

The Cape Courier

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Happy Thanksgiving

CEHS student wins Maine Startup Challenge

By Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

CEHS student Ella Fick has won first prize in the high school division of the Maine Startup Challenge. She pitched the idea of Fanmi, an app that would help connect young families who cannot afford their own homes with older couples who have extra space to rent.

Cape Elizabeth High School student Ella Fick has won first prize in the high school division of the Maine Startup Challenge.

According to the Maine Venture Fund website, the Maine Startup Challenge (MSC) is a business plan competition with four age tiers: K-8, High School, College, and Open. It is designed to encourage entrepreneurial thinking in Maine. MSC is a program that grew out of MVF's mission to drive economic growth and spur organic entrepreneurial activity in the state. As a part of this competition, students create their own idea for a business startup, write up a business plan and submit it for consideration.

Over the past two years, MSC has reviewed 150 business plans and awarded \$31k in prizes across the four tiers – you can read more about MSC 2023 and MSC 2022.

For the 2024 MSC, Maine Technology Institute (MTI) and the University of Maine System's new Graduate and Professional Center, known as "The Maine Center," are the Presenting Sponsors.

A few months ago, Sarah Coombs, the Student Pathways Coordinator for the Cape Elizabeth School Department sent an email to all CESD staff with details about the Maine Startup Challenge.

CEHS Teacher Sarah McKeown explained the opportunity to her Freshman advisory group, and McKeown said, "Ella Fick jumped on the opportunity, and pitched the idea of Fanmi - an app that would help to connect young families who cannot afford their own homes with older couples who have extra space to rent. This would help the housing crisis and create a bridge in the generational gap."

Fick said of the experience, "I am honored to have received this award, and I'd like to say a huge thank you to the Maine Venture Fund. I've always been interested in startups and businesses, and I'm excited to have the chance to learn how they work. I am inspired by the other great ideas the other semifinalists presented, and I can't wait to continue exploring ideas for how to start and build my own business someday."

News from the November 13 Town Council meeting

By Hanna Gilley

Town Council Reports and Correspondence

Councilor Penny Jordan shared her remarks about Councilor Jeremy Gabrielson during his "last meeting until he runs again." Jordan also shared remarks from other community members that described Gabrielson as even keeled, and a clear thinker with a "great ability to listen and bring clarity." Jordan closed her remarks by saying that "we feel honored to have served with you. You are a talented and insightful leader and an all-around wonderful human being." Gabrielson was "speechless" for the kind words and offered his thanks to the council.

Councilor Stephanie Anderson shared remarks regarding Councilor Susan Gillis saying, "you're a woman of few words but your words are strong" and that she appreciated Gillis' "clarity and frankness in this kind of political climate where it's rare."

Councilor Thompson also offered remarks regarding Chair Reiniger and that he was "always impressed" with how Reiniger was "able to keep yourself calm under fire many times." He added "it's with great respect that I thank you for the time that you've worked on this council and in this most recent year as a Chair." Chair Reiniger thanked everyone

for the opportunity saying, "it's been an extreme pleasure and honor to serve with each and every one of the fellow counselors for the last 3 years" along with the "highly professional" town staff and town managers.

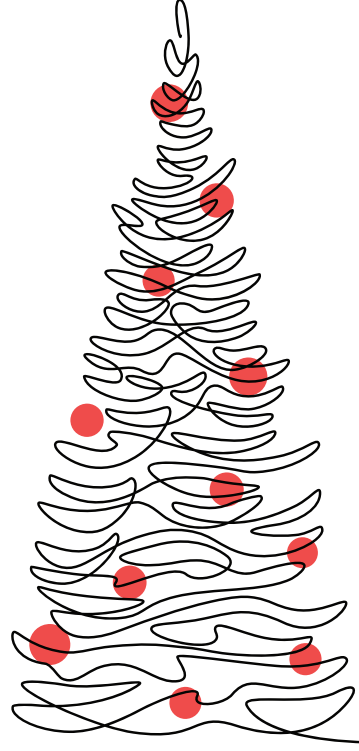
Councilor Anderson gave an update on the initiative for a local business summit. This would include the town working together with Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) to develop a plan that will allow town staff to survey local business owners about their experiences conducting business in Cape Elizabeth.

Chair Reiniger shared that since the November election there have been many inquiries from the community as to the amounts of town funds spent on the school bond ballot initiative. Reiniger said the number currently is around \$36,000 with a more detailed account available going forward.

Town Manager's Monthly Report

Town Manager Patrick Fox shared more details on the business outreach initiative brought forth by Councilor Anderson. Fox said that 49 business properties will be reached out to directly by GPCOG building up to a December "listening session." Sur-

-see TOWN COUNCIL page 3



SAVE THE DATE!

5th Annual Town Tree Lighting

Friday, December 6
6:00 - 7:00pm

on the Town Green



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The mission of The Cape Courier is to foster a sense of community by presenting news specific and unique to Cape Elizabeth and its residents, and, whenever possible, to promote volunteerism within our community.

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NEXT ISSUE: Dec 18
DEADLINE: Noon, Dec 6

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Mitchell Road 'is a death trap'

Every single morning: I'm standing out on Mitchell Road at the bus stop with my 7-year-old granddaughter, and a car goes by whizzing above the 30 mph speed limit. Or I'm out walking with my dogs just trying to cross Mitchell and I have to run for my life because the oncoming driver is high speed barreling.

Mitchell Road has NO sidewalk, NO shoulder, few street lights and NO crosswalks along this entire 2.5 mile stretch of completely residential neighborhood. It is a death trap. In 25 years, the only time I've called the CEPD has been about this. The result? The right words are used, but there is no real action. I informally survey all the neighbors I encounter, and everyone is in agreement

the drivers on this road are out of control. I've actually had a driver slow down and curse at me when I shouted a complaint as she sped past.

I proposed to the Police Chief the option of crosswalks, but was told that it was "complicated." Really, paint is complicated? If there was any kind of will, surely there could be a way for installing more street lights, speed calming signs, bike path painted lines and crosswalks with light signals! Maybe increase police patrols? These are reasonable expenditures of our tax dollars. We'll never see a Shore Road style "path" on Mitchell Road, but something must be done to preserve our quality of life.

Colleen Graves

'People won't speak out publicly'

To the immature person who sent me an anonymous, spring-loaded glitter bomb through the mail - you wasted your money. The package and cylinder looked suspicious, the return address was phony, so I called the USPS Inspector.

Did you know, did you care, that the micro plastics can cause skin irritation, can enter the eyes and nose of humans, pets, and wild animals, and cause damage to the eyes and other soft tissue? Did

you know, did you care, that the micro plastics harm the environment? No, you thought it was a clever revenge on the outcome of the election.

And people in this town wonder why so many in this town are silent and prefer anonymity. You wonder why there is so much public "Yes" support, but you continue to be in the minority. It is because there is a small element who choose harassment, and even dangerous measures, in the face of contrary opinion. People won't speak out publicly, but they vote.

Mary Ann Lynch

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Heartfelt thanks

My heartfelt thanks to all who participated in the November 5th election and made their voices heard in our democratic process. The South Portland, Cape Elizabeth and Scarborough Clerks and Maine's Secretary of State have worked for months to ensure our elections are fair. As a candidate and a voter, I appreciate the many election workers and volunteers who made sure we could exercise the right to vote. And to all who voted, my sincere thanks.

Preliminary vote counts indicate I will continue to serve Senate District 29 in the Maine Senate. The last two years have been full of challenges to core civil rights, important environmental issues and urgent public safety concerns, among others. You helped our state respond to these challenges with your telephone calls and emails, and when you visited the State House or attended office hours, sharing your priorities and your position on legislation. I appreciate your guidance and direction. I am honored to represent you.

The challenges now facing our community, state and nation seem overwhelming to many who have reached out to me. I believe daunting challenges are best met with thoughtfulness, hard work, and compassion. The 132nd Maine Legislature will take our oath of office on December 4, and I promise you that along with my pledge "support the Constitution of the United States and of this State," I will bring these qualities to my service each day. Together we will strive toward a better future.

Anne Carney

Cape is getting closer to a solution

I have been closely following the school bond debate over the past few years and have attended many meetings while we've worked as a town to solve this challenging problem. Although I was disappointed that the bond proposal didn't pass on November 5, I was very encouraged by our town's progress towards finding a solution.

166 votes. That's how close the vote on the school bond was. And while the bond lost, so much ground was made up. The 2022 school bond lost by 1,480 votes. Cape is getting closer to finding a solution to fix our schools. Two architecture firms and an independent third-party Owner's Rep have said that replacing the middle school and making updates at Pond Cove and the high

school is the right path. If we continue to educate ourselves about the needs and have good faith discussions, we can find a solution that will pass.

I'm glad the School Board is continuing to work with Harriman to revise the Middle Ground plan. We don't need paralysis by analysis, we need community feedback to refine this plan into one a majority of Cape voters will say yes to.

I know this debate has been contentious but hard problems require hard discussions and eventually hard decisions. The latest vote gives me confidence that with a bit more work, we'll get there as a town.

Jeremy Law



Town Council

Continued from page 1

veys will be distributed in January with a solutions summit being held in February and March to help Cape Elizabeth be more business friendly.

Fox also explained that there will be some options on the agenda in early 2025 to resolve insufficient cell coverage on parts of Shore Road, and active bids for the Fort Williams Pond Reclamation Project and a bid for Fort Williams Playground Design Services. Fox shared that it has been a busy month for public safety departments having had “many public education events promoting fire prevention, school safety and disaster preparedness efforts.” The Cape Elizabeth Fire Department also held their annual appreciation night to recognize staff including the WETeam members who responded to a distressed fishing vessel last January that brought crew members to safety.

Fox also extended a “special recognition and thank you” to over 30 election staff that dedicated more than 1,600 hours over the past three months to election efforts including the handling of “nearly 5,000 absentee ballots and a 75% voter turnout.”

Item #160-2024 General Assistance Ordinance and Appendices Updates

A draft motion was moved by Councilor Anderson and seconded by Councilor Thompson to adopt the General Assistance Ordinance (9/2024) and Appendices (A,B, D-H and Recovery Residences) from October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025. Anderson asked if any guidelines or appendices can be changed since they’re mandated by state law. Councilor Gabrielson shared that there “are a number of things dictated by state law and that there is not a lot of latitude but there might be some.” He added that the town has not adopted the Appendix C Housing Maximums in the past few years because the housing prices in the Cape community are high enough that adopting housing maximums was not necessary. The motion was approved by the Council, 7-0.

Item #161-2024 Consideration of a Food Truck Special Use Permit for the Cape Community Arena Group

A draft motion was moved by Councilor Anderson and seconded by Councilor Harriman to approve the request of the Cape Community Arena Group to have 1-2 food trucks present for skate sessions at the Gull Crest skate arena. Julie Furt of Cape Community Arena Group clarified that food trucks are only brought to the arena during special events such as pond hockey tournaments and RinkFest. They have also been using the overflow lot closer to Spurwink Avenue with volunteers assisting with parking. The motion was approved, 7-0. Dates included in

the application for food trucks to be present at the arena include: 12/12-12/14, 12/20, and 12/30-12/31/2024; 1/1, 1/11-1/12, 1/20, 1/24, and 1/31/2025; and 2/2, 2/7-2/9, 2/14, 2/21, and 2/28/2025.

Item #162-2024 Presentation of the Gull Crest Methane Gas Study Report

Steve Harding, Cape Elizabeth Town Engineer, and Brian Bachman, Principal Geologist of Arcadis, presented findings on methane gas study reports at Gull Crest. Harding shared that there were two studies performed: a gas sampling for potential gas migration from the landfill and a PFAs study with particular attention to the community garden, Public Works Department and surrounding area.

Bachman detailed the findings and shared that there was a residential drinking water supply test performed and collection of six soil samples identified within a quarter mile of the site. Bachman said that only 7 of 40 compounds tested were detected but that they fell below the Maine Department of Agriculture Conservation and Forestry limits. He added that soil gas sample results showed normal atmosphere gas concentrations with some landfill gasses and VOCs detected with concentrations less than the Department of Environmental Protection recommends for safety. The chemical 1,3-Butadiene was detected in low amounts with recommendations for the installation of a VOC resistant vapor barrier or sub-slab venting system to mitigate vapor intrusion should any housing be developed at the site.

Francis Walsh of Starboard Drive shared concerns over the nearly \$120,000 already spent studying the Gull Crest site and that there would need to be even more environmental testing and studying done if a housing project were more seriously pursued. He also shared concerns that a potential Gull Crest neighborhood wouldn’t be a good neighborhood design as it would “dead end” and not be interconnected to other streets or neighborhoods or lead residents into town.

Councilor Thompson moved to approve the motion of acknowledging receipt of the methane gas studies performed with Councilor Anderson seconded the motion. The motion was approved, 7-0.

Vote to Take Item #159-2024 (Revocable License Agreement for Cookie Jar Parking Spaces) Off the Table from October 28, 2024

A draft motion was moved by Councilor Thompson and seconded by Councilor Anderson to take off the table the issue of a revocable license agreement for the Cookie Jar Parking Spaces. Councilors Gabrielson, Harriman and Jordan voted “no,” however the motion was approved by majority vote.

-see MEETING page 11

Motor vehicle burglary complaints

By Debbie Butterworth

PUBLIC INFORMATION

- 11-25 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road regarding a harassment complaint.
- 11-3 Two officers were dispatched to the Scott Dyer Road area for a behavioral health complaint.
- 11-6 An officer responded to a residence in the Mitchell Road area for a domestic disturbance.
- 11-7 An officer spoke with a resident of the Sawyer Road area regarding a suspicious email.
- 11-8 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding a motor vehicle burglary complaint.
- 11-8 An officer met with a resident of the Mitchell Road area regarding a motor vehicle burglary complaint, nothing apparently missing from the vehicle.
- 11-8 An officer met with a resident of the

Mitchell Road area regarding a motor vehicle burglary complaint, nothing missing from the vehicle.

- 11-10 An officer met with a resident regarding a domestic situation.

SUMMONSES

- 10-31 Cape Elizabeth resident, violation of conditions of release, possession of scheduled drugs, Cottage Lane

ACCIDENTS

- 10-29 Brady Inman, accident on 77/Ocean House Road
- 10-29 Duke Lawler, Andrew Currier, accident on Channel View Road
- 11-8 Liam Sweeney, accident on Fowler Road
- 11-11 Jeffrey Cain, John Bates, accident on Cottage Farms Road

FIRE CALLS

- FIRE 9; EMS 41

Scam alert bulletin board

By Jessica D. Simpson

Solar Sale Scams

The sun might be shining on solar energy, but buyers beware – costly solar panel scams could leave you in the dark with massive loans and higher bills.

The sales pitch often starts with a solar salesperson knocking on the front door, calling on the phone, or connecting on social media, offering promises of lower energy bills, reduced emissions and increased resale value. They’ll likely push a special deal – but only if you sign right away.

Be suspicious and don’t share sensitive personal information with anyone who calls, emails, or visits you out of the blue promoting a solar panel deal, and always read the fine print before signing any document. Know that the government does not have any program that installs solar panels on the houses of Americans for free.

If you are interested in solar, research pro-

viders, get multiple estimates, and check for complaints and issues with installation companies by visiting the Better Business Bureau national business directory at bbb.org/search.

Black Friday/Cyber Monday Scams

The holiday deals have already begun, but not all those great deals you see online are legit. The start of the online holiday shopping season means that online scams intensify with it. Here are the two simple steps you can take to stay a step ahead of the online Grinch this holiday shopping season.

The safest place to shop online is with retailers you trust by using their app or typing their web address into your browser rather than clicking on a link from a text, email, or online ad. Also, know that any unbelievable deal a social media friend messages you about is truly not to be believed. Fraud criminals are experts at hacking social media accounts and one of the first things they do is send out fake offers to a victim’s friends and family.

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Library looking for volunteers for winter lantern festival

Holiday Closure

The library will be closed on Thursday, November 28 and Friday, November 29 for Thanksgiving. We will be open regular hours, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 30.

Call for Volunteers: Winter Lantern Festival

Last winter, the Thomas Memorial Library celebrated the installation of its grant-funded Community Art Boxes with a lantern festival, a nighttime parade around the town center. We would like to make this event an annual winter tradition, bringing the community together to plan the event, conduct lantern workshops and organize the parade.

Our planning team currently includes TML Director Rachel Davis, and local artists Marie Ahearn and Gabby Doane. Gabby grew up in Peterborough, New Hampshire, which has an annual lantern festival that grew from just a small event like ours, to a much anticipated annual community celebration. Every year, Peterborough's festival has a specific theme, and also includes a village of small illuminated houses made from milk cartons, boxes, and other materials. Each year, the village grows!

We would like to take our inspiration from Peterborough's festival, and hope to create a lighted village on the Town Center Village Green, along with a parade with music and hand-made lanterns. We are planning our second annual Lantern Festival to take place sometime in mid-January, when we all could benefit from sparkling lights and the warmth of community.

We are seeking volunteers to help us plan the event. If you are interested in helping to plan the overall event, and/or lead a lantern workshop, create simple lantern kits, play music (or help us find musicians) or help out in any other capacity, please visit the library's website and fill out a volunteer interest form.

stop by the library and make gift tags out of old holiday cards. A tag-making station will be set up on the upper floor of the library. There you will find a selection of donated holiday cards, a tag-shaped paper punch, and some twine. Stop by any time the library is open to make some unique gift tags. If you have old holiday cards you'd like to donate for this project, please drop them off at the tag-making station.

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN

Please visit the library's website for information about recurring weekly story times and other programs.

Saturday Matinee

Saturday, November 30, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
Hold your breath, make a wish, count to three. Come with us to a land of pure imagination as we screen the timeless 1971 movie adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic novel about a boy who gets to live his wildest dreams. Snacks are always welcome, and popcorn is provided. Best suited to ages 9+.

Sewing Adventures: Recycled Sweater Mittens (ages 8 - 13)

Saturday, December 7, 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.
Join us as we chop up donated sweaters and embellish them with embroidery and tassels to make original mittens. Make them for yourself, or trace a loved one's hand on paper to get their size and bring the paper along as the start to your pattern. Sew by hand with decorative embroidery floss, or stitch them up with zig-zag stitch by machine. Beginning sewists welcome. No prior experience necessary but complete beginners must be accompanied by an adult to work one on one in learning basic skills of threading a needle and tying a knot for their first few meetings. All materials provided. For ages 8 - 12, beginners with caregivers welcome. Please register on the library's website.

FOR TWEENS & TEENS

Venture Club

Wednesdays, 2:30 - 4:30 p.m. (Ages 14+)
Venture Club is a teen-led board/card game and D&D club, with an emphasis on board games. We'll try to play new games every week. No registration is necessary.

Library Squad

First Friday of the month, 2:45 - 3:45 p.m. Ages 11 - 13)
Library Squad is a community of library-loving middle schoolers that meets monthly, and whose opinions, ideas, and help form the foundation of our programming. Library Squad meets after school on the first Friday of each month from 2:45-3:45 p.m. Next meeting: Friday, December 6.

FOR ADULTS

For information on our regular recurring programs, please visit the library's website.

Fireside Writing

Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Looking for a comfortable and cozy spot to join other writers? Come to TML's Fireside Writing program. Fireside Writing gives you the space and opportunity to work alongside fellow writers and reach your writing goals. Bring your laptop or your favorite notebook and join us by the fire for tea and quiet writing time. Meets weekly on Thursday evenings from 5:30-6:30 p.m. No registration necessary.

Senior Social Hour-The High Spirits in Concert

Wednesday, November 27, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Join us for a special concert featuring Cape residents Dave and Anna Patterson, aka The High Spirits. This husband and wife duo perform stripped down arrangements of favorite songs from past and current catalogs. The High Spirits' sound is founded in American music from Etta James to Amy Winehouse, from The Beach Boys to Norah Jones, from Motown to Nashville. Don't miss this special musical edition of Senior Social Hour. Check the library's website for December Senior Social Hour offerings.

Songwriting Workshop, with Jud Caswell

Tuesday, December 3, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Whether you are a new writer, experienced writer, or want-to-be-a-writer writer, we hope you'll join us to bring in your work and get expert advice from award-winning songwriter, Jud Caswell.
Participants in this workshop rave about Jud and about how much his advice is help-

ing shape and improve their writing. Jud starts each session with a short discussion of a specific element of songwriting craft, then moves to sharing songs. Jud's feedback is focused on questions or concerns raised by the songwriter, with group discussion focused on issues of craft and technique. The goal of the workshop is to provide a safe place for songwriters to share and learn. Songwriters of all levels and abilities are welcome.

Songwriting takes place on the first Tuesday of every month from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the library's Conference Room. Please register in advance on the library's website.

Death Café, with Davinica Nemptow

Thursday, December 5, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Join us for this monthly discussion group facilitated by Davinica Nemptow of Kaneel. At a Death Café people, often strangers, gather to eat cake, drink tea and discuss death. The objective is "to increase awareness of death with a view to helping people make the most of their (finite) lives."

A Death Café is a group directed discussion of death with no agenda, objectives or themes. It is a discussion group rather than a grief support or counseling session. No registration is required, but if you'd like to be on the library's mailing list for updates or cancellations, please fill out a form on the library's website. TML's Death Café takes place on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society Presents: A Day in the Life of a Fort Williams Park Coordinator, with Chris Cutter

Tuesday, December 10, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Join us as we go behind the scenes at Fort Williams to hear about a day in the life of a Fort Williams Park Coordinator. Guest speaker Chris Cutter was the Fort Williams Park Coordinator for five years.

During his tenure he managed the daily logistics and operations of the Fort activities with a staff of rangers and greeters. Come hear his stories of operations at the Fort, from hosting the Beach to Beacon and dozens of weddings each year to managing the flow of visitor traffic at a park that sees close to 500,000 visitors annually. Enjoy a rare opportunity to peek behind the curtain of Fort Williams.

-see LIBRARY page 15

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Middle Ground building project to be revised

(Press release) - At a regular business meeting on November 12, the Cape Elizabeth School Board voted unanimously to authorize the superintendent to work with Harriman architects to revise the "Middle Ground" design, which includes a new middle school and necessary upgrades to the elementary and high schools. The bond to fund this project, combined with an undefined municipal project, was narrowly defeated in the recent referendum.

"Over all I am heartened by the extremely close vote on the Middle Ground school project design," said Superintendent Chris Record. "We came within 166 votes of building the first new school in Cape in over 50 years. It is clear we made great progress in helping Cape citizens understand the very real needs of our schools and the multiple benefits of building a new middle school for our students

and staff."

School Board members were united in their desire for Dr. Record to get right back to work with Harriman, to "sharpen their pencils" and make refinements that would lead to cost reduction. Vice Chair Philip Saucier said, "Harriman has been an excellent consulting/architecture firm. They have all the resources ... and I think that they can continue to refine this in light of what we have learned." The board was steadfast in its support of the Middle Ground as the concept to address comprehensive safety/security needs and educational barriers while minimizing disruption to students. "We're very close," added outgoing Chair Elizabeth Scifres. "Let's see what we can tweak." She went on to say, "It's about need. And the needs have not changed."

Christmas tree fundraiser returns to Mill Creek Park

The Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth (SPCE Rotary) announces the return of its famous Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale at Mill Creek Park. Now in its 62nd year, this holiday tradition invites the community to celebrate the spirit of the holiday season "For the Love of Community."

The SPCE Rotary Christmas tree lot opens on Friday, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. and will be stocked with freshly cut Maine-grown Christmas trees from Newport and handcrafted double-sided balsam wreaths from Downeast Maine.

"We're honored to continue this long-standing tradition that brings the community together while supporting vital programs," said Matt McAleney, Chair of the 2024 Christmas Tree Sale. "When you purchase a tree or wreath from Rotary, you're not just decorating your home, you're creating hope and supporting local initiatives that make a real difference."

Why Choose Rotary Christmas Trees and Wreaths?

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For more information, visit SPCE Rotary's website or follow them on social media for updates and holiday cheer.

Judy's Pantry- a community feeding itself

Judy's Pantry operates at the Cape Elizabeth Methodist Church on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 3 - 4:30 p.m. Prior registration is necessary.

Please contact Beth Owens: bethowens1@gmail.com. Please consider a non-perishable donation to the IGA drop box.

Cape career coach

By Holly Smevog

Certified Professional & Career Coach Holly Smevog is a Cape Elizabeth resident and runs HMS Career Coaching, LLC. Please submit any career questions to editor@capecourier.com.

Dear Career Coach,

I left my last job a few months ago because I had reached the highest level I could there. I have always been able to move to new roles pretty easily, but this time, I've been applying for months without any luck. Do you have any advice? Has something changed in the job market?

Sincerely,
Job Seeker

Dear J.S.,

Thanks for writing in! Without knowing more about your situation it's hard to give you specific reasons why it might be taking a while to land a new job. I hope I can offer some advice and share what I know about how the markets have changed. You might be facing some common challenges. If you are at a high level there are fewer of those jobs locally and it takes a bit more time to find a new role. Equally, if you are applying to anything that's remote or hybrid there's probably a greater pool of candidates coming in and you have to work harder to stand out. Even though we are approaching the end of the year, it's still a good time to look for a job.

It's likely that you might not secure the offer and start working until the new year but hiring continues from now until then. Here are some tips I typically share with job seekers:

1. Make sure the jobs you're applying to are 'good fit' jobs for you. Because there is more competition, apply to roles that really match your skills and are of interest to you.

2. Each application is a small project. If you just fire off application after application, you can anticipate a long job search. A good application includes customization of your resume and cover letter and successfully establishing a human connection with the potential employer.

3. Once you apply to a job, consider how you can further support your application so your resume rises closer to the top of the pile. Sometimes you have to be clever and creative to get an interview. I recognize that could be out of your comfort zone, but the *reasonably* squeaky wheel does get the grease!

4. AI is a great way to initially compare your skills and your resume with the job description. Some companies screen for AI, so just use AI technology for ideas. Don't get rejected for taking shortcuts.

5. The later and higher up you are in your career, the more likely it is that people will play a role in your ability to both find opportunities and land interviews. Spend more time networking than submitting applications through the internet. Hope this helps!



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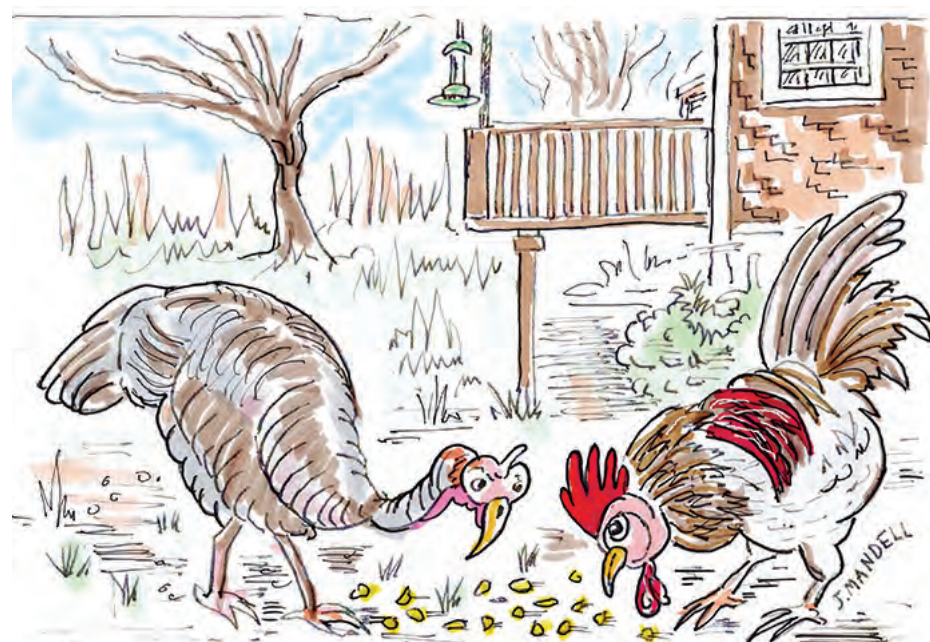
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Capetoon: Dining with a friend

By Jeff Mandell



True Story. An escaped rooster and an outcast turkey have been hanging out and dining together in our yard.

Holiday gifting with CEEF's Red Apple Award

CEEF's Red Apple Award is the perfect way to say "Thank You" this holiday season! This gift lets you recognize and celebrate the amazing staff in our Cape Elizabeth School system, from teachers and bus drivers to custodians and nurses. Simply donate online at ceef.us/redapple by Dec. 15 and our volunteers will beautifully package and hand deliver the gifts before break.

When you send a Red Apple in the name of any Cape staff member, the recipient will receive a handwritten note with your personal

message, recognition as an award recipient, and a holiday gift based on donation size (from LL Bean bags to heated neck wraps). All donations are cumulative per teacher, so give what you can and spread the word. Class gifts solved!

Best of all, your Red Apple donation supports teachers and staff twice: first with a personal thank you for their efforts and then by helping CEEF fund teacher-led initiatives that fall outside of the school budget. It is truly a win-win. Order today at ceef.us/redapple.

News from the School Board

By Elizabeth Scifres

The November 12 School Board business meeting was highlighted by recognition and gratitude.

Four CEHS seniors, Sage Evans, Isabelle Reeves, Declan Scifres and Story Straw were recognized for their achievement as National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists. The board then had presentations from Technology Director Troy Patterson and Special Services Director Ryan Fairchild. Please watch the video of this meeting, found on the CESD website, to learn more about these presentations.

The board adopted its yearly goals, following a goal review / setting retreat. They include continued priority for a fiscally sound budget that provides a high-quality education and meets the needs of all students; continued monitoring of policies and instructional programs; continued priority in attracting, retaining, and supporting our excellent CESD staff; continued emphasis on expanding communication with all of Cape Elizabeth's community members; continued priority of updating our school buildings such that they will meet modern educational needs and address climate/culture/safety/security; continued emphasis on advancing the efficacy of the board.

The School Board unanimously and emphatically authorized the Superintendent to negotiate and sign a contract with Harriman architecture firm to revise the "Middle Ground" design for a new middle school and necessary renovations and additions at Pond Cove Elementary and CEHS. The board was steadfast in its commitment to addressing educational, structural, mechanical, safety/security needs at the three schools in the most financially responsible way with long-range planning and minimal student disruption.

The policy committee, led by outgoing policy chair Kathleen Curry-Sparks, has been systematically reviewing, updating, and adding to the CESD policy manual – the laws of any school department. During this meeting, the policy committee brought forward four policies and a related procedure for adoption, showing

great progress in their work to make sure the school department is up to date in making sure our policies match current law and best practice. Subject areas of these particular policies ranged from "School Board Use of Electronic Mail and Other Electronic Communications" to our "Comprehensive Health and Safety Emergency Management Plan."

The board also said goodbye to and expressed appreciation for three board members ending their service. Kathleen Curry-Sparks served for three years, thoughtfully and skillfully leading Policy Committee as its Chairperson. Heather Altenburg served for nine years, most notably guiding us with compassion and grace as Chairperson during COVID. Elizabeth Scifres served for twelve years, with multiple terms as Policy Chair, Finance Chair, and five terms as Chairperson of the board, leaving a legacy of efficiency, effectiveness and collegiality. Each board member took time to share anecdotes and express their appreciation for their departing colleagues.

In closing, on behalf of the School Board, I would like to extend some gratitude. First, I thank our exceptional educators – we have outstanding administrators, faculty, and staff! Thank you to Dr. Record, our excellent and deeply committed Superintendent. I would like to thank our students! You are the reason we are all here, and wow, do you impress us every day.

I am also thankful for CE parents and families for their support of these amazing students. Thank you to the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation (CEE) for their robust, innovative grants for our schools, totaling well over \$60,000 just this fall. Thank you to all three parents associations who expand and enrich our students' educational experiences. Thank you to all the residents of this town for your strong value of education and many avenues of support of our schools. And finally, to all the board members with whom I have served over these many years, thank you for your commitment to all the students of Cape Elizabeth and your valuable service to this town.



In Your Community

Congratulations to Jessica Linzer Simpson, Cape Elizabeth resident and winner of the 2024 AARP Maine Steadfast Advocate Award!

The Steadfast Advocate Award celebrates an individual volunteer's countless and unending efforts to support the AARP Maine mission. Jessica Linzer Simpson, a current AARP Maine Advocacy Volunteer, has consistently demonstrated her steadfast commitment to the betterment of the lives of older Mainers. Thank you, Jessica. You are an inspiration!





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Parents' Associations for all three Cape Elizabeth schools do so much, and need help

By Kevin St. Jarre

Cape Elizabeth has three parents' associations working hard to extend the opportunities and support available to students, families and educators in the Cape Elizabeth School District. The Pond Cove Parents' Association, the Middle School Parents' Association and the High School Parents' Association have worked tirelessly for many years, constantly look for the next opportunity to help, and are always open to new members and volunteers.

Eliza Matheson is a former board member of the PCPA who spent four years as either President and Secretary. This is the first year she hasn't been on the board. Katie Swayze is the current PCPA President. She joined the board for the first time this year after taking on smaller volunteer roles last year.

Matheson said, "I believe the primary purposes of the PCPA are to connect families early and often as their kids enter the school system, create a community bond with the school and financially support programming that otherwise could not be funded by the school budget."

Asked what the PCPA has worked on this year, Matheson said, "One of our biggest programs is always Visiting Author - this year, we had Jerry Pallotta come to Pond Cove and meet with every single class. For those who are uninitiated, Jerry writes an engaging, elementary

level book series called "Who Would Win" about different animal species. It was a HUGE hit. Another thing we do annually is fund our schools Ruth's Re-useable Resources membership. Ruth's is a surplus supply store and our memberships allows for our 90+ teachers/staff to come and get materials for free if we maintain an annual membership. The PCPA may cover the ~\$2,500 membership, but our teachers/staff will often take more than \$18,000 worth of supplies in one year."

To what Matheson said, Swayze added, "We also have a grants program for teachers/staff; this is one way we fill in school budget gaps. I'd love for this to be highlighted, because with recent staff turnover, there seems to be less awareness that we do this. The PCPA also invites grandparents to volunteer—it's not just parents!"

Petra Guglielmetti is the vice president of the MSPA. She said of that parents' association, "The MSPA has two main functions, which we achieve through a few annual fundraisers. One is that we offset the cost of field trips for families, including the beloved sixth-grade Chewonki trip." Guglielmetti said the Chewonki opportunity has been happening since she was a kid in Cape schools.

"This is increasingly important, since the cost of some trips has more than doubled since the pandemic began,"

Guglielmetti said, "The other is that we award 'mini grants' to teachers and staff, to cover supplies and experiences that fall outside the school budget. Last year, larger grants included \$500 for electronic weather stations for a science teacher, \$500 for teachers to take students to a Portland Stage production, \$500 toward Music Department mini-lessons for incoming fifth graders, and funds for jiu jitsu instructors, pickleball supplies and ping pong paddles for gym classes. We also award lots of smaller grants for things like treats and prizes that teachers can give students to reward hard work—in many cases, items that teachers and staff would otherwise end up paying for out of their own pockets. Whenever possible, we also get creative and crowd-source to meet needs without spending money. For example, when the

school nurse recently requested a grant toward wheelchairs, we reached out to Cape parents Mat Soch and Cristen Murray, and the Fontaine family, of 101 Mobility of Maine. They generously donated three gently-used wheelchairs. Oh, and we also put on regular teacher appreciation events, like a back-to-school taco feast donated by Taco Escobarr."

Guglielmetti went on to point out that during the recent debates about Cape Elizabeth's school buildings, the MSPA has been trying to help out. "I think community members might be interested to know how the MSPA helps teachers/staff navigate specific shortcomings of our facilities. For example, this fall we paid for a large rolling white board

-see PARENTS' ASSOCIATIONS page 9

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CEHS Women's Leadership Academy students hike by moonlight, camp in yurts

By Madison Kirwan and Kevin St. Jarre



Contributed photo

CEHS Teacher Elaine Brassard speaks to her Women's Leadership Academy students inside a yurt on their recent trip.

In its fourth year, Cape Elizabeth High Schools' Women's Leadership Academy (WLA) students hiked with headlamps under a near-full moon to the summit of Bradbury Mountain at the onset of an overnight camping trip at Maine Forest Yurts in Durham. One could not have asked for better November weather, or a more unique group of women with whom to have an expedition.

From randomly selected teams completing a scavenger hunt to crawling through part of a Survivor-like challenge course, and prepping, budgeting and cooking meals, students learned to work, overcome challenges and problem-solve cooperatively.

Women's Leadership Academy is a semester-long course, currently with 18 CEHS students enrolled. The class teaches elements of leadership in many ways: from learning about well-known leaders to creating vision boards on Can-

va, and finding their own north stars to lead themselves.

The class provides a welcoming environment by empowering and supporting young women. With a range of personalities and grade levels, WLA students are encouraged to step outside their comfort zone and develop their own values, vision and voice.

"Outdoor experiential activities provide a great opportunity for students to learn to work together and lead in many different ways," WLA Teacher Elaine Brassard said.

Along with WLA co-teacher Carolyn Young, and the support of chaperones Eileen Hetrick and Colleen Currier, this year's students stepped outside their comfort zones and led each other through new situations and logistics such as unexpected travel arrangements and trip-planning, which brought out their own confidence and adaptability.

Thank you to our friends, families and our wonderful community for all your support over the years

We are thankful for all of you!

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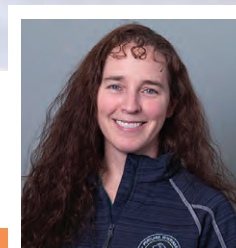
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Any Questions Contact:
Tim Lindsay
timlindsay@maine.rr.com

RAIN OR SHINE!

Parents' Associations

Continued from page 7

for extended-learning specialists to use, since they do their work wherever they can find space—hallways, conference rooms or the library. We also just had a very productive meeting with the Cape Elizabeth Middle School Principal, Sarah Rubin. One thing we talked about is how the school budget for supplies is going to be tight this year—a zero-percent increase—and we want to do everything we can to make sure teachers will still have everything they need and want to give students a great education here in Cape. Principal Rubin also shared some of the ideas teachers have brought up that just can't be funded at this point, such as a student field trip to M.I.T. in Boston, and a Wabanaki studies trip to Bar Harbor. We know many parents would love their kids to have these opportunities, but in order for them to happen, the MSPA needs to up our fundraising. Plans are in the works, but we will need people to sign up to help with our events when the calls go out!"

Cherie Gustafson is co-president of the High School Parents' Association. She provided insight into the HSPA, saying, "We meet monthly for an hour to plan out, implement and build upon our well-established annual events that are always met with a ton of appreciation."

Like the other associations, a big part of what the HSPA does is fundraising to support activities that help enrich education for our students.

Gustafson said, "For students we financially support workshops, speakers, \$500 scholarships for graduating seniors, chosen by teachers based upon things like citizenship and character, and we really enjoy showing up at school for things like 'Donut Hole Day,' 'Midterms Snacks,' and recently added 'Halloween Student Appreciation (i.e. free candy) Day.' The students are always so polite and grateful. For teachers we provide Teacher Grants for education-adjacent expenses that have no other funding, and Teacher Appreciation events like providing 'Breakfast/Coffee Bars,' 'Holiday Cookie Swap' and 'Springtime Teacher Lunches.' They, too, always express a lot of gratitude for being supported and recognized. For parents/caregivers we provide a weekly newsletter that updates families on events and activities and volunteer opportunities."

According to Gustafson, HSPA Co-President Andrea Bryant has prepared for and run all of the meetings so far

this year, and had the great idea of having an HSPA representative go to each grade-level parent meeting this year to talk about what HSPA does, has applied for Bottle Shed grant for the nonprofit, coordinated a Tri-Parents' Association meeting so that the HSPA will become more involved with the planning stages of the annual Cape Challenge 5K and Fun Run.

Gustafson also said, "Grants Volunteer Nina Trowbridge has been educating teachers about our Grants Application process and encouraging/reviewing applications. Teacher/Student appreciation coordinator Julie Halter has organized our first Student Appreciation events where we set up tables of snacks and candy in the hallways outside the office on Halloween. Our Newsletter volunteer Gina Guadagnino assembles and emails weekly newsletters to parents/caregivers. For fundraising, our treasurer Allison Blackstone has set us up with GiveButter, which makes it much easier for people to donate and pay for membership/directories. She also streamlined our documents/emails through GoogleDrive, including our financial reports, which has been super helpful. Secretary Sarah Price keeps all of our meetings documented according to non-profit rules. Website Master Roxanne deVries keeps our site updated. Volunteer of many years Laura Gebhart has once again assembled the amazing and treasured student directory."

For those interested in getting involved, HSPA President Gustafson said, "Every Cape Elizabeth High School parent is automatically a member, and always welcome to attend meetings where they can attend and learn more about how/where to share their unique skills/talents. Or feel free to email us at president@capehspa.org."

MSPA Vice-President Gugliemetti said, "Email president@capemspa.org to introduce yourself! If you want, we can add you to the mailing list for our weekly newsletter, or just shoot you a note when we need help with particular events. We have an all-new MSPA board and our goal is to bring new energy into the organization. To those who've been working so hard on the initiative for a new school building—future plans are important, but the middle school would benefit from more involvement from

parents right here, right now. Post-COVID, volunteerism in our school kind of fell off a cliff. We get it—times have been crazy stressful. I am a busy working mom of three (plus a crazy dog!), so I totally get how hard it is to find the time and bandwidth to volunteer for things. We all get too many emails, our calendars are blowing up. That said, every time I have signed up to volunteer in the school, I have been so glad I did. I always meet a new person, or learn something about my kids' day that I had no idea about. I feel more connected to the place where they spend so much time. We have some great (borderline crazy!) new fundraising events in the works, but they won't be successful without help from middle school parents—we can't pull them off alone."

For the PCPA, Matheson said people can check out the website capepcpa.org or email hello@capepcpa.org. "If you have a student at Pond Cove, you can join our Facebook group, but since we are often posting locations/times where kids will be, we do our best to screen requests/keep the bots out - and keep it to just folks who have students in the

school," she said.

Matheson also said, "If you have a student at Pond Cove, you're an automatic member - there are no dues or fees to be a member. You can learn all about our events by getting our newsletter. I also want to give a shout out to our amazing district volunteer coordinator, Sarah Gagne, who can help folks find ways to support our schools with and without the Parents Associations."

Matheson summed it up like this: "Cape has always had a really robust parent volunteer crowd. It would be a lie to say it hasn't waned in the wake of COVID. Life is busy, all of our time is stretched so thin, resources are limited. But one thing I really appreciate about the PAs is that we are able to impact *every* student in the school - not just the ones who get to sign up for something or have the funds to enjoy certain programs outside of CESD. There is a sense that the PAs are there for all students and that within the four walls of the school, the PAs are there to support everyone. And it only happens with volunteers. So if you can give even an hour here and there, it makes a difference."



Photo by Eliza Matheson

Pond Cove Elementary 1st grade students learning about sound waves, funded by grade level grants from the Pond Cove Parent's Association (PCPA). The Pond Cove Parents' Association, the Middle School Parents' Association and the High School Parents' Association are always open to new members and volunteers.

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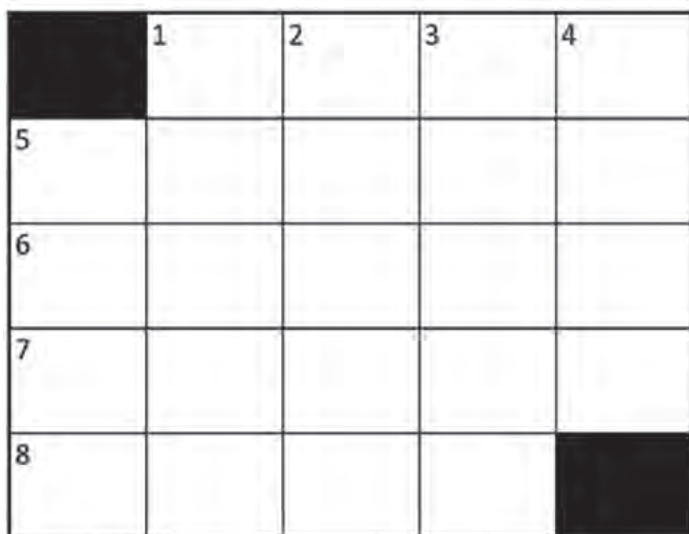
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Mini crossword

By Erik Svetlichny



Across	Down
1: Popular Game Fish	1: To take a 5-down.
5: Saddam's party	2: Moses's Brother
6: Open-air Courtyards	3: Time spent on a particular role
7: Australian sandal	4: Type of carpet
8: Archaic word for "Grab"/"Seize"	5: BW Locale

See solution on page 13

Toys for Tots drive through Dec. 13

Jacki Farrell's EDWARD JONES office in Cape Elizabeth is pleased to support the Toys for Tots program for the 4th consecutive year. Please help make a difference in the lives of children in our community by bringing in a new, unwrapped toy to the office at 343 Ocean House Road during regular business hours, now through December 13.

When you give today, you'll help us fill our toy box with gifts and ensure every child has a present to open this holiday season. Your contribution, no matter the size, will go

a long way in bringing smiles and joy to children who need it most.

Monetary gifts, including gift cards, cannot be accepted at the office. Online donations can be made at Toysfortots.org on their secure website.

The Marine Toys for Tots Foundation is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Marine Toys for Tots. An IRS-recognized 501(c)(3) not-for-profit charity, it serves as the authorized fundraising and support organization for the Toys for Tots Program.



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- Christmas Day - Prix Fixe Traditional Holiday Fare Menu, Noon-7pm
 - Holiday Brunch - Dec 26 Through New Year's Day, 7:30am-2pm
 - New Year's Eve - Chef Brown's Celebratory Additions to the Sea Glass Menu, 5pm-9pm
 - Sea Glass Giving Tree - November 28 - January 1
- Our Giving Tree is decorated by local school children's handmade ornaments. We invite you to trade an ornament for new warm clothes such as gloves, hats & socks that will be distributed to food banks & shelters by Project GRACE. Receive a \$20 property certificate* as thanks for your donation.



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For every room booked, the Inn will purchase books for local schools. Buy a student made bookmark for \$10 & receive a \$20 property certificate.*



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*Limit of one promotional certificate per person. Valid January 2 until June 10.

The music corner

By Candice Bellinger and Laura Warren



Contributed photo

Candice Bellinger and Laura Warren.

CAPE Arts & Music would like to thank all of the community members who stopped by our table to talk about how the arts have impacted your lives, your child's lives and the future of CAPE Arts & Music becoming an integral part of Cape's cultural scene. We look forward to following up with many of you who signed our "Get to Know Us Better" sign-up sheets, our volunteer pages and summer children's camp page. There is something to be said for the impact the arts has on us as a society and our goal is to bring more arts, music and fun, engaging events to Cape Elizabeth.

Take some time over the holiday's to enjoy music, go to a holiday concert, color with your kids, listen to music with your family. The impact is beautiful memories to be shared by all. "I was listening to a piece of music with my five-year-old son and he was

enthralled by the pure magical form of it; the instrumentation, the magic in every moment, the strength and absolute beauty that grew as the piece progressed had him completely engaged. The power of music effecting this young person and his sense of what is 'cool' or moves him to 'feel' through the music was astounding to witness," said Candice Bellinger of CAPE Arts & Music. This piece was Suite No. 2 from Daphnis et Chloé by Maurice Ravel. Fifteen minutes later when the piece ended with a bang he immediately shouted "WOW!" We were both completely transformed and fulfilled by the listening experience. Take some time this week to join us on this journey of listening. Listen to MPR Classical or go to YouTube and type in "Daphnis et Chloé, Suite No. 2" and breathe. Happy Thanksgiving!



Thank you for a Great Season!

Community Services and Fort Williams Park Director Kathy Raftice credits the positive experience at the park to a diverse team of dedicated individuals. This team includes Fort Williams Park Visitor Services Supervisor Dom Walker and his group of rangers and greeters, Cape Elizabeth Public Works Park Foreman Scott Smart, Friends of Fort Williams Ecology Project Manager Andrea Southworth, and the food vendors (Pie-Oh-My!, Gorgeous Gelato, Bite Into Maine, and Cousins Maine Lobster) who offer a variety of delicious options to visitors.

Additionally, the staff and over 35 volunteers at the Portland Head Light Museum and Gift Shop play a crucial role in generating revenue that helps offset the costs of maintaining the park.

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
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| Doreen Theriault | Rich West | Connie Morse |
| Joan Cirbus | Kelley Boero | Jcann Mills |
| Paddy Clark | Betty Craig | Nan Twatchman |
| Donna Allen | Fran Minden | Jacob Iorfino |

Meeting

Continued from page 3

Harriman shared concerns that the council should let the Planning Board finish their process with the Cookie Jar items in front of them and that the council could take steps to issue a license later if needed.

Mike Friedland shared his “full support of the Cookie Jar” and that working with the town and its ordinances can be “very stressful, expensive, and is consuming a lot of our time and energy.” Friedland suggested that the Cookie Jar withdraw their site plan application currently with the Planning Board and submit a driveway application for additional ingress, egress and parking spots and in doing so could “put this avoidable mess behind us and devote time to resolving other issues.”

There was much discussion between council members as to what the intent of issuing a license to the Cookie Jar would accomplish and whether the council should further insert itself into an issue currently under review with the Planning Board. Chair Reiniger said that this license would “recognize the independence of the Planning Board” and “give immediate relief to the cookie jar by giving them this choice, an option of a license.”

Councilor Anderson read aloud the draft motion with amendments not previously published for public record and to clear confusion among council members as to the correct version of the language was being considered. The license would allow the town and the Cookie Jar to accept an “irrevocable, transferable and exclusive license for vehicles to encroach approximately 2.5 feet into the town right away for the purpose of maintaining the existing paved front parking area” in front of the Cookie Jar. The license could be revoked if the Cookie Jar was no longer used as a retail establishment, if the business failed to maintain insurance, or if the town secures funding and sets a schedule for commencing a Shore Road improvement project. The paved parking area in question would be for “customer vehicle entry and egress and no other purpose whatsoever.”

Councilor Jordan said that she thinks this license would “put liability on a small business” and as a supporter of small businesses, she does not want to put liability on them. Councilor Thompson said that although Jordan made her comment regarding liability clear in a previous meeting, the owners of the Cookie Jar still wanted to move forward with a license from the town.

Councilors Harriman and Jordan voted to reject Councilor Thompson’s amendments, but the motion passed with majority approval. Councilors Gabrielson, Harriman and Jordan voted to reject the Town Manager offering a license to the Cookie Jar as amended. The motion was approved with majority approval.

Item #163-2024 Consideration of a Workplace Lactation Policy for the Thomas Memorial Library

A draft motion to approve the new workplace Thomas Memorial Library Lactation Policy as recommended by the Thomas Memorial Library Committee was approved with a 6-0 vote. Councilor Gabrielson recused himself from the vote as his spouse is a library employee.

Item #164-2024 Consider Accepting the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant for Design of the Replacement Culvert on Spurwink Avenue

A draft motion to accept a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the purpose of designing a replacement for the Spurwink Avenue culvert was approved

with a 7-0 vote. The grant is for \$122,360 with a matching grant from the town in the amount of \$11,000 to be funded by the Unassigned Fund Balance.

Town Manager Fox thanked the Town Planner for pursuing the grant and “finding a way to fund both the Spurwink project and the Sawyer Road project at the same time.”

Item #165-2024 Confirmation of the IT Coordinator

A draft motion to affirm the Town Manager’s appointment of Jason Lund to serve as the town’s first ever IT Coordinator for the town of Cape Elizabeth was approved with a unanimous 7-0 vote by the council. Lund will begin his position on November 25, 2024.

Item #166-2024 Discussion Regarding Filling the Position of Town Assessor

Town Manager Fox explained that his previous recommendation during the Town Council October meeting of hiring the County Assessing Services was no longer viable as the organization does not have the capacity at this time. Fox recommended proceeding with the process to hire an in-house assessor position to fill the vacancy of Clinton Swett. Fox also suggested the creation of a hiring committee where one Town Councilor will assist with reviewing resumes and interviewing candidates. The council nominated Councilor Stephanie Anderson for that role.

Councilor Gabrielson suggested adding an item to the December agenda to extend

the deadline if necessary for the Senior Property Tax Relief program given the timeline of hiring a new assessor. Fox said he does not think an extension is necessary and clarified that although Clinton Swett is transitioning out of his role as Town Assessor that he was processing all senior tax abatement requests with additional support from town staff.

The draft motion to direct the Town Manager to oversee a hiring committee comprised of one councilor and up to two other staff members to review applications and perform preliminary interviews for the position of Town Assessor was approved with a 7-0 vote.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE PICK-UP

The Cape Elizabeth High School boys' hockey team will cheerfully pick up your tree for you!

SIGN UP TODAY!

Choose Sunday, December 29 or Sunday, January 5



Two ways to sign up:

VIA VENMO

Donate to venmo @CapeElizabeth-HighSchool
Please include: "TREE", Your Address, and desired pick-up date (12/29 or 1/5)



venmo



VIA MAIL

Complete and detach the form below. Send by mail with your donation.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Circle your desired pick-up date: DEC 29 JAN 5

Make check payable to **CEHS Boys' Hockey Boosters**
Mail to: **CEHS Boys Hockey c/o The Hoopers,**
40 Cross Hill Rd, Cape Elizabeth, ME, 04107



FMI: Contact Melissa Hooper at 937-475-4890 or CEHShockey@gmail.com

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The Cape Courier



5TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 6th
6:00 - 7:00 pm
Town Green

- Hot Chocolate • Yummy Treats • Giveaways • Games • Music and SANTA



Local birding report

By E. Brooks Bornhofft

Although the loss of daylight and unpredictable weather pose challenges for birders in late fall, the season also provides the opportunity to reflect, hone-in and enhance our birding skills and knowledge, pushing us to pay closer attention to subtle field marks, behaviors and calls. And with an ever-changing avian landscape, there is always something of interest to see or hear in Cape Elizabeth and it is just a matter of getting out there and tuning in.

As for observations from the yard and field, on November 16 while doing one last scan of the gravel sections of parking lot within Crescent Beach State Park I noticed a flash of white as several bluebird sized birds briefly rose up in the air then seemingly disappeared. Upon closer inspection I spied five Snow Buntings in their non-breeding plumage hunkered down in the shadow of a parking curb stop. By the time these birds arrive in Cape (from the northern tundra) about half of their crisp white plumage (bottom remains white) has given way to deep reddish orange tones which serve to camouflage the bird on their hibernal haunts - bare ground and crop stubble. During migration and in winter when upland field seeds are snow covered this bird can be found along our shorelines dining on tiny seeds and eelgrass.

According to Peter Vickery, Snow Buntings are somewhat common across the state during the late fall and winter months. That said, there were only a handful of ebird confirmed reports this past fall and winter across Cape and not a single report yet this November. Speaking of snowbirds, the Winter Finch forecast for 2024-25 had predicted a moderate flight of Evening Grosbeaks southward this fall. I had not thought too much about this prediction until the bright morning of November 17. I was working in the yard when the voice of an unfamiliar bird calling high up in an Oak Tree caught my ear.

The shrill chirps persisted for several minutes. Interestingly, Cornell's Merlin app stated that the calls were coming from a Cardinal and/or a Titmouse, but it sounded nothing like either bird and I had a strong hunch that it was something different. After dashing back to the house to retrieve my binocs I quickly scanned the upper regions of the tree and spotted a smoke gray colored bird with white and black wings, an Evening Grosbeak! Shortly thereafter the bird flew off to the top of a white pine where, against a backdrop of blue sky the bird continued to call as if desperately lonely for companionship.

There is something about being in the presence of an Evening Grosbeak that stirs a sense of wildness deep within. Ornithologist and Civil War army surgeon Dr. Elliot Coues once stated, "This is a bird of distinguished appearance, whose very name suggests the far-away land of the dipping sun, and the tuneful romance which the wild bird throws around the fading light of day."

And another renowned eighteen-hundreds ornithologist, Edward H. Forbush, stated in his personal account upon first seeing this creature, "seen for the first time amid the snows of winter or against a background of darkling pines, these strange and beautiful waifs of the northland seem somehow out of place, as would some rare and singular exotic plant blossoming in a New England winter."

Interestingly, exactly four years ago on November 17, two pairs of Evening Grosbeaks appeared at my platform feeder in the backyard. That day marked the first time I had laid eyes on an Evening Grosbeak in Maine. Since then, my only other sighting was in October 2022 when a male and female briefly dropped into our backyard. Leveraging ebird's data I learned that within the last thirty days, only one other Evening Grosbeak sighting had been reported (November 6 in South Harpswell) across all of southern Maine.

True to its winter wandering ways, *Coccothraustes vespertinus* does not stick around any one place too long. Originally a bird of the far northwest and unknown east of the Rocky Mountains before the late 1800s, this species expanded its presence eastward through the late 19th and early 20th centuries. What likely facilitated this expansion of the grosbeak's range was the planting of non-native ornamental berry trees.

In recent decades the eastern population of Evening Grosbeaks have declined by 92%, the steepest decline of any landbird in the continental U.S. or Canada. There are several reasons for this species' decline including boreal forest logging, disease and lack of forest insects due to aerial spraying in the U.S. and Canada. This winter, listen for the heavyset finches running patter of call notes, which can be sharp, warbled or sweet. You may just catch a glimpse of an Evening Grosbeak.

Lastly, in early November my two sons and I were horsing around in our backyard when we came upon a significant amount of black and white skunk fur, spread out roughly in a circle. As we searched for clues to better understand what may have occurred, my older son noticed a feather lying in the grass. Carefully untangling the incredibly soft feather from a bit of skunk fur I noticed its distinct striping and knew just what it was, a feather from the fearless Great-horned Owl.

Although a skunk can weigh up to three times as much as a Great-horned, this owl holds the distinction of being the primary predator of Striped Skunks. Clearly the skunk had been ambushed and had chunks of its fur plucked from it before, likely being swept back up into the moonlit night by a Great-horned Owl. What a sight that would have been to see! Great-horned owl feathers are considered sacred by many Native American tribes and are used in ceremonies and rituals because the feathers are believed to carry the owl's spirit, energy and blessings.

Mini crossword solution

	B	A	S	S
B	A	A	T	H
A	T	R	I	A
T	H	O	N	G
H	E	N	T	

PRO TIP:

You don't actually have to spend half your day waiting to be seen at a walk-in clinic.



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back to feeling better in no time.



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CAPE CALENDAR

By Wendy Derzawiec

Please see the town website, www.capeelizabeth.com for meeting locations

Instructions for joining video conference meetings listed below will be posted on the town website, www.capeelizabeth.com.

Tuesday, December 3

Planning Board Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 pm

Thursday, December 5

Recycling Committee, Public Works Department, 7 pm

Monday, December 9

Town Council, Town Hall, 7 pm

Tuesday, December 10

School Board Meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 pm

Conservation Committee, Town Hall, 7 pm

Wednesday, December 11

Community Services Committee, Community Center, 5:30 pm

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Thomas Memorial Library, 6 pm

Town Council Workshop, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 7 pm

Thursday, December 12

Privacy Advisory Committee - Ad Hoc, Jordan Conference Room, Town Hall, 6 pm

TML Strategic Plan Working Group, Thomas Memorial Library,

6:30 pm

Tuesday, December 17

Planning Board, Town Hall, 7 pm

Ongoing each week

Al-Anon, 7 p.m. Fridays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland. Parking in rear.

Alcoholics Anonymous, 2 p.m.

Saturdays, First Congregational Church, 301 Cottage Road, South Portland; 7 p.m. Wednesdays, St. Bartholomew Church; 7 p.m. Fridays, St. Alban's Church.

Cape Elizabeth Historical Preservation Society, 9 a.m.-noon Mondays and Thursdays; and 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays - when "Open" sign displayed, Fort Williams, in the brick building closest to Shore Road (ring the doorbell).

Cape Elizabeth Lions Club, 6:39 p.m., first and third Tuesdays at the Bowery Beach Schoolhouse (except July and August), Two Lights Road

Cape Elizabeth Republican Town Committee, 6-8:30 p.m. first Wednesday of the month, Cape Elizabeth Community Center. Contact: cercme.com for Cape information.

South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club, 6:15 p.m. Wednesdays at 107 Preble Hall, Southern Maine Community College, 2 Fort Road, South Portland. sp-ce-rotary.org.

SERVICES

Cape Elizabeth Church of the Nazarene

499 Ocean House Road (Route 77)
747-1113

www.capenazarene.org

Sunday School for all ages: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship Celebration: 10:45 a.m.
Services streamed live or on demand: watch.capenazarene.org

Cape Elizabeth United Methodist Church

280 Ocean House Road
799-8396

www.ceumc.org

Sanctuary Service: 10 a.m.
In-person Sunday services 10 a.m. For Zoom services, call 799-8396

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

29 Ocean House Road
799-4321

Sacrament Meeting:

Sunday, 10 - 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School/Primary: 11:10 a.m.-12 p.m.

The Church of the Second Chance

Greater Portland Christian School
1338 Broadway, South Portland
641-3253

Sunday: 10:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Rise Church

1047 Congress Street, Portland
874-9779

<https://www.riseportland.church>

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Sunday Adult Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Sunday School for children: 10:00 a.m.

Services streamed live on Facebook

Congregation Bet Ha'am

81 Westbrook St., South Portland
879-0028

www.bethaam.org

Worship: Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, 10:30 a.m.

Family Shabbat Services:

Second Friday, 6:00 p.m.

Hope Community Church

879 Sawyer Street South Portland
799-4565

www.hopesopo.com

www.facebook.com/hopesopo

Sunday Morning Worship at 10 a.m.

Kid's Church for ages 4 through grade 5

Service videos available on our website

Promised Land World Reach Center

536 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3152

Sunday Prayer & Intercession: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10 a.m.

Family Bible Studies: Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Sermon recordings available to download

Redeemer Lutheran Church - LCMS

410 Main Street, Gorham
839-7100

www.RedeemerMaine.org

Sunday Bible Class for all ages: 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.

Services are in person and streamed on Facebook and YouTube

Saint Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road
799-4014

www.stalbansmaine.org

Sunday Services:

Rite 1 with Holy Eucharist 8:00 a.m.

Rite 2 with Holy Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

Live Streaming on YouTube (stalbanschannel)

Children's Programs 9:30 a.m.

Celtic Eventide 5:30 p.m.

Room for all

St Bartholomew Catholic Church of Saint John Paul II Parish

8 Two Lights Road, 207-883-0334

Website: www.JP2me.org

Sunday Mass: 9 a.m.

Daily Mass: Mon. and Wed. 8 a.m.

Sacrament of Confession: Mon. 8:30-9 a.m.

Additional Mass times in Scarborough & South Portland listed on website

First Congregational Church United Church of Christ

301 Cottage Road, South Portland
799-3361

www.fccucc.org

Sunday Worship: 10:00 a.m. in person and streamed on Facebook & YouTube

First Congregational Church of Scarborough

167 Black Point Road, Scarborough
883-2342

www.fccscarborough.com

Sunday Morning Worship: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School & Nursery Care

CABLE GUIDE

CETV CHANNEL 1302

Subject to change. Please see cetv.capeelizabeth.org for latest program guide and video on demand.

Nothing scheduled for Nov. 27 - Dec. 17



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Yuletide Fair December 7

"A Traditional Christmas" will be the focus of the annual 2024 Holiday Fair at the First Congregational Church of Scarborough (167 Black Point Road) on Saturday, December 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Featured in the Parish Hall will be holiday greens, Christmas items, quilts, crafts, jewelry, knit goods, homemade baked goods/

jams/jellies, candy and our famous Cookie Walk. Coffee and breakfast snacks will be available. Proceeds will go to the church's charitable efforts.

Please note our fair is handicap accessible via a chair lift for those who need it. For more information call: 883-2342.

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539 Ocean House Road
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Flute lessons: For beginners and intermediates of all ages. Call Kris: 767-3712.

Piano, Voice, Guitar, Ukulele lessons for all ages. Beginner through intermediate. Carey Rasco: 232-7015

Piano Lessons. All ages, all levels. Call Ora: 207-899-3014

Library

Continued from page 4

Film School: Screwball Comedy

Thursday, December 19 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. Do you love watching movies? Have you ever secretly wished you had gone to film school? Here's your chance!

Join Community Engagement Librarian Sasha Kohan each month as we watch a movie followed by a wide-ranging discussion, covering everything from costume design to lighting to star power (maybe with just a touch of film theory, as a treat). This month, we'll be taking a look at screwball comedy featuring Katherine Hepburn, Cary Grant, and a leopard named Baby...what more could you ask for? We'll talk about conventions of the screwball genre and why the 1930s was a ripe time for an era of silly comedies.

Come just for the movie and popcorn, or stay for the conversation afterward too. To stay up to date on future Film School screenings and receive post-discussion material, sign up for the Film School mailing list. No registration required to see the movies. Open to all from movie buffs to casual viewers, and everyone in between.

BUSINESSES/SERVICES

In home dog sitting and boarding in Cape Elizabeth. Large fenced in yard. Insured and Pet CPR and first aid certified. Call or text 207-329-0628

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM J. SCHMITZ



William J. Schmitz (Bill) of Mount Kisco, New York passed away on November 14. His devoted wife Joan and devoted son James were with him when he passed.

Bill was born in 1936 and took an interest in engineering. He studied civil engineering at Cooper Union and pursued a career building bridges and roads. Engineering meant the world to him; the pinnacle of his career was at Berger Lehman, where he was Chief Engineer and Executive VP.

Bill married his wife Joan Virrill in 1973, and they had 2 sons. He loved both of his children, supporting them over the years as they learned about the world and grew into adults. In 2007 he moved to Cape Elizabeth where he was enthusiastic about being Pop-pop to his two grandchildren, Erik & Robert Schmitz. In 2017 he moved back to New York.

Family was important to him; he loved being a Dad and especially loved being Pop-pop to his grandsons Erik & Robby. He was always so happy to spend time with them, whether it was playing with trains, legos, designing bridges, or watching Erik, Robby and Bella (the family dog) race down the driveway on their vehicles.

William is survived by his devoted wife Joan Schmitz, whom he loved very much. He is survived by his son James Schmitz, who was always by his side during the difficult times. Bill is survived by his two grandsons Erik and Robert Schmitz of Cape Elizabeth, whom he loved dearly. Bill is survived by his brother Ernest Schmitz, whom he looked up to, his nephew Robert, and two grand nieces Michelle and Robin.

Bill is also survived by another son, Michael Schmitz, DO, of Cape Elizabeth.

Bill was a fighter, persevering as he fought many health problems. His wife Joan and son James were with him every step of the way, supporting him while also being inspired by his steadfast commitment to family and his determination to never, ever give up. Bill knew he was loved until the end. Nevertheless, he died with a broken heart.

No amount of preparation is ever enough time to say goodbye.

Please support your independent newspaper.

The Cape Courier is not affiliated with and does not receive funding from the town of Cape Elizabeth.



The "KID" Courier

Are you a young, aspiring writer or artist? We want to hear from you!!

We are looking for artwork or stories for our new section, The "KID" Courier.



Send submissions to: info@capecourier.com

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OUR EDUCATIONAL & FACILITY NEEDS REMAIN SO WE ARE SHARPENING OUR PENCILS!



SAFETY & SECURITY CONCERNS

Our schools do not currently meet modern safety and security standards, underscoring an urgent need for improvements that integrate layers of security throughout the buildings.



INADEQUATE VEHICULAR & PEDESTRIAN SITE CIRCULATION

The current site layout presents safety and traffic challenges, with insufficient sight lines from the main office to monitor visitors effectively.



OUTDATED CLASSROOMS & INADEQUATE SPECIAL EDUCATION SPACES

The size, age, & design of many classrooms do not support collaborative, project-based, & hands-on learning, and are inadequate for Special Education.



SPRAWLING LAYOUT & LONG TRAVEL DISTANCES

Piecemeal expansions over 70 years have led to sprawl that complicates navigation, diminishes collaboration, and results in loss of instructional time due to long travel distances.



INEFFECTIVE OVERSIGHT FROM MAIN OFFICES

The current PCES & CEMS main offices lack direct connection to secure entry vestibules, presenting significant challenges in visitor management and compromising school safety.



NURSE'S OFFICE LIMITATIONS

The Nurse's Office functionality is hindered by a lack of privacy, inadequate exam rooms & storage, absence of natural light, difficult ambulance access, and distance from some grades.



DEFICIENCY OF NATURAL LIGHT

Several hallways and classrooms are devoid of natural light, which is crucial for creating effective learning environments and positively influencing the school's climate and culture.



COMPLICATIONS FROM SHARED CAFETERIA

The 'cafetorium' shared by PCES & CEMS complicates scheduling (meal times run from 10:30AM-1:30PM). Kitchen deliveries must use CEMS' student/staff corridors, posing safety concerns.



INADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES

Storage has had to overtake mechanical rooms and other spaces within building, which is a safety concern. Adequate storage near the staff who utilize it is essential for efficient workflow.



NEED FOR TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES

Current technology and network infrastructure falls short in supporting modern education, hindering the development of skills in inquiry, analysis, collaboration, creativity, and communication.



OUTDATED & INEFFICIENT MECHANICAL SYSTEMS

Outdated & excessively loud HVAC systems compromise the learning & well-being of students/staff, due to age & inefficiency. Upgrading to modern, efficient systems can reduce long-term costs.



INADEQUATE PERFORMING ARTS SPACES

Over 60% of MS students participate in our band program. Current facilities are significantly undersized & lack proper acoustic control, leading to scheduling conflicts and limited practice time.

STAY TUNED FOR A **REFINED 'MIDDLE GROUND' CONCEPT** THAT ENABLES US TO MEET OUR NEEDS & FIND A **COMPROMISE SOLUTION.**



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