

## UMaine's Fogler Legacy Award honors four generations of Windham family

By Lorraine Glowczak

STAFF WRITER

Greg Morrison, a 2012 Windham High School graduate, had always dreamed of attending the University of Maine in Orono and he was waiting for a response after submitting his application. Despite being accepted by two other colleges, Greg's heart was heavy since an acceptance letter had not yet arrived from UMaine.

"All I ever really wanted is to be a Black Bear," Greg said at the dinner table one evening to his mother Candace and his father Mark, UMaine Class of 1986. A few days later, Greg was relieved to receive his acceptance letter from UMaine, fulfilling his lifelong dream and following in his family's footsteps. He graduated with a business degree in 2017. His sister, Kristen, a 2008 WHS graduate, also earned a business degree in 2012, marking the fourth generation of Black Bears.

This long-standing Morrison family tradition led the group to be recognized with a special award this past April at the UMaine campus in Orono where they received the Fogler Legacy Award.

Each year, this unique and special award is presented to a family with a



Generations of the Morrison Family of Windham gather to celebrate being honored as this year's recipient of the Fogler Legacy Award. The Fogler Legacy Award is presented to a family with a strong tradition of attending UMaine where multiple members have demonstrated outstanding service to the university, alumni association, and their community. COURTESY PHOTO

strong tradition of attending UMaine, usually spanning at least three generations, where multiple members have demonstrated outstanding service to the university, alumni association, community, and/or their profession.

"I'm proud of my family. I am

proud of my heritage," said Alola Morrison of Windham, a 1959 UMaine graduate who is Greg and Kristen's grandmother, as well as Mark's mother. "Growing up in a military family meant we moved frequently for my father's job as a mechani-

cal engineer in the Coast Guard, so I was constantly moving to different towns and attending different schools. I never felt like I had a home base."

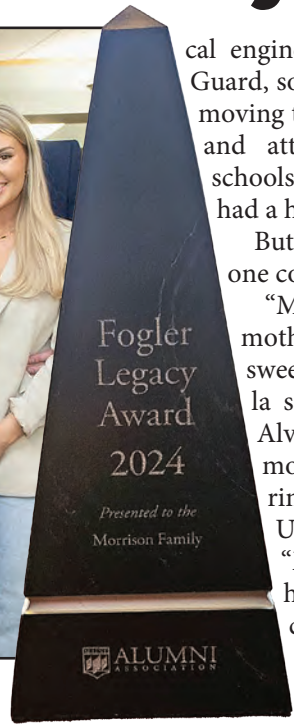
But UMaine was the one constant for Alola.

"My father and mother were college sweethearts," Alola said of her father Alvin Giffin and mother Viola Purinton, both 1931 UMaine graduates.

"My parents were highly involved in campus activities during their college years, and they set that ex-

ample. Mom was a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority and Dad was a member of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity. They remained active in the alumni association for 50 years. We would often return to Maine to visit, and while here, we always stopped by the UMaine campus. I knew I would eventually go to college there, and with some luck and hard work, I did.

→ see AWARD Page 8



## Raymond Comp Plan process nearing completion

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

With the final stages of the Raymond Comprehensive Plan draft complete, committee members will review feedback from residents as the plan progresses into the final stages of completion. A public hearing was conducted Wednesday, Dec. 4 at the regular Comprehensive Plan Committee meeting where residents had an opportunity to be heard, get caught up on the committee's progress, and review feedback from the recent request for public feedback on the draft plan.

The public comment period has now closed and according to the CPC email updates Raymond town staff, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and North Star Planning have been working together since May 2023 to update the town's comprehensive plan. This draft plan includes Maine State requirements along with goals, policies, action items, and a Future Land Use Plan based on what we've heard from the Raymond community through online surveys, workshops, informal polls, and the committee.

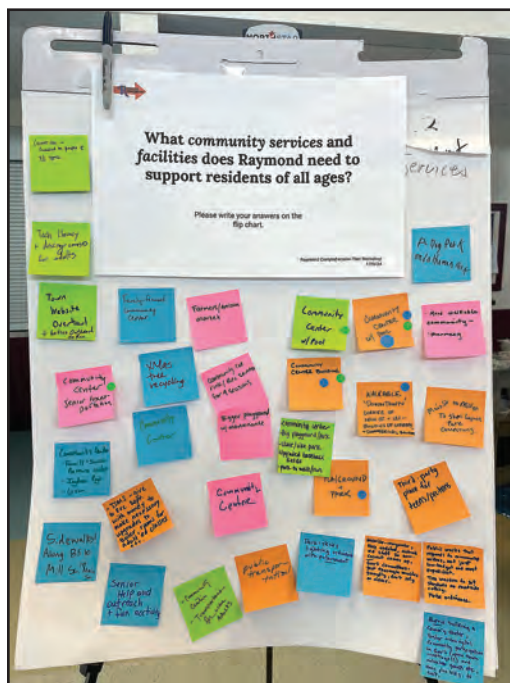
Once the public comment period

has ended and state review is complete, Raymond staff, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and North Star Planning will make edits and updates to finalize the plan. Then, the plan will go to the Select Board to vote on inclusion in the 2025 Town Warrant, where residents will be able to vote on its approval.

Kaela Gonzalez serves as co-chair of the Comprehensive Plan Committee and offered an update about the process.

"We have done some outreach, including handing out fliers at the election to let citizens know about the comment period and the upcoming CPC meeting which will allow the public to comment and share feedback on the draft plan," she said. "I would imagine after the meeting that we would have more to say as the next steps hinge on Wednesday's meeting."

The Comprehensive Plan lists the following Raymond's Priority Goals and Actions; Building a resilient Raymond; working with Maine DOT to complete an assessment of and work plan to improve town culverts and road infrastructure at risk from increased flooding (priority action), and adding staff capacity to seek and manage grant



Suggestions from residents about transportation, conservation and future growth scenarios were discussed during the formulation of Raymond's Comprehensive Plan. Once all reviews are complete, the plan will go to the Raymond Select Board for approval to put it on the 2025 Town Warrant for residents to vote on. PHOTO BY KENDRA RAYMOND

funding through additional staff, a consultant, or regional partnerships.

It also seeks to protect Raymond's natural and water resources; develop a process to determine the appropri-

ateness of sites in Raymond for solar development, and incorporate these criteria into Raymond's Solar Ordinance (priority action); invest in road and traffic improvements; purchase or lease portable solar powered radar speed displays which collect data on excessive speed and traffic volume as well as act as traffic calming devices on Raymond's roadways (priority action); create a Route 302 Master Plan in partnership with DOT, based on the vision for Route 302 in the Future Land Use Plan.

The plan also seeks to prioritize walking and biking around Raymond; building a trail or sidewalk that spans the length of Raymond Cape Road (priority action); strengthen Raymond's sense of community; develop a master plan supported by public input to repurpose the Jordan-Small Middle School and determine the future use of other town-owned buildings, including the library and town office (priority action).

Potentially adding sidewalks or a breakdown lane on the Raymond Cape also created some discussion in a local social media group.

→ see PLAN Page 24

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# INSIGHT

## Been there, done Frat

Whatever made a diverse group of college students choose a shy 17-year-old freshman kid away from home for the first time as that year's fraternity pledge president, I'll certainly never know.

There were 10 of us in that group and many with more worldly experience than I possessed. As we gathered at the fraternity house in September 1971, it became apparent quickly that I was way in over my head. They were all older than I was and two had served previously in the military in Vietnam. Two others were college juniors, having transferred to our school after completing junior college. One fellow only had one leg following a car crash and had an artificial leg he would suddenly take off to surprise people at parties.

I had just met these guys, and they knew little about me but here I stood after the first vote chosen to lead this group as we tried to survive our time as fraternity pledges.

The first order of business was to protect ourselves from what was described by some fraternity members as "being kidnapped." A group of frat guys would drop by unexpectedly in the middle of the night, put you in a car, drive you three miles out of town and make you walk home. To avoid this from happening and stay under the radar, five of us slept in one dorm room on campus while the other five slept in the dorm room next door.

Yet somehow at 3 a.m., the dorm room door flung open, and we barely had enough time to grab our coats and then squeeze into the back seat of a 1968 Ford LTD. It was a miserable, desolate and long walk home. It was cold, there were rain puddles and angry dogs emerging from hidden driveways nipping at your heels. But we survived and made it back to campus safely.

As pledges we had to push the school's cannon back and forth from the gymnasium to the football field and figuring out how to do that without running anyone over or blocking traffic was a tactical nightmare. Thankfully there were only five home football games that season, and we moved the cannon on Friday nights ahead of Saturday's game.

Pledges gathered at the fraternity house every Sunday afternoon to study for what would be on our written test. The fraternity had provided each pledge with a handbook of pertinent facts as to when and where the national fraternity was founded, and what each letter in the Greek alphabet was. No matter how many times we reviewed the handbook, some of these guys were just never going to remember the material needed to pass the test.

Another of our group tasks to complete as pledges was called "Escape Weekend." We had to go somewhere as a group for 48 hours one weekend and not be seen by any other fraternity members. As it happened, one of the pledges' family members owned a cabin about 50 miles away that was available. We cleared everyone's schedule, loaded a cooler with ice, beer and sandwiches and loaded all 10 pledges in a pickup truck with a camper and took off.

It was an adventure to say the least. One of the pledges, who suffered from PTSD after serving in Vietnam, brought along a pistol and he would fire it off outside when he had consumed too much alcohol. Unfortunately, one of those gunshots struck an elk, and we huddled together indoors wondering what to do and if the police would come after someone reported hearing gunfire. Despite our fear and apprehension, nobody showed up, the elk disappeared back into the woods and by the end of the 48 hours, we were back in the pickup truck and headed back to the college.


The next Friday night, we all took part in something called "Three Fires." It was where we walked alone to three different campfires and got to spend time speaking with fraternity members about why we wanted to join them in the fraternity. They provided evaluations for each of us as pledges and pointed out our strengths and weaknesses. As for me, I was praised for my organizational skills and willingness to take on a leadership role among the pledges. One member told me though he couldn't understand why I dropped Economics at mid-term despite having an "A" in the class. I told him that I was simply overwhelmed by the amount of reading required for that class and knew that it only got tougher after mid-term so I chose to focus on my other classes instead and hoped I could someday take Economics again.

By the first weekend of November 1971, our pledge class was ready to take the test and become initiated as fraternity members. One by one, we went down to the fraternity house basement for the test and unbelievably, we somehow all passed.

When I look back now through the prism of 53 years later, I am amazed at how adept I was to survive pledging a fraternity and still maintain good grades in my first year as a college student. It's an experience I wouldn't trade today for anything. <

~ Ed Pierce

### Today in HISTORY



**DECEMBER 6**

1735 – French surgeon **Claudius Amyand** performs the first successful appendectomy at **St. George's Hospital** in London.

1774 – Austria becomes the first nation to introduce a state educational system.

1865 – The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified abolishing slavery in America.

1877 – Thomas Edison demonstrates the first gramophone with a recording of himself reciting the poem "Mary Had a Little Lamb."

1884 – Construction of the Washington Monument is completed by U.S. Army engineers in a project which took 34 years.

1923 – U.S. President Calvin Coolidge is the first president to give a presidential address broadcast on the radio.

1947 – Everglades National Park in Florida is dedicated by U.S. President Harry S. Truman.

## ON THE SPOT

### What's your favorite Christmas song?

"Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"It's always a tough question for me because I can't decide between The Christmas Song by Nat King Cole or Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) by Darlene Love. Hearing either of those on the radio gets me in the holiday spirit." – Dean A. Smalley

"The First Noel." – Mitchell B. Robinson

"Whenever I hear The Little Drummer Boy, it always reminds me of a school play I was in back in fourth grade in Bridgton. Very fond memories." – Chris Macklin

"Feliz Navidad, O Tannenbaum, O Come All Ye Faithful, Joy To The World and Here Comes Santa Claus are some of my all-time favorites." – Oscar F. Kellner

"Every year I always look forward to hearing Do They Know it's Christmas? That really makes it seem like Christmas isn't too far off for me and my family." – Rachele Lockett

"Silent Night." – Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"O Christmas Tree or Santa Claus is Coming to Town." – Jerry Greene

"I love it when the church choir performs Joy to the World, O Holy Night, Silent Night, and God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen every year at our midnight service." – Isabella Mongon

"Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas is You." – Deirdre Schulte

"I have liked I'll be Home for Christmas since I heard Kelly Clarkson sing it on a PBS Christmas special on television a few years ago." – Rick Seacroft

"Grandma Got Run Over by A Reindeer makes me laugh year after year." – Anne Glotchshuk

"Let it Snow! Let It Snow! Let it Snow!" – David W. Tettley

"Dominick the Donkey and The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late) are just a few of the songs that tell me it's Christmas again." – Lollie Gomez Nunez



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# Windham Town Council votes unanimously to extend senior property tax assistance program deadline

**By Ed Pierce**  
STAFF WRITER

The window for eligible seniors in Windham to receive help with property tax assistance will close on Dec. 27 and amended provisions for the program allow more elderly residents than in previous years to apply.

During the Windham Town Council meeting on Nov. 26, councilors voted unanimously to authorize Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts to approve qualifying applications for senior property tax assistance for an additional extension of 45-days ending Dec. 27. Earlier in November, the council approved reducing the amount of eligibility time for senior residents having lived in Windham from 10 years to five years to encourage more seniors to apply for the program.

Councilors say extending the deadline for applications to Dec. 27 potentially ensures that more seniors benefit from the program, particularly those who previously didn't apply due to the stricter residency timeline.

Windham's Senior Property Tax Assistance Program awards a maximum property tax refund of up to \$700 depending upon your property tax bill and your overall annual household income.

Eligible participants must file an application and meet other requirements including that they be at least age 65 when applying; have owned or rented a home in Windham that they have lived in for an entire year prior to the time of application; lived in Windham for at least five years; paid property taxes in Windham in 2023 and 2024 or rented in Windham for at least a year; have an annual household income less than \$63,750; or are 100 percent disabled with Social Security Administration document verification.

At the Nov. 26 meeting, Tibbetts told the council that last year, the town approved a total of 276 households for the Senior Property Tax Assistance Program and reducing the residency time is expected to add at least 25 more applicants.

"This is trying to be fair to give them the opportunity to apply," Tibbetts said.

Previous applications filed earlier

this year that did not qualify because the senior applicants did not meet the 10-year residency requirement have been retained and will now be reconsidered under the amended 5-year residency reduction.

Tibbetts said a total of four senior applicants will be reconsidered who have lived in town for at least five years but did not meet the previous 10-year residency requirement.

According to Tibbetts, Windham Town Councilors Bill Reiner and Nick Kalogerakis advocated for the council to slash the residency requirement to five years to help senior town residents struggling to pay property taxes on fixed incomes.

"It makes a lot of sense to do that," Tibbetts said.

Reiner said moving forward he would like to see the residency requirement for the program further dropped to one year.

"I think the residency requirement to file a Homestead Exemption is one year," Kalogerakis said. "For the Senior Tax Assistance Program, I'll take the lowest residency we can get, but I'd like to see it set at one year."

Under the rules for filing for a Homestead Tax Exemption in Windham, the existing residency requirement in Windham is one year. This allows homeowners whose principal residence is in Maine a reduction in valuation, adjusted by the town's certified assessment ratio.

The maximum reduction in Windham for 2024 under the Homestead Tax Exemption is \$25,000 off the assessed valuation of your property.

Property tax bills in Windham are collected twice a year with the first installment due on the first business day in October and the second installment due on the first business day in April.

To file an application for a property tax reduction under Windham's Senior Property Tax Assistance Program, call Tammy Hodgman at 207-892-1907 or send an email to [thodgman@windhammaine.us](mailto:thodgman@windhammaine.us)

More details about the program and the program application can be found on the Windham town website. The direct link is: [www.windhammaine.us/616/Senior-Property-Tax-Assistance](http://www.windhammaine.us/616/Senior-Property-Tax-Assistance)

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# Windham Middle School Altitude students reflect on book drive to assist Barbara Bush Children's Hospital

**By Masha Yurkevich**  
STAFF WRITER

On Nov. 26, eighth grade students from Windham Middle School's Altitude Pathway visited the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital to donate books that they had been collecting throughout the month of November. This is the third year that Altitude has collected books for the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, and during a trip to the hospital, the students donated 90 books to be used by patients there.

Sharon Granville, a Child Life Specialist at the Barbara Bush Children's Hospital, says that with such a saturation of technology over the past few years for children, they are thankfully seeing a re-engagement with books and reading, and often have families requesting books from them.

"Due to our policies here at the hospital, we have to have what we call a 'giving library,' where we offer children the opportunity to pick a book, and they get a chance to take it home. We partner with community friends to help us replenish and refresh our library," Granville said.

Altitude students agree with the saying that it is better to give than to receive.

"My main takeaway from this trip was to be grateful for what you have," says Kayjah Veilleux, an Altitude student. "I think the children and also their parents are very grateful for what we do, and it feels good to make



Altitude students from Windham Middle school show a few of the books that they collected while visiting Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in Portland last month. Front, from left, are Karina Fulkerson, Caitlyn McKeeman, Alli Muir, Autumn Carlsen Cook, and hospital employee Sharon Granville. Back, from left, are Lisa Anderson, Carter Coffin, Isaiah Duford, Saige Lombardo, Cooper Fournelle, Ryder Matheson, Katherine Jones, and Kayjah Veilleux. PHOTO BY MASHA YURKEVICH

a difference." Student Katherine Jones said that with everything that the children and their families have to go through, donating books is the least they can do to help out.

"Our whole purpose was to gather books to donate to kids who are going through a tough time and to inspire the rest of the community to start thinking in a giving spirit," said Alli Muir, an Altitude Pathway teacher. "It

has been cool to see that the eighth-grade Children's Hospital Book Drive has inspired younger students in the school to start talking about wanting to make and donate things as well."

Altitude teacher Autumn Carlsen-Cook said that this is a great way to practice compassion and empathy with our community with the idea that kids put themselves in the position of another kid who might be going through a hard time.

"We want to celebrate community and giving back to others," says Lisa Anderson, an Altitude Pathway teacher.

The donated books are not just for distraction or enjoyment, but are sometimes used for educational purposes, as there is an on-site teacher. The hospital has children from infants to older adolescents, with 30 pediatric beds that care for pediatric patients with all different reasons for being at the hospital, eight beds in the intensive care unit, and fifty beds for a separate unit that care for their smallest patients.

The children at the hospital are grateful for the books that are donated.

"One of the first things that comes to mind for me is the fun connection for a child to see the title of the book that they got; for a child to see a favorite or to see a book that they were looking forward to," says Granville. "I greatly appreciate the input from our teacher to know what are those popular that kids are reading now, and those are the books that we sometimes connect with community friends to donate to us. For a child to find that book that they have been wanting is such a nice thing to be able to offer to our patients. It is a wonderful way to support both developmental needs as well as emotional wellbeing while these children are in the hospital."

→ see ALTITUDE Page 6



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# Lake Region Community Chorus to present annual holiday concert

**By Ed Pierce**  
STAFF WRITER

For many people, the Christmas season comes alive with traditional holiday music and to get everyone in the spirit, the Lake Region Community Chorus has been busy rehearsing for its legendary Holiday Concert.

Chorus members will perform its Ninth Annual Holiday Concert at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at a new venue in the Lake Region High School auditorium, 1877 Roosevelt Trail (Route 302) in Naples.

This enthusiastic singing group is made up of 60 members from 12 surrounding towns, including Windham and Raymond, who will present a varied program made up of holiday favorites called "Gettin' in the Mood for Christmas."

Chorus members say that the concert will be a joyous celebration of musical selections that express the promise and meaning of the season. Three of the pieces will include audi-

ence participation including the "Hallelujah Chorus."

Songs for the concert will be enhanced with instrumental accompaniments by Rusty Wiltjer on percussion, Christine Russian on flute, Pam Ward and Brian Sprunger on guitar, Adam Quincy on trumpet, Dick Albert on clarinet, Glen Jukkola on violin, and Jacob Kuvaja on electric bass. There will also be other instrumental surprises as well during the program.

The Lake Region Community Chorus is directed by Jan Jukkola and Susan Stockwell and accompanied by Patrick Speckamp. The chorus is a vibrant and dynamic non-profit organization providing choral programs for the Lakes Region of Maine community.

Its history is short because it's a relatively new organization. The chorus had its first meeting in February 2013 to discuss the possibility of forming a choral group in the Lakes Region.

It was amazing how quickly every-

thing seemed to come together, and with Laurie Turley as its original conductor, chorus members performed their first concert in June 2013. Since then, the original group of 36 singers has grown with each season, and now has 60 members from 12 communities, including Bridgton, Naples, Sebago, Harrison, Waterford, Stoneham, Raymond, Casco, Windham, Denmark, Lovell, and Fryeburg.

The LRCC is a community of voices joined together in song and its purpose is to provide an opportunity for individuals with an interest in singing to share their love of choral music through regularly scheduled rehearsals that will culminate in community and outreach performances. It also strives to enhance each member's ability to sing by teaching vocal exercises and techniques and to enrich their choral experience by providing a wide variety of musical selections that will increase their knowledge and appreciation of choral literature.

Lakes Region Community Chorus performs two concerts each year. One falls in early December and features holiday music. The other is a springtime concert generally falling in mid-May.

With the generous support of Bridgton Academy, rehearsals are held on Monday evenings in the Twitchell Chapel on the Bridgton  
→ see **CONCERT** Page 9

→ **ALTITUDE** *Cont. from page 4*

She said that the Hospital also has opportunities for adults to volunteer for the children.

"We ask for a weekly commitment for a minimum of six months just because of the unique setting that we are," says Granville.

A volunteer is someone who brings developmental play and gets to know the kids for who they are, not the reason that they are in the hospital. For the staff, their main focus for the children is why are you here and what is different about your body at this time, where volunteers have a primary focus of getting to know the patient better as a person and what do they like to do, based on age, interest, and activities.

"We love partnering with our community friends. I think it is a great project for school students to be able to know that they are making a difference to others who are experiencing a tough time," says Granville. "No one knows or anticipates when they are going to need to come to the hospital, and it is nice to know that you had a chance to give back and that you are making a difference in the day of someone who may not be feeling well."

The Altitude program at WMS is an alternative hands-on learning opportunity which focuses on service. It helps connect academically and aims to help students forge strong supportive relationships to foster confidence and trust while developing social skills and improved communication. <

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## Della A. Thorne, 78



CASCO - Della A. Thorne, 78, of Casco, died Monday, Nov. 25, 2024, at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House in Scarborough.

She was born on May 7, 1946, in Portland, ME, a daughter of Frank P. and Faustena (York) Alley and attended local schools.

Della worked at the Shaw's Supermarket in Falmouth for many years. She also worked alongside her husband in other various endeavors over the years including owning and operating Michael's Convenience Store in

South Portland as well as ABC Redemption Center in North Windham. There was also a time she worked as a nail technician in the area.

Della has been passionate about politics over the last several years and paid particular attention to this year's elections.

She is survived by her husband, Walter of Casco; daughters, Terri J. McPhee of Old Orchard, Pamela A. Henderson of Old Orchard, and Dawn M. Wildes and her husband, Peter of Windham; grandchildren, Eric S. Lelansky and his wife, Amber, Natasha L. Breton and her husband, Joel, and Collin Wildes; step-children, Craig Thorne and his wife, Beth of Gray and their son, Patrick, Michelle Tucci and her husband, Mark of Casco and their daughter, Maria, and Rae-Ann Griffin and her husband, Shawn of Gray and their daughters, Jule and Meghan; siblings, Vera F. Gallant and her husband, John J., Sr. of Merritt Island, FL and Gary M. Alley of Lisbon; several great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents; and her brother, Dale S. Alley.

*It was Della's request that there not be any services. Arrangements are in the care of the Hall Funeral Home.*



165 Quaker Ridge Road, Casco, ME 04015  
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## Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel

### Marsha Louise (Monahon) Weiser, 76



Marsha Louise (Monahon) Weiser, 76, of Windham and Brewer, Maine, passed away peacefully on November 17, 2024, surrounded by family at her lakefront home in Windham.

She is survived by her daughter Heidi (Michael) Clarke of Walpole, MA; son Scott Weiser (CJ Johnson) of Oakland, CA; siblings Gail and David Monahon of Weston, MA; former husband Robert Weiser of Palm Springs, CA; and grandchildren Andrew, Charlotte, and William Clarke.

Born on July 30, 1948, in Newton, MA, to the late Arthur T. and Priscilla (Moore) Monahon, Marsha grew up in Weston and graduated from Weston High School ('66) and Middlebury College ('70). A talented artist and teacher, Marsha owned Maine Country Painting in Bangor, where she sold painting supplies and taught classes. She authored eight instructional books and was a Certified Decorative Artist with the Society of Decorative Painters, traveling nationally to lead seminars.

**A celebration of her life will be held on January 4, 2025, at Dolby, Blais & Segee - Windham Chapel, with a reception to follow.**

*In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Good Shepherd Food Bank at giving.gsfb.org, an organization Marsha proudly supported.*



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**AWARD** *Cont. from page 1*

UMaine was, and still is, my home.”

Much like her parents, Alola met her own sweetheart at UMaine. In 1961, she married Joseph Morrison, UMaine Class of 1959. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2017.

Although Mark Morrison and his siblings grew up close to the UMaine campus in nearby Orrington, they had the same experiences as their mother and father.

“Growing up, my parents and grandparents frequently took us to UMaine to watch many sporting events and attend homecoming weekend, which was always special,” Mark Morrison said. “Just like my mom, I knew UMaine was the school for me.”

He said that as a close-knit family, the bonds and relationships they developed with each other created heartfelt memories and stories and he

reflected on two stories that mean the most to the extended Morrison family and those close to them.

“What really amazes me the most is the level of commitment to education my great grandparents had during turbulent times,” he said, speaking of his great grandfather, Dr. Watson Purinton and his wife Nellie Jenness Purinton, who were supporting their children’s education after the Stock Market Crash in October 1929.

“It was during the time of the ‘Roaring Twenties’ which came to a collapse with the Stock Market crash of 1929, creating the Great Depression,” Mark Morrison said. “Watson and Nellie had two children still pursuing their education after the crash. My grandmother Viola was studying Home Economics at UMaine, while her brother William (Class of 1927) was in Medical School at Tufts. It was Watson and Nellie’s unwavering

commitment to educate their children through college, highly unusual at the time that created the legacy. This led to the culmination of having four generations of UMaine graduates.”

The Morrison/Giffin/Purinton family’s dedication to college education continued when the Morrison family faced their own tough times.

“In the summer of 2009, my brother Ken tragically died in a swimming accident while on vacation in Prince Edward Island, leaving three children behind, ages 11, 9, and 5,” Mark said. “The whole family pulled together to support Ken’s three kids as they grew up close by in Biddeford with their mother. We all resolved to see that Ken’s kids go on to college. In spite of this huge loss, all three children thrived in school and went on to earn college degrees. His two sons followed the Black Bear tradition, Connor (Class 2017) and Joe (Class 2023),

earned engineering degrees while Olivia earned a business degree from St. Joseph’s College.”

Although college education was and is important to the Morrison family, Alola recognizes the importance of different paths in life.

“I’m very proud of my family and education, but education isn’t just college,” she said. “Education is in the trades, too. This is just as important. We need each other for a successful society.”

Mark Morrison agreed with his mother saying that having a close relationship with family is one of the biggest factors for their success.

“It is true that we all have individual accomplishments, as we strive to do our best, and also try to do the right thing,” he said. “But we would be far less successful as individuals if it weren’t for the love, support, and close relationships we have as a family.” <

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**CONCERT** *Cont. from page 6*

Academy campus in North Bridgton. For the December holiday concert, rehearsals start around Labor Day, and for the Spring concert, they start around the end of January.

Chorus members would like to thank the Bridgton Academy for all their help and support and providing them with rehearsal space and a concert venue. They would also like to thank their enthusiastic audiences and local sponsors and Saphrona Stetson and Greg Watkins for all their help in putting together the upcoming concert at Lake Region High School.

Each concert is free but donations to help cover the expense of music and operating costs will be gratefully accepted.

If interested, come and join the



The Ninth Annual Holiday Concert by members of the Lake Region Community Chorus will be performed at 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 and at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8 at the Lake Region High School auditorium in Naples. Admission is free. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Lake Region Community Chorus as they lift their voices in song. The chorus is always looking for new members.

This year's holiday concert is sure

to be remembered long after the final chords are sounded and promise to get audiences ready for another holiday season.

For additional details about the

holiday concert or to learn about becoming a member, visit the Lake Region Community Chorus website at [www.lakeregioncommunitychorus.org](http://www.lakeregioncommunitychorus.org) or call 207-647-2584. <

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# Holidays perfect time to decorate with natural accents

By Kendra Raymond

STAFF WRITER

Now that Thanksgiving has come and gone, many people switch their mindset to the next holiday season. For many that includes Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanza. No matter how you choose to celebrate, there are endless opportunities for holiday decorating. While many people focus on the inside of their homes, others enjoy stringing up lights. Others find joy in using natural materials to beautify the exterior of the home.

While lots of options are available at local big-box stores or greenhouses, it can be more economical and rewarding to collect materials from nature to embellish the exterior of your home.

Raymond Beautification Committee Chair Sharon Dodson is a bit of a local expert on seasonal decorating. The group recently gathered to collect evergreen boughs to fill the barrels located throughout the town.

### Evergreens

Most holiday wreaths and porch décor start with evergreen boughs. These can be collected in the woods using a small set of hand pruners. Both balsam fir and white pine tips make great choices for planters or garlands. If you see any fallen evergreen trees, these are great resources for branches, and it won't compromise the health of the living trees. Keep an eye out for pinecones on the ground that can be incorporated into your arrangements as well.

### Artificial greens

Maine Garden Center and nursery Estabrook's offered an alternative solution in their recent newsletter: "While some people will say that the look and fragrance of fresh greens and holiday blooms can never be duplicated, today's high-quality greens are coming closer and closer. Artificial boughs, wreaths and garland can be swapped out or recombined to create a new holiday look every year without



Collecting natural materials to beautify and decorate the exterior of your home can be not only economical, but very rewarding during the holiday season. PHOTO BY AMY ALEXANDER

purchasing new materials each time. Artificial are also great for homes that aren't conducive to live greens such as those with working fireplaces,

warmer than normal rooms, or other conditions that may adversely affect fresh plant material. By using artificial, you'll be assured that your holiday decorations will stay up longer, look great all season long and eliminate the mess that comes from dropping needles."

### Red berries

Have you ever driven past a boggy area or wetland and noticed one or more people wearing Muk Luk boots with clippers in their hands? This is a common practice where ambitious decorators attempt to obtain the coveted "red berries" which are almost always found in wet areas.

Dodson can attest to the challenges of obtaining the highly sought after red berries.

"Yes, we used to work really hard to find winter berries and collect them, no matter how wet we got. We also had a couple of volunteers with legal access to them, which we don't now.

→ see DECORATIONS Page 20

## HOLIDAY Gifts & Events

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# Collection of nativity scenes to be displayed locally

The First Congregational Church of Gray United Church of Christ is inviting the public to view a display of more than 80 nativity scenes from more than 40 countries, collected over the years by the Rev. Dr. Paul Day.

The nativity scenes are representative of countries across the globe, some carved from native woods, others hand crafted porcelain figures, modeled from clay, made of stained glass, and even creches that were lovingly hand crocheted and one was built with Legos.

"It's been a long time since I got my first creche," Day said. "It seems as if I had a couple, then it sort of

exploded. I looked for them when I traveled, went on mission trips, and found them in Fair Trade collections. And, of course, I received many as gifts from dear friends and family."

There will be a special table for children where they can hear "touch me" instead of "do not touch" on some of the displays. They will also find the tiny "Nativity in a Nutshell," nativity cookie cutters, finger puppets, the Veggie Tales crew, and the Lego nativity. Coloring sheets will also be available for them.

This outstanding collection will be set up in the church's parish hall at 5 Brown St. in Gray, across the street from the Gray Congregational UCC Church.

Doors will open to the public to view the nativity scenes from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 14. Light refreshments will be available.

Entry to the event is free; however, gifts of new socks, warm mittens and hats, or donations to the Gray Food Pantry are encouraged.

By Christian tradi-



The public is invited to view a collection of more than 80 Nativity scenes from more than 40 countries which will be displayed from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Dec. 14 at the First Congregational Church of Gray United Church of Christ, 5 Brown St. in Gray. COURTESY PHOTO

tion, a nativity scene includes art objects relating to the birth of Jesus. It involves a manger and crib and figurines that are arranged for display. Characters from the nativity story, such as shepherds, sheep, and angels are displayed along with a donkey and an ox, the Magi kings and their camels.

The first documented living nativity scene is attributed to Saint Francis of Assisi in 1223 in the Italian town of Greccio. Reportedly, Saint Francis had been inspired by a visit to the

Holy Land where he toured the site where Jesus had been born.

Centuries later, nativity scenes and traditions continue around the world, and are displayed during the Christmas season.

For further details, visit the Facebook page of the First Congregational Church of Gray-United Church of Christ at [www.facebook.com/grayfirst](http://www.facebook.com/grayfirst) to learn more about the organization or call 207-657-4279 or send an email to [grayfirstucc@mail.com](mailto:grayfirstucc@mail.com) <

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## Holiday GIFTS and EVENTS

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# Windham Middle School science and math teacher positively impacts lives of her students

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

*Editor's Note: This is another in an ongoing series of Windham and Raymond town employee profiles.*

Every student deserves a champion, a teacher who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be. For many Windham Middle School students, Katie Franzoni is that teacher.

Franzoni is a Sixth-Grade math and science teacher for the Maui Team at WMS, and she also serves as coach for the school's seventh-grade girls' basketball team. She takes her work seriously and believes she's positively impacting the community by teaching her students valuable life skills and contributing to their character development.

"I love building relationships with my students and seeing them grow and develop new skills," Franzoni said. "I also love that every day is different. Middle schoolers are unique and interesting too. They keep me on my toes and say and do the funniest things. Our motto is you can't make this stuff up."

She's taught at Windham Middle School for the past 17 years and currently teaches three science blocks, one math block, an "ignite block" which is time for students to read,

work on iReady math lessons, or other work that they need to, and an advisory block, a time to connect with a small group of students to build a small community within the bigger school community, and build peer-to-peer relationships. Franzoni also serves on the WMS leadership team that meets twice a month with school administrators to discuss school-related issues, plan upcoming professional development for the staff, and other topics.

"The most challenging aspect of what I do is meeting the diverse needs of all the learners in the classroom," she said. "They come in with a range of abilities, prior knowledge, and home lives. My job is to make them feel safe and welcome so that they are ready and able to learn."

Originally from Calais, Maine, Franzoni attended the University of Southern Maine and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology with



**Katie Franzoni has taught mathematics and science at Windham Middle School for the past 17 years and she also serves as coach for the WMS seventh-grade girls' basketball team.** SUBMITTED PHOTO

a minor in math before obtaining a master's degree in Elementary Education. While at USM she was a standout on the women's basketball team, serving as team captain and was a starter for the team that went to two Final Fours and was the national runner-up in 2006. She was proud to be inducted into the USM Hall of Fame in 2019.

Her student teaching in college was at Windham Primary School and Franzoni says through that experience, she fell in love with the school district here.

"The teaching program at USM has a strong, mutually beneficial relationship with RSU 14," she said. "My family likes living in the same community where I teach. Windham is an amazing community who supports and encourages one another."

According to Franzoni, her most memorable moments while working for Windham Middle School take

place every spring.

"It's not one moment as it happens every year, but I love raising brook trout with my students," she said. "We have 300 brook trout eggs delivered to our classroom at the end of January. We learn about their life cycle and the water quality that they need to survive. We release them into the Pleasant River at the end of May. My students love learning about trout. They check on them daily and are excited to watch them grow and develop and eventually release them into the river."

The greatest misconception people may have about her work is that it is just a 7 to 2 job," Franzoni said.

"Teaching is more than a bell-to-bell job. We often stay late or bring work home," she said. "We care about our students beyond what they are being asked to learn. We often carry the worries, struggles, and hardships of our students."

The most important thing that she says she's learned while working at Windham Middle School is rather simple.

"Although we have to put up with a lot of demands, whether it be from administrators, students, parents, or anyone else who has an opinion about teachers and teaching, we need to put those interests aside and focus on doing a good job for our students," Franzoni said. <

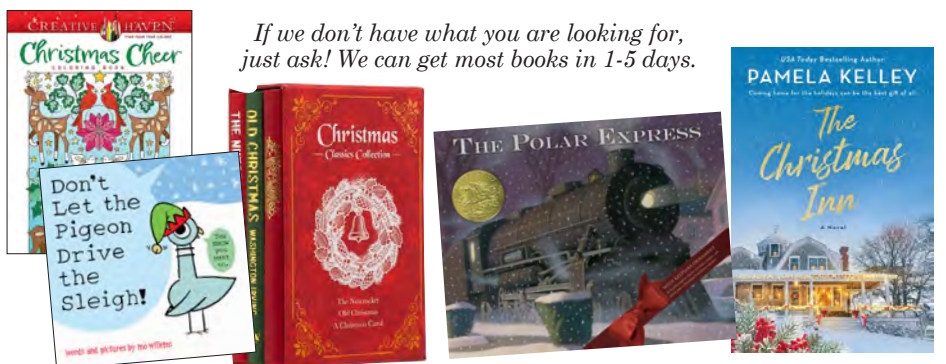
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# Community Connections pilot program launches to enhance access to Age-Friendly resources and support

Windham is celebrating the launch of a new Community Connections project, a local initiative aimed at strengthening the community and promoting well-being for older people.

The project's primary goal is to build robust connections between local services and older adults, allowing them easier access to essential resources and social opportunities. Erica Bell-Watkins, the dedicated Windham Community Connector, began the project in September and is already working closely with residents and community partners, helping bridge gaps in access to programs and services and creating avenues for participation.

"Age Friendly Windham's project focuses on a disaster preparedness initiative, in partnership with other local organizations," Bell-Watkins said. "We are looking to work with the community to gather information through a survey, increase preparedness through easy to find and clear information, as well as creating and distributing a bag with helpful tools and supplies that individuals and families can use in the event of a prolonged weather event."

Key local partners, including the Windham Police Department and the Windham Fire-Rescue Department, and Cumberland County Emergency

Management have joined forces in support of this effort.

Bell-Watkins said that these partners provide essential resources and expertise to strengthen the project's reach, ensuring that vital support and programs are accessible to all who need them.

"By focusing on service navigation, social engagement, and disaster preparedness, the pilot is strengthening Windham's focus on supporting older residents," she said.

The Community Connections program, a signature statewide initiative of the Governor's Cabinet on Aging, is made possible by a \$2.5 million investment from the American Rescue Plan Act and is managed in collaboration with the University of Maine Center on Aging and Maine's five Area Agencies on Aging.

"Maine has long been a national leader in promoting healthy, active, and engaged aging. Partnering together at the community level strengthens our critical work to create inclusive and livable communities where Mainers of all ages can thrive and recognizes the value of these community efforts in accomplishing that goal" says Elizabeth Gattine, Cabinet on Aging Coordinator.

In all there are 12 pilot sites engaged with the Community Connections program across the state,

each with goals specific to the unique needs of their community. The statewide goals of the program are to create pathways for assistance, strengthen ties between Age-Friendly Communities and local Area Agencies on Aging, and enhance access to training and technology supports for Age-Friendly initiatives.

For residents of Windham, the pilot program offers further opportunities to engage, seek assistance, and participate in local programs tailored to their needs.

Maine received designation in October 2019 as an AARP Age-Friendly State, the first step in a multiyear process to make Maine more livable for people of every age. It was just the sixth state in the nation to receive the

coveted designation, which provided access to critical data, technical advice, best practices and organizing tools to help Maine plan for the future and learn from a global network of partners to better serve older Mainers. Today, more than 100 communities in Maine also have the Age-Friendly designation.

Community members interested in learning more about Community Connections, or looking to get involved or donate items, are encouraged to reach out to Community Connector Erica Bell-Watkins. To learn about events, services, or volunteer opportunities, visit [agefriendlywindham.org](http://agefriendlywindham.org) call 207-892-4649 or send an email to [eabellwatkins@windhammaine.us](mailto:eabellwatkins@windhammaine.us).

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# LETTERS to the editor

Submit letters by Tuesday at Noon to:  
editor@thewindhameagle.com  
or mail to: 585 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, 04062

Editor,

Thank you to the people of Windham for having me represent you in our State Legislature. The work is challenging but very satisfying. It is democracy at work. I encourage everyone to come to the Statehouse to observe the process. You will see that it is not as divisive as the media portray it.

Start with picking a committee and attend a public hearing. A Representative or Senator presents a bill to a specific committee such as Education. The committee is made up of both Senators and Representatives of both parties and independents. They are supported by a non-partisan state employed lawyer (analyst) who helps the legislators get the information they need to decide if the legislation is a good idea.

Testimony begins with people or organizations, or businesses in favor of the bill, then those against it, then those neither for nor against. The committee members can ask questions or request more information from anyone testifying, or for the analyst to obtain for the work session.

A few weeks later the committee will hold a work session which is led by the analyst who has looked at current law applying to the problem, and the information requested. After "working" the bill the committee will usually hold a vote. The choices are "ought to pass," "ought NOT to pass," or "ought to pass as amended."

Most committees are unanimous on which action should be taken on 60-70 percent (or 2/3rds) of the bills. The other 25-30 percent are the tough

problems to solve. These will result in divided votes and will be brought to the house chamber or senate chamber to be debated and voted on.

All of the processes are open and can be watched in person or live or recorded on the [www.legislature.maine.gov](http://www.legislature.maine.gov) website.

Democracy takes work but it allows us to govern ourselves rather than have someone else make decisions for us. We all must work to learn how to get accurate information, since lies and disinformation are coming at us more quickly and from many more sources.

I will be transitioning any constituent concerns that have not been resolved to Mark Cooper who will be sworn in on Wednesday, Dec. 4 as your new State Representative for District 107.

Thank you for the opportunity to do this work.

~ Jane Pringle, Windham

Editor,

After eight years in office, Dec. 4 will officially be my last day as your state representative for District 86. Although it is difficult to believe that my time in the Legislature is coming to an end, serving as our community's voice in Augusta has been both an honor and a privilege.

~ Jessica Fay, Raymond

Over the last several years, my colleagues and I have worked hard to address so many of the issues that matter most to families in the Lakes Region. I'm proud of what the state has been able to accomplish, including new tax relief for working families, expanding access to childcare services as well as expanding the Medicare Savings Program for low-income older Mainers. We enhanced water quality protections for lakes and ponds and took on PFAS and other toxic chemical contamination in our environment.

But while I believe we have made progress on many important issues, I know our state continues to face big challenges, including a rising cost of living that is making it hard for everyday families to make ends meet.

Going forward, I am confident the Legislature will continue the important work of addressing the issues that matter most to Maine people. I'm looking forward to observing that work and continuing to be an advocate for our community in any way I can.

My time as a legislator has been one of the greatest joys of my life because of you, my constituents. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to me if there is ever anything I can do for you.

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# The twelfth, not the last

► **By Andy Young**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



- Andy Young, Columnist

It was curiosity that led me to conduct an imaginary survey earlier this fall. The one-question bogus poll's query was: "What's the first word that comes to mind when you think of December?"

The unsurprising results were, well, not surprising. Of the 794 fictitious respondents, 53.7 percent answered "Christmas," "Hanukkah," "Kwanzaa," or "holidays." An additional 42.8 percent responded with "cold," "snow," "ice," or "skiing," and another 3.4 percent said, "New Year's Eve."

The poll was somewhat skewed by one individual (0.125944584 percent of those participating) whose response was "surfing and intense heat." Here's a hint for future information-gatherers wishing to administer meaningful surveys that will yield useful findings: when conducting climate-related polls, don't include any New Zealanders.

If I headed up December's marketing department, I'd launch a serious rebranding. There's far more to the year's concluding month than just holidays and the onset of winter.

Once I got the go-ahead from De-

ember's 12-member board of directors, the first thing I'd establish is that the calendar's final month isn't the year's last one; it's the twelfth one! The difference is as stark as the contrast between day and night, near and far, or good and evil. Being last is a downer. The last person in the chow line gets the dregs, if they get anything at all. The last people outside the arena or theatre get the crummiest seats at the concert, the movie, or the ballgame, assuming it's not sold out by the time they get to the ticket window. Being the last pick at the National Football League draft has become somewhat noteworthy, but other than that the only three times in history when being at the end of the line was a good thing were: In 1876, when the last available uniform for General Custer's 7th cavalry regiment had been handed out; in 1912, when the Titanic's final berth had gotten filled; and in 1978, when the Kool-Aid supply ran out in Jonestown, Guyana.

Being twelfth, on the other hand, is always significant. Don't believe it? Why then are there twelve eggs in a dozen? Why do two twelve-hour periods make up a day? Why are there twelve inches in a foot, twelve people on a jury, and twelve signs of the zodiac?

The apostles Marvin, Orlando,

Betty, and Sharon (yes, there were women apostles, but the misogynistic chroniclers of the day wrote them out of history) had wanted to be present at the last supper, but there was a reason only Andrew, Bartholomew, James the Greater, James the Lesser, John, Judas Iscariot, Jude, Matthew, Peter, Phillip, Simon and Thomas got invites: there were exactly one dozen tribes of Israel, which is why Jesus wanted twelve (and only twelve) guests to share His last meal with Him.

There's a reason Shakespeare didn't author a play called *The 8th Night*, and Hollywood never made movies called *Ten Angry Men*, *Eleven O'Clock High*, *The Dirty Baker's Dozen*, *Thirty-five Monkeys*, or *The Fifteen Chairs*.

Even casual football fans know

Tom Brady's uniform number. But the quarterback who engineered six New England Patriot Super Bowl victories (and one for some forgettable squad with weird uniforms) isn't the only number-12-wearing Hall of Fame quarterback to call signals for an NFL championship team. Joe Namath, Terry Bradshaw, Bob Griese, Roger Staubach, Ken Stabler and Aaron Rodgers all did it, too.

Is there something magic about the number twelve? It seems plausible, given that Henry Armstrong, the only man to ever hold three world boxing championships (featherweight, welterweight, and lightweight) simultaneously, was born on December 12, 1912.

And for those still unconvinced of twelve's significance, well.....try counting your ribs! <

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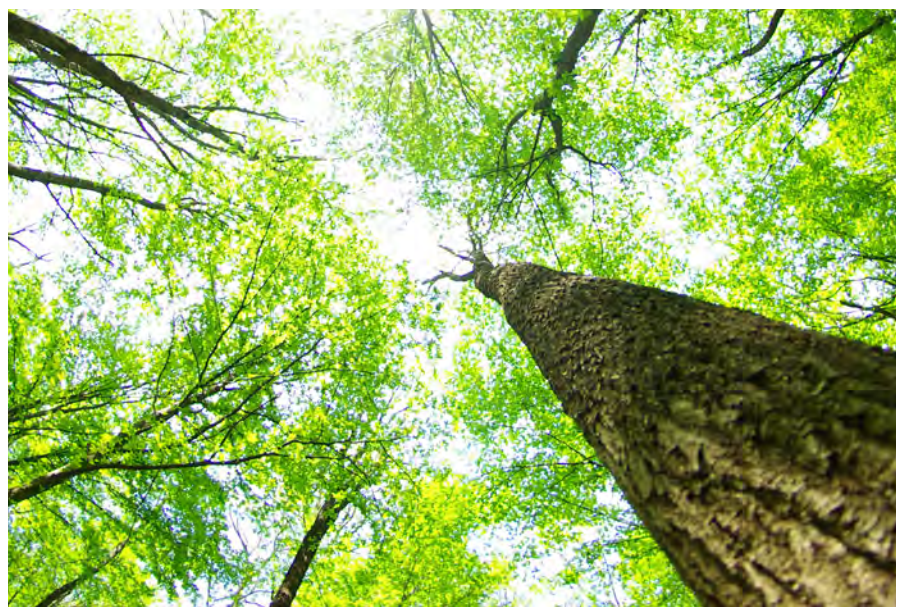
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→ **DECORATIONS** *Cont. from page 10*

Currently, we just put red ribbons around the barrels," she said.

No greenery-filled arrangement is complete without these brightly colored accents to fill in the spaced and give a pop of color. So, what are these highly sought-after branches, and where can they be obtained?

Coastal Rivers Conservation Trust of Damariscotta offers this concise les-

son: "Winterberry shrubs are easy to spot in Maine this time of year, when its red berries are often the only bright color on the landscape. Look for it in roadside ditches, in and around wetlands, and in soggy spots in the woods. From March to October this shrub is cloaked with dark, glossy, oval leaves, but in the winter the red berries stand out and draw us to take a closer look."

Unlike its southern relatives, winterberries are deciduous. Sometimes

called black alder or northern holly, it ranges from Newfoundland to Michigan and south to West Virginia. It is a tough plant that grows well in average soil and can tolerate regular wet roots. Pests and disease are few, though its leaves can turn yellowish in alkaline soils.

Winterberries spread not only through seed dispersal but also with suckers and by layering. Layering is when branches are bent down to the soil, as they are by heavy snow, and then sprout roots. Eventually these branches break off and become a new plant. This is why you will often find thick pockets of Winterberry where it has both spread by suckers and layering over time.

An important late-winter food for flickers, crows, robins, and cedar waxwings, these native shrubs are a wonderful backyard habitat enhancement. There are many non-native cul-



Natural supplies can also be used for indoor decoratives such as centerpieces and even to adorn packages. COURTESY PHOTO

tivars now available at nurseries but be aware that some of these produce berries that seem to be less attractive to birds than native winterberry.

Lucky for area residents, there are plenty of areas where the berry branches can be harvested, such as

Claman Wildlife Sanctuary located along Route 302 in Windham.

**Supplies and Receptacles**

Holiday wreaths and swags don't require a lot of materials, just some basic twine or wire and a metal form if you're making a wreath. Cheerful planters can be created in many types of containers such as plastic plant pots, an old wooden crate, or metal buckets – to name a few. It can be fun to keep an eye out for creative containers at antique shops, flea markets and yard sales.

With a good dose of creativity and a little bit of effort, just about anyone can beautify the outside of their home this holiday season. Best of all, some of the best decorations can be created on a very small budget. My friend Amy Alexander always has the most festive and welcoming decorations outside her home. She recently said, "Do what brings you joy!" – which makes a lot of sense.

Plant Perfect offers some beautiful suggestions for decorating with evergreens. Visit <http://plantperfect.com/fresh-ideas-for-decorating-with-evergreens>

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# University of New England offers free tuition for qualified students

In an effort to attract top talent to New England, the University of New England has announced that it will begin covering tuition costs for high-achieving students whose families earn less than \$100,000.

Starting in fall 2025, the University will provide free tuition to eligible high-performing graduating high school students from all states across the country. The announcement underscores UNE's strong financial commitment to its students; currently, 98 percent of UNE students receive financial aid from the university.

UNE President James Herbert said the University's decision comes as Maine and New England need to enhance their workforce to fulfill jobs in their growing business, bioscience, and life sciences industries and as the region continues to face workforce shortages in the health care and hospitality sectors.

"UNE is committed to attracting high-achieving students from across the country to New England, and to Maine in particular, and to guaranteeing that they are poised for success in the workforce when they graduate," Herbert said, noting that UNE

is Maine's No. 1 provider of health care professionals and the No. 1 college or university in the state for job placement following graduation. "By removing financial barriers to a quality UNE education, we hope to bolster the workforce pipeline in this region and ensure the long-term vitality of Maine and New England's new economy."

Herbert said that the tuition initiative reflects UNE's commitment to ensuring the academic success of all students, including first-generation college students. At UNE, 30 percent of undergraduates admitted every year are the first in their family to attend college.

In addition to a qualifying high school GPA requirement, eligible students must be enrolled at UNE full-time, demonstrate high financial need based on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during

each year of their undergraduate degree program, and live on campus for all four years.

The University of New England is the state's top provider of health professionals and home to Maine's only medical and dental colleges, a variety of other interprofessionally aligned

health care programs, and nationally recognized programs in the marine sciences, the natural and social sciences, business, the humanities, and the arts.

For more details about the free tuition program, visit [www.une.edu/sfs/undergraduate/financing-your-education](http://www.une.edu/sfs/undergraduate/financing-your-education)



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## Merrick Edmiston



**Grade:** 6 **School:** Windham Christian Academy  
**Teacher:** Mrs. Hagerstrom  
**Favorite subject:** Reading  
**Parents' names:** Natalie & Dakota Edmiston  
**Reason for selection:** Merrick is a spunky sixth grader with a great attitude. His easy-going personality makes him a friend to everyone in the class. Even though Merrick has been dealing with cancer, he has an upbeat personality and always has a smile or encouraging word for everyone he encounters. Merrick loves reading and always has a "good book" that he wants to talk about. He frequently misses school for treatment, but he still manages to get his work done and keep up with his class. He enjoys extracurricular activities and is playing on the middle school basketball team.

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# Eagle SPORTS



## Wolfpack wrestling off to powerful start in preseason

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

In a preseason tournament, the Windham/Gray New-Gloucester/Westbrook Wolfpack varsity wrestling team showed they are ready for the regular season as the team wrestled schools from all over the state in the Westlake Invitational on Saturday, Nov. 30 at Morse High School in Bath. The Wolfpack finished fourth out of 19 schools with a score of 137.

“Our team first round – amazing,” said Gray New-Gloucester senior Jameson Hart. “That was super exciting. It means that we are practicing right. We are at a good spot we just got to work harder and we’re going to be a threat this year.”

The Wolfpack secured multiple wins and Windham senior Ayden Cofone (126-weight class) won his finals match. Other tournament placers were Westbrook sophomore Cole Tanner (165) finished second, Windham freshman James Swan (106) finished third, Westbrook sophomore Sajjad Jumaah (138) finished fourth, Windham junior Junius Pope (190) also finished fourth.

“It always feels good to win even in ... tight matches where you got to dig deep and push the pace,” said Cofone. “That’s my fourth time winning that tournament and it felt more competitive each time which is good. I’ll use this tournament to set the season and really push hard to win the tougher tournaments down the road and to work harder and learn; I’m focused on growing as a wrestler and getting ready to flip the switch to college wrestling.”

After a very successful quarterfinal round, all 14 Wolfpack wrestlers advanced.

In the quarterfinals, Jumaah had an incredible match against Mount Ara-



Members of the Windham/Gray New-Gloucester/Westbrook Wolfpack varsity wrestling team gather at Morse High School in Bath on Saturday, Nov. 30 after the preseason Westlake Invitational. From left are Wolfpack assistant coach Nick Buckley, Windham junior Junius Pope, Windham freshman James Swan, Westbrook sophomore Sajjad Jumaah, Westbrook sophomore Cole Tanner, Windham senior Ayden Cofone and head coach John Nicholas. PHOTO BY COREEN TANNER

rat. Mount Ararat had a big lead most of the match, but Jumaah was not going down without a fight. Toward the end, mere points separated them and Jumaah’s perseverance earned him the 17-16 victory.

“I went into the match confident and it’s not I have to wrestle the second seed kid – it’s I get to wrestle the second seed kid,” said Jumaah. “I got a pretty hard blow to my nose... during the match. I had to take some injury time as well because ... I couldn’t wrestle right. When I got set on top, I was like the team needs this; that set a fire in me and I just went, I wrestled hard. I took a deep breath, I relaxed myself, I didn’t think about the score ... I had to keep going after it because there was no way I was going out like that.”

In the quarterfinals, Hart (157) took on Mount Ararat and pinned his opponent in under a minute.

Cofone pinned his Gardiner opponent with a minute remaining in the quarterfinals. He won his finals match

5-2 against Oceanside.

Cofone said he saw a lot of great heart and growth from last season. He said they need to wrestle their matches and not their opponents while working on cardio to set the pace of the match.

Windham senior CK Kennedy (175) fought a very close match against Bonny Eagle where he made up points after being down. Kennedy left it all on the mat, but narrowly lost 11-10.

“We have been able to get a lot accomplished in practice because the kids are paying attention and working hard to improve their skills,” said var-

sity Wolfpack coach John Nicholas. “We also talked about what it takes to win a big tournament and how to prepare yourself for each round. Besides the first round, (that went well) we had many kids that were able to battle back after a loss and push themselves into the consolation finals. We need to continue to work on our conditioning and clean up on some of our technique. I think the future is bright for the Wolfpack. We have a solid core of veterans mixed with some talented newcomers. It may take a little while, but we should be right in the mix by the end of the season.” <



(L to R) Windham junior Junius Pope works to get the pin. Senior Ayden Cofone keeps his Oceanside opponent from getting up during his finals match. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### Charlie Moore

**Age:** 10 **Team:** Windham Little League Fall Ball  
**Coach:** Johnathan Bassett  
**Parents’ names:** Krista and Dave Moore  
**Reason for selection:** Coaches say that Charlie is always ready to play and engaged no matter what position they put him in the lineup at. They say that it has been fun to watch him grow, develop and progress over the past few years. He is always a great role model for other players based upon his determination and consistent all-around play. Coaches say that they would bring him to battle at any game on the schedule!

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# Varsity girls' basketball topples BE to close preseason

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham High's varsity girls' basketball team played their last preseason game on Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Windham against Bonny Eagle. Windham defense kept Bonny Eagle completely scoreless in the first half and limited their scoring abilities in the second half as the Lady Eagles walked off the court with a 46-17 win.

"We went out and put some good ball pressure on them and forced a lot of turnovers early," said Windham varsity girls' basketball coach Brody Artes. "That's kind of our identity and what we're looking to do this year. We're still evolving with our offense, and we try to get better every day with that, but our difference in intensity was good. We rebounded really well. Marley was fantastic on the boards early on, but as a whole we did a really good job."

While the game took a slow offensive start, Windham defense did not let Bonny Eagle score a single basket in the first quarter, thanks to a last-second block before the buzzer. The Lady Eagles moved the ball well and snagged rebound after rebound, while turning the ball over a number of times.

In the second quarter, Windham junior Victoria Richardson sank one of her three three-pointers she would drop during the game. Windham's defense kept Bonny Eagle scoreless, and Windham pulled out front with an enormous lead. At the half, Windham led, 22-0.

"We've had a bunch of good practices in the past week where we're just all really connecting as a team," said Richardson. We have a lot of new freshmen this year and ... recently we've been doing a good job connecting and we really showed that in the game today. I think our defense went really well - we've been working on that a lot in practice. We could get a little stronger, I know personally I need to get stronger (and not so much in our heads). I think we're going to be a really strong team and if we play like we did today I think we can beat a lot of the teams that we think we can't beat."

(Right) Sophomore Isabella Vassoler passes to a teammate.



(L to R) Windham junior Victoria Richardson sinks a three-pointer early on during a girls' basketball game against Bonny Eagle on Tuesday, Dec. 3. Junior Marley Jarvais looks for the best spot to put the ball after retrieving a rebound. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

Although they had a substantial lead, the Lady Eagles kept up their hustle in the second half. Junior Marley Jarvais connected on a three-pointer early in the third quarter. Windham stayed with the ball and grabbed rebounds.

Bonny Eagle did eventually score, but Windham's defense continued to limit those opportunities. Windham remained strong with a very substantial lead throughout the game.

Windham freshman Yani Kostopoulos also had a nice block late in the game.

"I think this was a good game," said Windham sophomore Mackenzie Delewski.



in the first half. I feel like we played really well together, that our zone was really good; we did really good at being patient with the ball. We work really hard not just for ourselves but for each other; we get rebounds, we're not selfish with the ball, we do good passing, and our shooting was really good today. I feel like a lot of people felt like this year would be a growing year because we're still pretty young, with only one senior, but I feel like we're kind of selling ourselves short and we're a lot better team than we think we are."

Windham faces Lewiston at home on Friday, Dec. 6 in its season-opener; tip-off is at 6 p.m. <

zle Delewski. "We really showed our defense considering they didn't score



Sophomore Mackenzie Delewski focuses while navigating her way between two opponents.

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**PLAN** *Cont. from page 1*

Raymond resident Laura Abbott posted, "Just a reminder to all - pedestrians have the right of way and it's pretty easy (and lawful) to give them space on Cape Road. Especially this time of year when there is no other traffic. Passing close enough to touch is highly illegal. Cape Road improvement is on the Comprehensive Plan, thank goodness. A sidewalk or jogging path was listed as a priority! I'm hopeful there will be one someday."

Another resident, Kelly Rocheleau

responded, "Actually it is not easy to give space on the Cape Road. I understand what you are saying but just because the summer people and Frye Islanders are gone, the Cape Road has a number of new year-round homes and is quite active. I have encountered walkers, bike riders and once a roller blader with poles on the road. Not easy to go around on a curve in the road. I feel it's a good idea for us to get the town to invest in the Cape Road and give us some breakdown lanes! It would be productive for us Capers to get our road safer! Something needs to

be done about this road before another fatal accident happens. A sidewalk or path would be great! The road is too twisty and curvy. More of a police presence isn't going to help when vehicles take the corners no matter how fast they are going over the line and sometimes in the middle of the road!"

Cape resident April Bisnette chimed in, "I've often thought that there should be a sidewalk on the Cape Road for all the runners and pedestrians both in summer mostly, but yearly too. I live at the beginning of the Cape, and it is only 25 mph, but get tailgated like I'm only doing 5mph," she responded to the post.

Brian Raymond is a resident of Raymond Cape and works in the road

construction industry.

"I think the Comprehensive Plan has brought forth a lot of great ideas. It's good to see these all come together in one place," he said. "I like the idea of improving traffic congestion on 302 and adding a walking path to Cape Road. But I hope that we don't overspend on some of these potential improvements. Like many things, they are popular and seem attractive, however we need to remain fiscally responsible with tax dollars. I'm really excited to see what we can accomplish that brings value in a responsible way."

Review the Comprehensive Plan draft here: <https://compplan.raymondmaine.org/index.php/review-the-plan>

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**PUBLIC HEARING ON WORKSHOP FOR  
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ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:**

- LUO §300-10.3.10a - Extensions of Approvals and Permits
- Street Ordinance §5.5 Footnote 3 – Clarification of Reviewing Authority
- LUO §300-10.4.A.3 – Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- LUO §300-10.3.A.3.b – Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance – Article 5, Section 2.B – Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance – Article 6, Section 2.A – Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance – Article 7, Section 2.B – Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- Subdivision Ordinance – Article 4, Section 2.B – Number of Hard Copies for Submission
- SLZ §350-6.2 Minimum lot standards and setbacks
- SLZ §350-6.2 B.(1) – Shore Frontage
- SLZ – DEFINITIONS – add definition of DOCK

**WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING  
PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:**

- Addressing Ordinance – Amend size of numbers to 4" in height and be reflective as they must be visible from the road; Add language for an Appeals Process for Violations
- Noise/Quiet Zones – Regulations of Noise; possible ways of how to limit noise levels
- Solar – Possible amendments required after most recent update

6. Staff Communications and Updates
7. Adjournment

The meeting will be streamed in real time from the local Government channel. This live stream is also hosted on YouTube ([www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming](http://www.raymondmaine.org/content/live-video-streaming)), so make sure your computer or router/firewall does not block YouTube content.

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# Why historic weather events are stretching home insurers to their limits in Maine

► **By Tricia Zwirner**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Tricia Zwirner, State Farm

Maine, known for its picturesque landscapes and serene coastal charm, is increasingly grappling with the impact of historic weather events. In recent years, the state has been buffeted by a series of unprecedented storms, including severe winter weather, intense rainfalls, and damaging hurricanes. These extreme weather phenomena are not only affecting the lives of residents but are also placing immense pressure on home insurance providers. Understanding how and why these events are stretching insurers to their limits is crucial for homeowners and policymakers alike.

### Increased Frequency and Intensity of Claims

One of the primary reasons for the strain on home insurers in Maine is the rising frequency and intensity of weather-related claims. The state has witnessed a significant uptick in severe weather events, leading to a surge in claims from homeowners seeking assistance for damage. For example, record-breaking winter storms have caused heavy snowfall, leading to roof collapses and exten-

sive property damage. Similarly, hurricanes and tropical storms have resulted in severe flooding, eroding coastal areas and damaging homes. Insurers are overwhelmed by the sheer volume of claims, which has created a backlog in the claims processing system, making it difficult to provide timely support to policyholders.

### Escalating Repair and Replacement Costs

The financial implications of these weather events extend beyond the number of claims. The costs associated with repairing and replacing damaged property have skyrocketed. Factors such as supply chain disruptions, inflation, and increased demand for construction materials have led to higher prices for repairs. For instance, lumber and other building materials have seen significant price increases, affecting the overall cost of rebuilding. Insurers must account for these rising costs, which often leads to larger payouts for claims. This escalation can strain their financial resources and, in some cases, lead to increased premiums for homeowners.



### Limited Availability of Qualified Contractors

In the aftermath of severe weather events, there is often a shortage of qualified contractors available to carry out necessary repairs. This limited availability can lead to delays in processing claims and completing repairs, which further exacerbates the strain on insurers. Homeowners may find themselves waiting weeks or even months for repairs to be completed, resulting in additional damage and frustration. The backlog of claims, coupled with a reduced pool of contractors, puts additional pressure on insurance companies to manage customer expectations while fulfilling their obligations.

### Regulatory and Market Pressures

The rising claims and operational

costs have led many insurers to raise premiums, limit coverage, or withdraw from high-risk areas altogether. This trend leaves homeowners with fewer options and higher costs, creating a cycle of financial strain for both insurers and policyholders. Regulatory pressures can also influence insurers' decisions, as they navigate the complexities of state guidelines while trying to remain competitive in the market. Policymakers may face pressure to implement regulations that protect consumers from excessive rate hikes, but these measures can also limit insurers' ability to respond effectively to rising risks.

### Long-Term Climate Trends

The impact of climate change means that historic weather events are likely to become more common in Maine. Insurers must develop new strategies to address these evolving risks, which often involve significant adjustments to their business models and pricing structures. Some insurers

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 28



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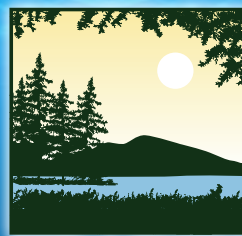
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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Two stay-at-home moms have turned their passion for eating healthy and a love for baking into little slices of heaven right here in the Lakes Region.

Brittany Baizley and Lizzie Smith are the entrepreneurs behind The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery, a popular home-based bakery that specializes in sourdough bagels and bread, cookies, and muffins, and featuring products that are dye-free, chemical-free and 100 percent organic. From locations at 21 Smith Ave. in Bridgton and 7 Gore Road in Raymond, The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery owners started their business by baking for family and friends, and now offer free delivery to customers throughout the area.

“For me it all boils down to the ingredients we use,” said Lizzie. “We connect with local organic farmers and use fresh herbs and clean ingredients, what we call ‘good for you’ food. We want to show everyone that eating healthy doesn’t have to be hard.”

The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery stands out from the competition because its products are made at home and feature locally grown ingredients, Brittany said.

“We are different because our products are locally made and use locally grown ingredients,” she said. “Everything we use comes from local farm stands including Southpaw Meat Market and from Morrell’s Farm Stand.”

The idea behind launching The Dai-

## The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery

ly Loaf Sourdough Bakery business started when Lizzie became pregnant with her son, and while she was sick from Hyperemesis gravidarum throughout her entire pregnancy, she sought answers about her health.

“I took a long look at what we were eating and found it was filled with additives and pesticides,” Lizzie said. “I knew we had to cut that out and we had to bake our own bread.”

The longtime friends tinkered for a few months to find exactly the right recipes before deciding to offer their quality home-baked goods for sale to the public.

“What we make is quite simple,” Lizzie said. “The base is about three or four ingredients in all.”

With affordable pricing and convenient ordering available through text



Lizzie Smith and Brittany Baizley co-own The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery and are passionate about baking healthy, organic products that taste delicious. SUBMITTED PHOTO

messaging, phone calls and Facebook messaging, The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery has built a loyal following and continues to grow.

“We have customers all the way from California that rave about our breads and bagels,” Brittany said. “People love it and it’s healthy form of carbs.”

They also now offer a “Monthly Sourdough Subscription” for one low set monthly price that provides a loaf of sourdough bread or a half dozen bagels every week delivered to your door and a bonus loaf or half-dozen bagels for free each month.

Reviews posted online for products offered by The Daily Loaf are nothing less than exceptional.

“Not only were the maple bagels out of this world but the owners went out of their way to help me with my order.

Wonderful service! It was hard to only eat one bagel! Can’t wait to try more.” ~ Wendy M.

“The Daily Loaf is incredible! The owners are knowledgeable and passionate about making healthy, sourdough baked goods and helping customers find their favorite flavors!” ~ Kathleen M.

“The best bagels I have had in a long time! I am used to NY style bagels – crunchy on the outside and chewy on the inside. And these bagels were all that and more! I cannot wait to order more. Delicious!” ~ Charles G.

“We are addicted to The Daily Loaf! The bagels are outstanding. Soft on the inside and a nice crust on the outside. The sour dough artisan loaf is awesome too – we use it for everything- sandwiches, French toast, garlic bread, and homemade croutons. There’s nothing better than bread with fresh ingredients and none of the bad stuff!” ~ Barbara B.

Lizzie and Brittany recommend visiting their menu online for products and prices. They ask that you pre-order in advance. The Daily Loaf Sourdough Bakery products are also available locally at Southpaw Meat Market in Raymond, Windy Hill Farm Market in Windham and at the Milk & Honey Cafe’ inside the Refuge Church in Windham.

Visit them on Facebook at The Daily Loaf and message them to order or you can call/text orders to 207-899-7594. <

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➔ REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 25

are exploring alternative insurance models that incorporate climate risks more effectively, such as parametric insurance, which offers payouts based on specific weather triggers rather than traditional claims processes. However, these models require a fundamental rethinking of how insurance products are designed and delivered.

Emotional and Financial Strain on Homeowners

The consequences of these weather events extend beyond physical damage; they also take a toll on homeowners' emotional and financial well-being. Many residents experience stress and anxiety as they navigate the complexities of recovering from storm damage, compounded by fears of rising insurance costs. This emotional strain can lead to increased scrutiny of insurance practices and height-

ened expectations for support from insurers.

Conclusion

The combination of rising claims, escalating costs, limited contractor availability, and changing risk landscapes is pushing home insurers in Maine to their limits. As historic weather events continue to challenge the industry, the need for innovative solutions and collaborative approaches is more urgent than ever. Insurers, policymakers, and homeowners must work together to develop strategies that enhance resilience and ensure that all parties can navigate the complexities of an increasingly volatile climate.

This article was brought to you by Tricia Zwirner, a State Farm agent celebrating her 21st year in Windham. She and her team would love to hear from you and can be reached via phone and text at 207-892-2864 or via email at tricia@TRICIAZWIRNER.com. <

BRIEFS

Christmas Fair

The Annual St. Ann's Christmas Craft Fair will be held from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 7. There will be a Silent Auction, handmade crafts, fresh balsam, wreaths and arrangements, jewelry, a Cookie Walk, baked goods and confections. Santa will be there from 10:30 a.m. to noon. St. Ann's episcopal Church is at 40 Windham Center Road. FMI, call 207-892-8447.

Grief Support

The Refuge Church at 765 Roosevelt Trail in Windham is offering a Holiday Grief Support session from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 12. Remember we are not meant to do life alone. FMI, call David Carey at 804-363-0405.

Christmas Party

The annual Hawthorne House Christmas Potluck-Dinner Party will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 14 at 40 Hawthorne Road in Raymond. A \$5 entrance donation will grant each participant five raffle tickets for valuable prizes. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing hawthorne@maine.rr.com or calling or texting Becky Tracy at 207-329-0537.

Passes available

The Windham Public Library has free passes available for the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine, Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Maine State Parks, Maine Wildlife Park, Portland Museum of Art, and USM Southworth Planetarium. To learn more, call 207-892-1908, Ext. 3.

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