinking about buying or selling a home? Don't limit your negotiations to the asking price. There may be creative opportunities available that you haven't considered.

Whether you're preparing to list your home or searching for the right property, having an experienced real estate professional on your side can help you identify opportunities, negotiate strategically, and make informed decisions.

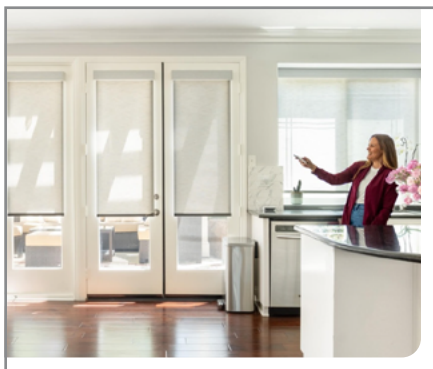
*This article was brought to you by Carrie Colby, a Broker with Allied Real Estate, 909 Roosevelt Trail in Windham. She can be reached at 207-232-5497.* <

## STUDENT OF THE WEEK — Lincoln Pierce



**Grade:** 3
**School:** Windham Primary School
**Teacher:** Mrs. Lyons
**Favorite subject(s) in school:** Physical Education is his favorite subject because he gets stronger.
**Parents' names:** Desiree and Ryan
**Reason for selection**: It is such a joy to celebrate Lincoln and the incredible growth he has shown! Since Grade 1, he has made significant progress in his behavior, turning challenges into triumphs through hard work and determination. Today, he has become a much more engaged learner who comes to school ready to participate, listen, and grow. One of the absolute best parts of the day is seeing him in the hallways, lighting up the school with his big smile, and proudly following the 3 Bees (Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible). We are so incredibly proud of the wonderful student and leader Lincoln is becoming and I cannot wait to see what he achieves! We know he has a bright future as he transitions to Manchester School!

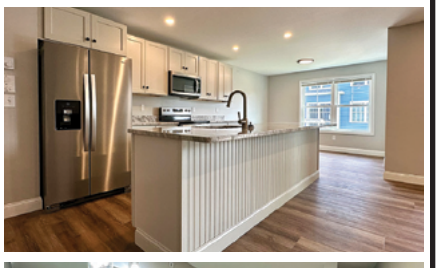
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# PUZZLES & GAMES

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| T | W | F | I | S | A | V | E | A | P | U | I | I | G | V | K | S | F | E | Q |
| D | R | D | Y | A | N | U | H | A | B | I | T | A | T | L | E | G | B | C | Q |
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| V | M | Y | W | Y | H | I | R | S | C | Q | B | S | U | S | R | U | U | Q | R |
| G | H | I | W | M | G | I | H | U | H | P | N | H | S | L | I | B | E | K | H |
| K | A | S | N | A | M | R | Y | K | F | T | I | H | C | E | B | N | B | W | V |

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

ANGLER
BAG LIMIT
BAIT
BLINDS
BOBBER
CAMO
CAMOUFLAGE
CASTING
CATCH
DECOY
FLETCHING
GAME
HABITAT
HARVEST
LICENSE
LURE
NET
POACHING
QUARRY
SCENT
SEASON
TACKLE
TRACKING
WILDERNESS

## CRYPTO FUN

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Solve the code to discover words related to geography.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
**(Hint: 17 = L)**

**A.** **20 17 5 9 8**
*Clue: The earth*

**B.** **17 5 6 14 2 19 5 25**
*Clue: Place on map*

**C.** **2 23 14 10 8 17**
*Clue: Visit somewhere*

**D.** **17 5 25 20 19 2 16 1 8**
*Clue: Measures east-west positions*

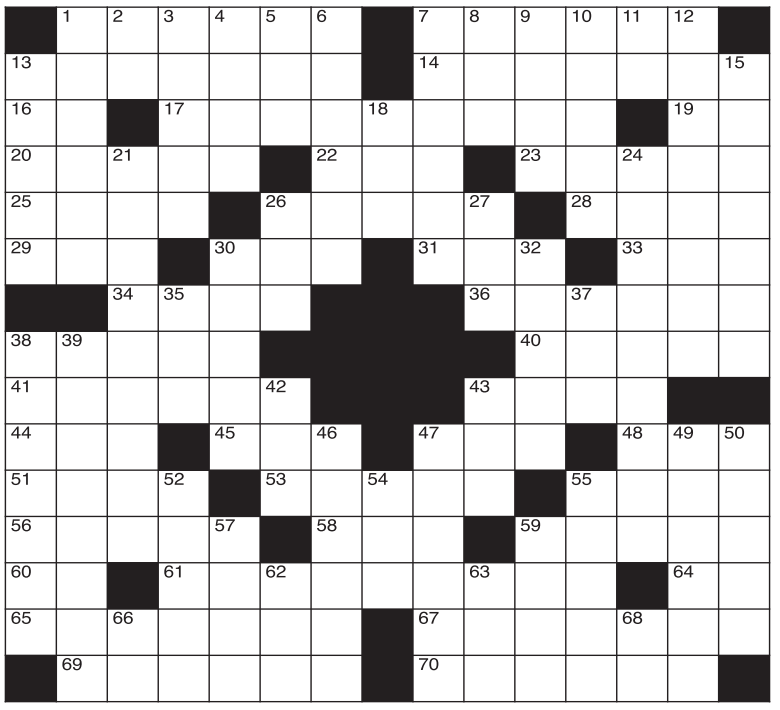
Answers: A. globe B. location C. travel D. longitude

## LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | A | S | O | | | | A | M | P | | M | U | C | H |
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| S | A | C | H | E | T | | A | D | O | | S | L | U | G |
| E | R | A | S | E | S | | S | U | N | | K | A | L | E |
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| D | O | S | S | | M | E | T | | | | E | G | O | S |




## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Spiritual leaders
7. Containing salt
13. Fortified wine
14. Edible mollusk
16. Blood type
17. Make a comparison
19. Government lawyer
20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
22. 8th month of the year (abbr.)
23. Very willing
25. __ ex machina
26. Satisfies
28. New Zealand mountain
29. A doctrine
30. Popular Dodge truck model
31. Dekagram
33. Naturally occurring solid material
34. Company higher-up
36. Villains
38. Cricket frog genus
40. Influential early psychologist
41. Endured
43. Servant
44. You can get stuck in one
45. __ and feather
47. Passive optical network
48. French ballet dynasty
51. Employee stock ownership plan
53. Forming a bottom layer
55. Sound
56. Yankees slugger Judge
58. Dickens character
59. Beloved late sportscaster Craig
60. "The Mount Rushmore State"
61. Sarcastic and critical
64. Atomic #79
65. Longtime Atlanta Braves pitcher
67. Humor
69. Shawl
70. Preliminary assessment of patients

### CLUES DOWN

1. Animal disease
2. Commercial
3. Craft supplies
4. Containers
5. A way to save for your golden years
6. Common Arabic greeting
7. Bulged downward
8. Acquired brain injury
9. Lay about
10. Intestinal
11. Not yes
12. In a way, pleased
13. Messianic figure in Islam
15. Resulting from intense conviction
18. Not in
21. Number above the line in a fraction
24. Lawn pest
26. Pouch
27. Ancient language (abbr.)
30. Start anew
32. Wild flower
35. Fourteen
37. Graphical user interface
38. Facing the same way
39. Campaigns
42. Touch lightly
43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
46. Violent seizure of property
47. One who supports the Pope
49. Malaise
50. Body fluid
52. Inauthentic person
54. Title of respect
55. Moth genus
57. Central Japan city
59. Silk garment
62. Draw from
63. Automobile
66. A male
68. Powerful government lawyer

## SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | | | | 4 | | | 6 | 7 |
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| 4 | | | | | 7 | | | |
| | | | 7 | | 5 | 1 | | 8 |
| 1 | | 5 | | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 6 | 3 | 5 |

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

### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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

Eagle BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

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# Maine St. Thrift

No matter if you're looking for a great holiday gift, freshening up your wardrobe or searching for a good find, Maine St. Thrift has deals worth exploring with new items being added almost hourly.

Located at 19 Main St. Suite 3 in Gray, Maine St. Thrift is a curated, traditionally priced thrift store owned and operated by Chelsea Roy and Michelle Custeau. It offers thrifted treasures, vintage finds and home goods – both new and pre-owned – all together in one convenient location.

Having just opened on Oct. 17, Maine St. Thrift features competitive prices and although they don't offer consignment, they will purchase items outright if they are right for the store. They do also accept donations, which they say is how they are able to keep prices low.

"The best thing for us about having this business is we constantly get to treasure hunt – we love thrifting and this gives us an opportunity to share our finds with the community," Chelsea said. "We are really the only thrift store in town so we're hoping to be the local spot for new-to-you goods."

Chelsea and Michelle took a leap of faith in opening Maine St. Thrift after previously operated booths at local shops to then deciding that they wanted to give it a go on our own.

"I think the biggest thing for us is not just the connections we've made in Gray but in the local thrifting community as a whole," Chelsea said. "I met my best friend through having a booth at the same spot and Michelle and I met through being neighboring vendors at another. We met Misty Gallant through her estate sale business, Two Thrifty Girls, and somehow convinced her to take on a spot in our store and she has been a wonderful mentor."



**Michelle Custeau, left, and Chelsea Roy opened Maine St. Thrift to bring unique, affordable new and used treasures to the community.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

According to Michelle, creating great relationships with customers is at the heart of what will make Maine St. Thrift successful.

"You get what you give," she said. "Of course, having a good variety of items at affordable prices is also important. We started this store in part because we were so frustrated with the increased prices at a lot of stores that are donation-based entities. We wanted to establish a store that has essential items as well as one that's really unique and has fun things all at reasonable prices."

Store visitors will find new and like-new clothing, home décor, dishes, cookware, kitchen cannisters, vases, bric-a-brac, lamps, handcrafted gifts and much more.

Michelle said Maine St. Thrift can source items for people in all areas of the country and ship items to them that they may want.

"However, we primarily service the immediate area within our store," she said. "We also want to be reseller friendly so for people who have booths of their own or sell online, we keep our prices low enough that you can purchase an item and resell it and still make a profit. We aren't trying to squeeze every penny out of every item. We'd rather make a small amount per piece but still have that person come back to us time after time and build a relationship with them that is hopefully long lasting."

Since the store opened both Michelle and Chelsea say that the outpouring of love and support has been amazing.

"We just want to continue growing and supporting the amazing community that has been cheering us on since our first post announcing our opening," they said. "We are two moms to young girls that just decided to pursue a dream to show our kids you can achieve whatever you want with hard work."

Early feedback from customers has been positive and supportive.

"The feedback we've been getting the most of is that the store is well appointed, a lot of great variety and good prices," Chelsea said. "We've had booths at a few local spots including Maine Vintage Thrift in Windham, and the owners Nick and Jess have been amazing mentors and are just wonderful people who have such an incredible established business. They treat their vendors so well and are the most encouraging people who continue to support us."

Maine St. Thrift is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Those hours may change based upon customer demand. They encourage following their social media pages to keep up with new items, events, and updates.

To learn more about Maine St. Thrift, find them on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok. <


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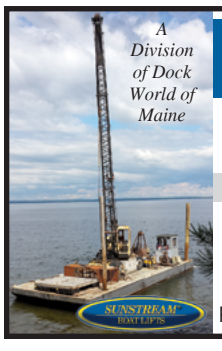
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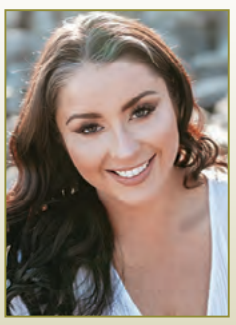
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