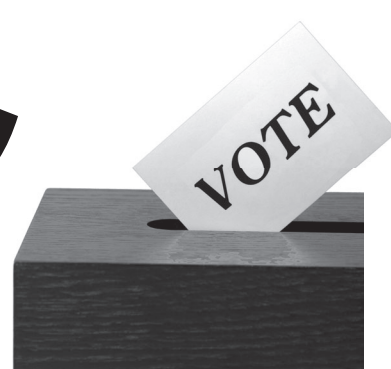


# Mount Desert Islander

Real People, Real Places, Real News



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Your Locally Owned Community Newspaper



Ballot Box

SECTION 2

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Rock art

SECTION 2

Page 1

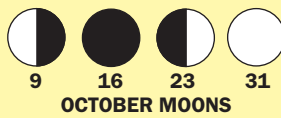


Runners win

SECTION 1

Page 5

Almanac



BAR HARBOR TIDES		
Date	Hi	Lo
Oct. 15	9:52 a.m. 10:15 p.m.	3:41 a.m. 4:05 p.m.
Oct. 16	10:41 a.m. 11:07 p.m.	4:30 a.m. 4:57 p.m.
Oct. 17	11:29 a.m. 11:58 p.m.	5:19 a.m. 5:48 p.m.
Oct. 18	12:17 p.m. 1:07 p.m.	6:08 a.m. 6:39 p.m.
Oct. 19	12:50 a.m. 1:44 a.m.	6:58 a.m. 7:50 a.m.
Oct. 20	2:00 p.m. 2:40 a.m.	8:28 p.m. 8:46 a.m.
Oct. 21	2:40 a.m. 2:56 p.m.	8:46 a.m. 9:26 p.m.



## Three vie for House 135 seat

By Sarah Hinckley  
shinckley@mdislander.com

**ELLSWORTH** — Voters will get to choose from three new candidates this year to fill the District 135 seat in the Maine House of Representatives. The seat has been held by Brian Hubbell for the last eight years. Due to term limits, Hubbell is barred from running again.

On Monday, the League of Women Voters hosted a virtual forum with the three candidates who wish to represent the residents of Mount Desert, Bar Harbor and Lamoine.

Benjamin Meiklejohn is running as

a Green Independent, Timothy Oh as a Republican and Lynne Williams as a Democrat. Each candidate answered questions sent to them in advance regarding the pandemic, the state's projected revenue shortfall and climate change. An additional question regarding access to high-speed internet also went before the candidates, as well as a question asking if they were in support of a publicly-owned electric utility.

**Benjamin Meiklejohn**

Benjamin Meiklejohn is a market researcher who lives in Mount Desert. See **REPRESENTATIVES** page 10

## Marijuana discussion tees up in council chambers

By Ninah Gile  
ngile@mdislander.com

**BAR HARBOR** — After the expiration of a moratorium on marijuana businesses, and changes to state law that govern how they are permitted, a request to locate a retail adult-use establishment has pushed the topic once again to the Town Council.

While voters statewide approved the legalization of an adult-use recreational marijuana market in 2016, it finally came online this week as the first wave of license holders opened their doors to would-be consumers. For those wishing to open a retail store, grow facility or testing lab, two things have to come together: state and local approval. Under state law marijuana businesses are pro-

hibited from opening in cities or towns unless a municipality allows it. Bar Harbor has yet to consider an opt-in measure, but an inquiry before the Town Council last week may push councilors to consider it in the coming months.

A letter to the town planners from Sheryl DeWalt, owner of the Tree of Life Day Spa, Acadia School of Massage and Salon NaturELLES, asked about the steps necessary to gain local approval for a retail shop located at 114 Cottage Street. As councilors considered whether or not to even discuss the request, they did voice concern that the location was too close to an elementary school and day care, which would not be permitted under state law.

DeWalt currently has a conditional approval. See **RETAIL** page 10



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL VAUGHAN

**QUIET REFLECTION ...** A cormorant sits still amid a burst of color in Pretty Marsh last weekend while the island welcomed peak foliage conditions for what is typically considered the last official weekend of the tourist season. However, a look at the streets of Bar Harbor this week indicates that the season may continue a bit longer than usual.

## Halloween events change, but continue

By Ninah Gile and Sarah Hinckley  
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**MOUNT DESERT** — Despite the pandemic, Halloween is happening this year.

There are several events scheduled around the island and in Trenton, all designed to protect the health of children and their families. Some will

even support local business owners.

Because Halloween is on a Saturday this year, a few new spooktacular events have been created and will take place throughout the day. Outside of traditional trick-or-treating on Ledge-lawn Avenue and Thurston's Lobster Pound's Trick-or-Trunk, Camp Beech Cliff is hosting a Trail of Treats and the Bar Harbor Historical Society

will host a Haunted Mansion for those who dare enter. Several of Tremont's organizations are getting in on the fun with a scavenger hunt in which clues can be found throughout the town.

**Ledge-lawn Trick-Or-Treating**

The town of Bar Harbor will be arranging a safer-than-normal Halloween for trick-or-treaters on Oct. 31. See **HALLOWEEN** page 10

## Luchini, Langley talk pandemic, environment

By Anne Berleant  
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**ELLSWORTH** — Incumbent state Sen. Louie Luchini and former four-term senator Brian Langley exchanged views on the 2020 election's hot-button issues in a virtual forum on Oct. 13. Former state senator and Bar Harbor Town Council member Jill Goldthwait served as moderator, with questions covering climate change, health care, renewable energy and re-starting a state economy battered by COVID-19.

Both candidates are seasoned legislators, with Luchini, a Democrat, serving four terms in the House before taking the Senate 7 seat in 2018 after Langley, a Republican, termed out. Both emphasized their support and legislative achievements for state fisheries, education, health care and the economy, often with a narrow margin separating their views.

The current pandemic colored nearly every question the candidates fielded, starting with their response to Governor Janet Mills' handling of the crisis.

While supporting Mills' "general approach" that relied on science, Luchini said he helped bring an earlier re-



Brian Langley



Louie Luchini

opening to Hancock County after Mills imposed statewide restrictions. He said he also helped steer emergency measures through, such as allowing curbside alcohol service.

"Several businesses told us that was the difference between survival and closure," Luchini said.

Langley said "history will be the final judge whether the state has struck the right balance" between public safety and economics. He faulted the "one size fits all" approach that flattened tourism for most of the 2020 season.

"Problems arise when people

feel their voices aren't heard," Langley said.

The challenges of a post-pandemic economic recovery are "incredibly difficult," Luchini said, noting the \$250 million rainy day fund created from budget curtailments that began in February were intended to "help close the gap" of the projected \$1.4 billion shortfall projected for 2021.

Langley, who helped draft a 10-year economic plan while in office that he described as a "bi-partisan road map" for Maine's economy, said that helping implement that plan is "the major reason I want to run again."

On climate change, Luchini supported regulations ("Legislation can and must play a role"), while Langley focused on its specific effect on the local fisheries, advocating the Blue Carbon Project, which would use the ocean's own ecosystem to reduce marine pollution and acidification.

Questions from the virtual audience leaned toward environmental issues, including the "historical low levels" of Graham Lake and fish kills in the Union River. Both candidates agreed some regulation was called for to find a balance that would keep the dam from dropping water levels 11 feet at a time.

Both candidates also agreed, in Luchini's words, that "when it comes to fishing, we listen to the lobstermen."

On health care, Luchini said he "fully supported" legislation that expanded Medicaid health coverage in 2019, which voters approved through a citizen's initiative in 2017 but was blocked by then-Governor Paul Le Page.

Langley, noting he voted against the Medicaid expansion because of costs — federal funding of the program decreases over time — acknowledged, "It's a tough choice." See **SENATE** page 9

SCHOOL COMMITTEE members discuss the idea of resuming talks for substantial renovations at Connors Emerson.

## School committee reviews return to school

By Faith DeAmbrose and Ninah Gile  
ngile@mdislander.com

**BAR HARBOR** — The return to school, whether in person or virtual, is going well, said Connors Emerson Principal Barbara Neilly to the Bar Harbor School Com-

mittee at their Oct. 5 meeting. Neilly reported on a number of new co-curricular activities for sixth through eighth grade students that were now underway, as well as a variety of programs for students and teachers that focus on health and wellness. From virtual to in-person, see **SCHOOL** page 9

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