

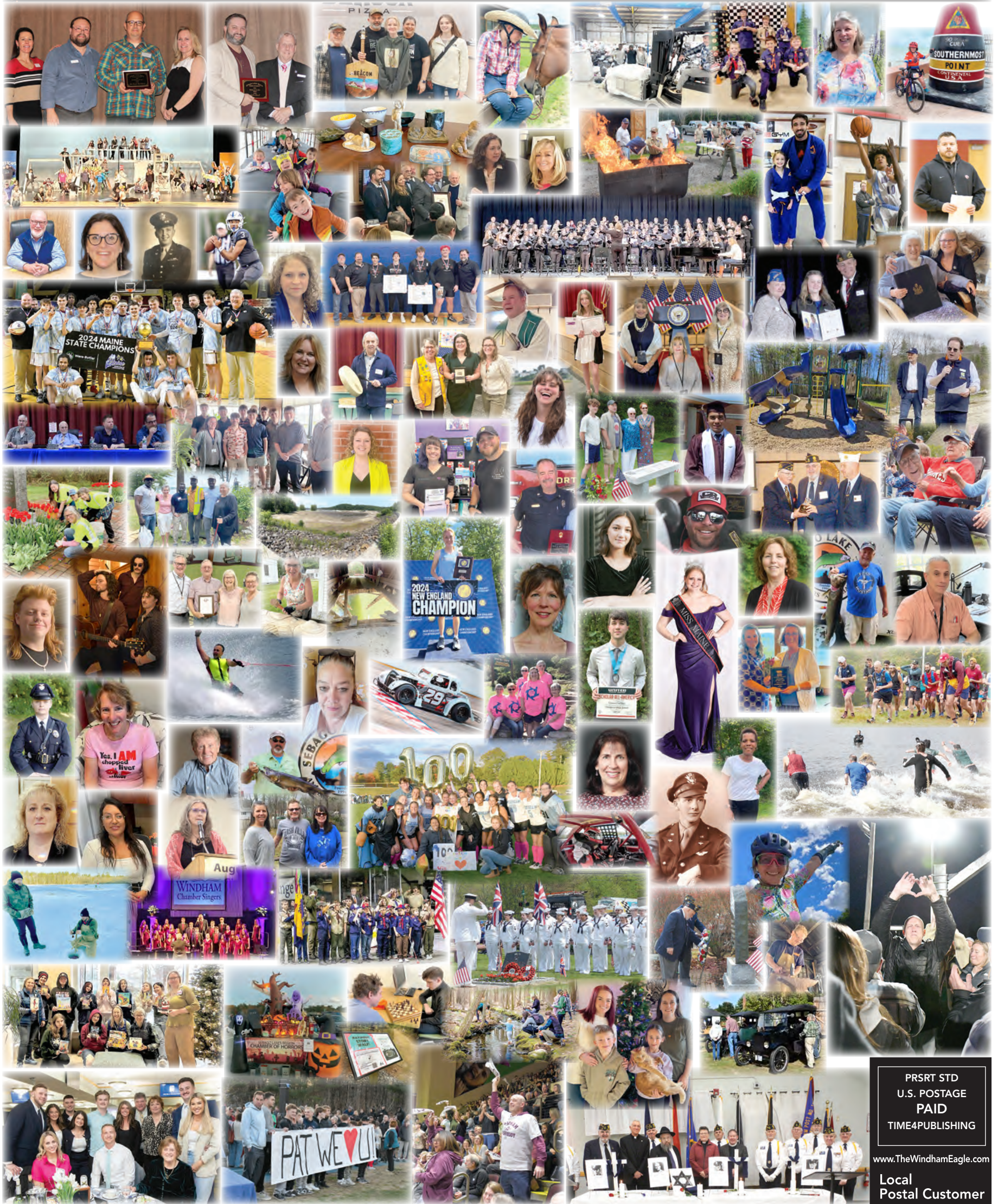
THE WINDHAM EAGLE

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INSIGHT

Gazing once more into my crystal ball

I can't be labeled as a "traditionalist" because I don't stay up to watch the annual countdown in Times Square on New Year's Eve, and I certainly do not make New Year's resolutions.

But way back in the 1990s, I never missed a Dec. 31 episode of ABC's Nightline television program because that was their annual predictions show. Nightline's host, Ted Koppel, would bring back the same panel every year of fearless prognosticators including Pulitzer Prize winning columnist and former presidential speechwriter William Safire; renowned economist Arthur Laffer, who was the so-called "architect of the 1980s supply side economics" movement; and witty former Sports Illustrated writer Frank Deford, the dean of American sports commentary.

For me, it was always a gripping hour of television, and I always appreciated the keen insight of Koppel, who was able to move with ease from topics ranging from politics to religion to business to sports, all while keeping the esteemed panelists' egos in check and the discussion centered on what they thought would be the breaking news in the unknown year ahead. Sadly, after Koppel retired as Nightline host in 2005, the Nightline prediction show came to an end. Safire died of pancreatic cancer in 2009 and Deford passed away at age 78 in 2017.

But on New Year's Eve in 2021, I revived the spirit of Nightline's predictions show by sharing a few annual predictions of my own here in this column. To recap my predictions for 2024 in *The Windham Eagle*, it's interesting to see how accurate or lacking my sixth sense was in the past year.

**I predicted that Purdue would win the NCAA Men's College Basketball Tournament in April by defeating Houston in the championship game and that the San Francisco 49ers would defeat the Miami Dolphins in Super Bowl LVIII in February. I also predicted that the Philadelphia Phillies would win the 2024 World Series by defeating the Houston Astros and that Oklahoma would win the national college football championship in an undefeated season. For real, Purdue lost to Connecticut in the Men's College Basketball championship game in April, while Kansas City beat San Francisco in the Super Bowl in February. The Los Angeles Dodgers won this year's World Series in October over the New York Yankees, and Michigan won the 2024 national college football championship by defeating Washington in January. In recapping my predictions, I did have Purdue and San Francisco 49ers both reach their respective title games, but they each lost, and all my other predictions were also wrong. All four of my championship predictions for the past year were wrong.

**I incorrectly predicted that NASA would successfully launch Artemis II in November for a manned spaceflight around the moon and back to Earth as the U.S. took its first steps to establish a scientific mission there. That mission has now been pushed back to April 2026 at the earliest. Once again, I was incorrect about this prediction too.

**Per last year's prediction, "Oppenheimer" indeed won the Best Picture Academy Award in April. However, "Barbie" director Greta Gerwig didn't win the best director award, Christopher Nolan did for "Oppenheimer." Paul Giamatti didn't win the best actor award for "The Holdovers," Cillian Murphy did for "Oppenheimer." Carey Mulligan didn't win as the best actress award for "Maestro," instead, Emma Stone did for "Poor Things." Therefore, I only got one out four predictions right in this category.

Here are my new predictions for 2025:

**"Conclave" a fictional dramatization about the election of a new pope will win the Academy Award for Best Picture. Timothée Chalamet will take home the Best Actor Oscar for the film "A Complete Unknown" about singer Bob Dylan. Kate Winslet will win Best Actress for her starring role in "Lee." Ridley Scott will win the Academy Award for Best Director for "Gladiator II."

**Houston will defeat Mississippi State on a last-second shot to win the NCAA men's college basketball tournament in April. The Baltimore Ravens will defeat the Philadelphia Eagles to win the Super Bowl in February. The Atlanta Braves will crush the Kansas City Royals to win the World Series in five games in October. The Notre Dame Fighting Irish will upset Oregon to claim the NCAA College Football Championship in January.

**Two different hurricanes will strike Miami Beach in September and the saturated wet soil will lead to a frightening collapse of at least five major high-rise condo and apartment buildings there. It will lead to the evacuation of other buildings on the beach and many people living there will have no place to go. Converted airplane hangers will be used to house thousands of displaced residents, and they will be living there for months.

Once again, I probably need to remind you that I'm certainly not in the league of Nostradamus or the distinguished celebrity Nightline panel, but as playwright Eugene Ionesco once said, "You can only predict things after they have happened."

Wishing a Happy New Year in 2025 to one and all. < ~ Ed Pierce

Today in HISTORY



JANUARY 3

1496 – Leonardo da Vinci unsuccessfully tests a flying machine that he had created.

1825 – The first engineering college in the United States, The Rensselaer School, opens in Troy, New York.

1871 – Henry W. Bradley obtains a patent for a butter substitute called margarine.

1938 – The March of Dimes is established by U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt to fight polio.

1957 – The Hamilton Watch Company introduced the first electric wristwatch.

1959 – Alaska officially becomes the 49th state of the United States of America.

1990 – Ousted Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega surrenders to U.S. forces.

1993 – U.S. President George H.W. Bush and Russian President Boris Yeltsin sign the second Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty in Moscow.

1995 – The U.S. Postal Service raises the price of the first-class postage stamp to 32 cents.

ON THE SPOT

What will be the first New Year's Resolution that you will probably break in January?

"Same as last two years. Back to the gym." – William D. Reiner

"Set up for failure. Make it reasonable. Spread more joy." – Julie Mallett

"Exercise & diet." – Helia Yaz

"Failure to give up sweets." – Stephen Signor

"Diet ...again." – Debra Jean

"Stop smoking and watching hours and hours of Dr. Phil on television" – Anne Glotchshuk

"Spending money needlessly on Smart TV apps." – Deirdre Schulte

"Vowing to cancel my People Magazine subscription." – Mitchell B. Robinson

"Cutting down on eating candy and sweets in the hours after dinner." – Rick Seacroft

"Cutting down on my swearing and cursing." – David W. Tettley

"Saving a little extra cash every week." – Dean A. Smalley

"Writing the book I always said I would start someday." – Sarah Singer-Miller

"Saving more money and spending more time with my family." – Jerry Greene

"Being more patient with people everywhere I go. And cooking more at home instead of eating out. I really need to cut down all my expenses but it's really hard to do with three kids and working so many hours to make ends meet." – Isabella Mongon

"Exercising more." – Chris Macklin

"Losing weight and playing less Candy Crush on my phone." – Oscar F. Kellner

"Eating healthier or getting my finances in order so I can begin planning a trip to Montreal." – Mariah C. Williston

"Turning off all the cable news programs and the reality shows I watch every day. They're very addictive." – Mia Potenzio-Ransey



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Annual Richard Nickerson Scholarship Concert promises to be a spectacular evening for families

By Masha Yurkevich
STAFF WRITER

There are many things that you can do to show your gratitude to someone and thank them for their hard work. You can give them a gift, write them a letter, or you could start a scholarship. Back in the spring of 1997, Dr. Richard Nickerson and his choral students went to Vienna to participate in a music festival and won the most prestigious award of the festival.

They were very thankful for all the work that Dr. Nickerson did to bring the group to that place and to show their gratitude and give back, they

decided to start a scholarship specifically for choral music. It has been 28 years since then and this year's annual scholarship concert will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Windham High School Performing Arts Center.

Daniel Griffin is a Windham High School alumnus and was a Windham Chamber Singer back in the day. His daughter, who also attended RSU 14, was fortunate enough to also be a Chamber Singer, making it a full circle. Now, Griffin is a part of the Scholarship Committee setting up the annual fundraising concert.

While Dr. Nickerson was flattered by the idea of a scholarship in his

name, he is very hands off himself regarding the scholarship.

"We have a small committee that meets throughout the year and plans the one fundraising event, the scholarship concert, which happens on the first Saturday of every January," says Griffin. "We have been doing this for 28 years and we have all musical alumni from Windham High School come back for this."

Janelle LoSciuto is the Artistic Director for the Richard Nickerson Scholarship concert, and she is the powerhouse that makes the show what it is.

They have had different perform-

ers from the very beginning when Dr. Nickerson started teaching music at the school to more recent alumni.

"It is a great type of family event that we are trying to keep on going," says Griffin.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded each year to a high school senior that is planning to make choral music a part of their college experience.

"It does not mean that they need to be going into music as far as their degree, they just need to keep it part of their experience, which makes it a little bit broader," says Griffin. "It could be anybody who is in the

→ see **CONCERT** Page 4



For nearly three decades, the Richard Nickerson Scholarship Concert has brought together former WHS musicians on behalf of the Richard Nickerson Scholarship Fund, which helps support students pursuing higher education in any discipline if they continue to make choral music a part of their college experience. This year's concert will be at 7 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 4 at WHS. SUBMITTED PHOTO



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→ CONCERT *Cont. from page 3*

Chamber Singers or the chorus.”

Picking one senior for the scholarship is no easy task. Applicants must be planning to attend a two- or four-year college program with choral music as part of their course of studies or extra-curricular activities and write an essay about what does music mean to them, how it has impacted them, and how they plan to make that a part

of their life. The committee then goes by a rubric and picks a senior for the scholarship.

This scholarship not only helps the senior financially, but also helps them meet people that might not be within their cohort of learning.

“Unlike theater, not everybody is outgoing that does music; some people are very reserved,” says Griffin. “This gives them an opportunity to find their people in the college or

university that they are going to and start making friends. Choral music or being part of some sort of music program is very similar to sports teams; everybody comes together for one particular purpose to improve and work together and harmonize to produce something wonderful.”


This helps with teamwork, improved mental health, cognitive development, social benefits, and a sense of achievement. Being a part of choral choir gives a sense of belonging, emotional expression, self-confidence skills, stress reduction, and cultural enrichment, all very important aspects in young adults today.

There is a lot to look forward to for

the upcoming concert; it promises to be an evening filled with fun.

“There are many alumnae coming back, all with different backgrounds, some with operetta experience, some with their own bands, and for this concert, we are inviting all alumni who were a part of the Chamber Singers or chorus to come back and sing, so we will be having an alumni choir,” says Griffin.

All performers are from Windham and admission to the Richard Nickerson Scholarship Concert is by donation. For further details about the concert, how to apply for a scholarship, or to make a direct donation visit www.richardnickersonscholarship.org. <



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Southern Maine Agency on Aging offers Winter Tai Chi Classes for Health and Balance

Falls are not an inevitable part of aging, yet they can have enormous economic and personal consequences for older adults. According to the CDC, falls are the leading cause of injury for adults ages 65 years and older. The good news is that older adults who remain active have the power to prevent falls.



Registration is open for in-person and virtual Tai Chi for Health & Balance – Falls Prevention classes offered through Southern Maine Agency on Aging (SMAA).

Tai Chi for Health & Balance is a 10-week, 20-session class that helps improve mobility, breathing, and relaxation with an enjoyable form of exercise that almost anyone can learn.

“As a trusted community resource, we are honored to provide evidence-based health programs – such as Tai Chi – that are proven to reduce the incidence of falls among older adults,” says Meg Barhite, SMAA Volunteer Services Director. “Increased strength, flexibility, better mental focus, and improved balance are all wonderful outcomes of the program. Just as importantly, our classes provide social engagement opportunities for clients and are led by dedicated and trained volunteers.”

Southern Maine Agency on Aging’s Winter Tai Chi Classes:

Introduction to Tai Chi at the South Portland Public Library Jan. 6 to March 20, 2025, Mondays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Introduction to Tai Chi at Scarborough Community Services Jan. 14 to March 20, 2025, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Introduction to Tai Chi on ZOOM (Technical assistance offered for users new to ZOOM) Jan. 14 to March 20, 2025, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-10 AM

Deepening Tai Chi on ZOOM for participants who have completed the SMAA intro class Jan. 14 to March 20, 2025, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Class sizes are limited, and pre-registration is required. Please visit www.smaaa.org/events or call 207-396-

6578 to pre-register and check out our other class locations and dates.

For more details about Tai Chi and other programs offered through the Southern Maine Agency of Aging, please call 207-396-6578 or email agewell@smaaa.org.

Southern Maine Agency on Aging is the central resource for older adults in York and Cumberland Counties. It provides meals, family caregiver support, expert advice on insurance and drug benefits, classes to help folks age well, and information on critical community resources. These services help individuals remain securely housed and active participants in their communities at a fraction of the cost of nursing home or institutional care alternatives.

The SMAA Meals on Wheels program provides up to five meals for homebound participants each week. Volunteers and agency staff deliver meals four days a week. No deliveries are made on Wednesdays. Meals

generally arrive between 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and are delivered either frozen or preheated based upon request. There is a suggested donation of \$3.50 per meal. Call 1-800-400-6325 for more information. <

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Exceptional Windham Middle School STEM teacher inspires young minds

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

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

English theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking got it right when he said that behind every exceptional person there is an exceptional teacher. Windham Middle School's Jason Lanoie is a great example of what Hawking was talking about.

Lanoie teaches Seventh Grade Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM) classes on the Sebago Team at WMS and is now in his 19th year of working at the school.

"Many times, when I tell people I teach STEM, they always ask, 'What is that?' and I always start off by telling them it's technology," Lanoie said. "I also tell them we do 3D printing, we make solar cars, we do laser engraving and so much more, but I always include woodworking. It's still an important part of STEM, and in the earlier days of technology education in school, it was called Shop."

He sees his students every day for about 50 minutes but at the beginning of the new semester, Lanoie will switch to the other seventh grade team, O'Hana.

"I get to see a different side of students, those who may not love school and struggle with classes like math or English and Language Arts, but love

the hands-on projects in STEM," Lanoie said. "I get to see the creative side of my students. I'm able to incorporate math and science skills in an alternative form."

Growing up in Gorham, Lanoie graduated from Gorham High School in 1999. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in Technology Education from the University of Southern Maine and then obtained a master's degree in educational technology from Southern New Hampshire University.

"In late December of 2004 I got a phone call from Randy Perkins who at the time was the other STEM teacher at Windham Middle School," Lanoie said. "He knew I was about to graduate from USM, and they were looking for a long-term substitute. I started in January 2005 and have been here ever since."

Besides teaching, Lanoie currently serves as part of the WMS leadership team that is working on getting



Jason Lanoie teaches Seventh Grade Science, Engineering, Technology and Math (STEM) classes on the Sebago Team at WMS and is now in his 19th year of working at the school. SUBMITTED PHOTO

ready for the new middle school. He also has numerous positions, including vice president of the teacher's association and is the head coach of the WMS Girls' Indoor and Outdoor track teams.

According to Lanoie, his most memorable moment at the school is when he wrote his first grant with the Perloff foundation.

"Dave and Sandy Perloff purchased my first 3D printer back in 2012. Since then, I have received thousands of dollars in equipment from their foundation and it has changed the way I am able to teach," Lanoie said. "We have 10 3D printers and laser engravers and Lego kits all from the Perloffs. We are able to do things I never thought possible when I first started teaching here almost 20 years ago. Another memorable moment was when I started the Guitar builders club last year. In the first year of the club, I had six students build a working guitar that they get to keep.

This year the club has grown to 12 students and has been funded with a grant from the town council."

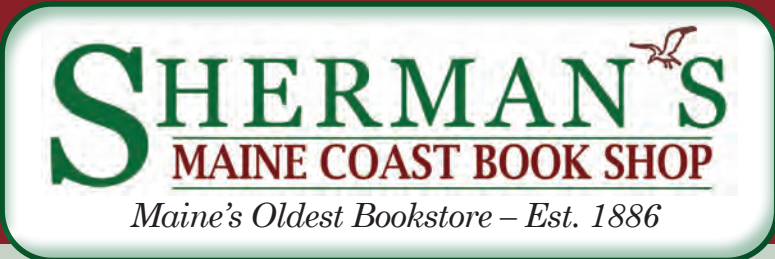
Following in his father's footsteps as a teacher, Lanoie says he truly feels his family is proud of the work he is doing.

"My father taught Industrial Technology and computers in Cape Elizabeth," he said. "My wife Ashley is my biggest support. She also is a teacher, and we often help each other with our struggles, and if we just need another set of professional eyes for curriculum or lesson plans. I also like to try out some of the projects like my Rube Goldberg machines with my son and daughter."

Lanoie said the people he works with at WMS are like a second family.

"We are all here to support each other. I remember when I was new to the building, and I needed the support from the veteran staff," Lanoie said. "Teachers like Lee Allen and Charlie Haddock helped make me the educator I am today. Now that I have been at Windham Middle School for a number of years, I get to be that support for the next generation of teachers. We try to show new staff that at this school we will do whatever we can to support you. By showing new educators that we have their backs, we hope that it will continue long after the current teachers retire. It is really what keeps all of us at WMS going some days." <

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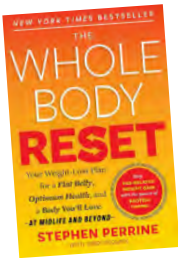
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Our 5th annual food drive in October, with the help from The Maine Cabin Masters, raised \$3,355 in cash and over 2500 lbs in food donations. All cash funds were given to The Good Shepherd Food Bank and Crosswalk Community Outreach.

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Maine Marathon announces additional donation to RTT

Bob Dunfey, the Volunteer Race Director for The Maine Marathon, Half Marathon and Relay, has announced that Riding To The Top (RTT) of Windham will be receiving an additional donation in addition to the \$10,500 previously awarded to RTT as a 2024 beneficiary.

Dunfey said RTT has also been awarded an additional \$9,500 after final race expenses were tabulated.

“Christmas came early this year. We were so honored to be named a beneficiary of this year’s Maine Marathon,” says Sarah Bronson, RTT’s Executive Director. “And then to receive news this month that the donation amount was increased has been an unexpected and overwhelming gift. We are so grateful to Gorham Savings Bank and to the many volunteers who work tirelessly to make the marathon

possible.”
Bronson said as an organization that operates with a small paid staff and a large corps of volunteer, RTT is simply in awe of the all-volunteer effort of the Maine Marathon.

“Funds from the Maine Marathon will help the clients, horses and programs of RTT as we look forward to the start of the new year,” she said.

Riding To The Top is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the health and well-being of children and adults with disabilities through equine-assisted services, including therapeutic riding, therapeutic carriage driving, equine-assisted learning, and hippotherapy.

Based in Windham, the RTT team includes certified instructors, specially trained volunteers, and a herd of exceptional horses. Clients range in



Gorham Savings Bank President and CEO Steve deCastro, left, joins Andrea Connor of the Maine Marathon, center, in presenting an additional donation of \$9,500 to Riding To The Top Development Director Kelly Johnson for use in programs offered by the therapeutic riding center in Windham. SUBMITTED PHOTO

age from 3 to 90-plus and are referred by doctors, therapists, social workers, teachers, family members, and friends.

The Maine Marathon races are organized by the Maine Track Club. It is a volunteer driven, nonprofit event with proceeds going to local Maine

charities. Since 1997, the Maine Marathon has raised almost \$8 million to charity. Over 50 volunteer race coordinators plan the event during the year and about 900 volunteers deliver the event on race weekend.

“By pulling together funds from race registrations, individual donations and sponsors, we are able to have a real impact in the community,” Dunfey said. “The overriding mission of the Maine Marathon is to hold a quality event that runners and spectators will appreciate and support while raising funds for local Maine charities.”

This year’s 2024 Maine Marathon was held on Sunday, Oct. 6 in Portland.

For further details about RTT, visit www.ridingtothetop.org

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New Paid Family and Medical Leave Employer Portal to launch Jan. 6

The Maine Department of Labor has announced that the new Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Portal, the online system for employers to register their business information, designate a payroll processor, file quarterly wage reports, and remit quarterly premium contributions, will be launching on Jan. 6.

Starting Jan. 1, 2025, any employer with at least one Maine-based employee must begin payroll withholdings for their employees. Employers with 15 or more employees will contribute 1 percent of wages and may deduct up to half of the contribution from the employees' wages. Employers with less than 15 employees will contribute 0.5 percent of wages and may deduct the entire amount from the employees' wages.

All employers must register on the portal to begin wage reporting in April 2025. This portal will allow employers to register their business

information with the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Program, file quarterly wage reports and remit contributions, and to apply for private plan substitutions when eligible.

The system will also provide the opportunity for self-employed individuals and tribal governments to opt into coverage from the Paid Family and Medical Leave program.

Employers will begin their first quarterly wage reporting and premium payments starting April 1, 2025, and they are due by April 30, 2025.

Stay up to date by signing up for the PFML Get Notified List and learn more in the FAQ, employer resources, recorded demonstrations, and step by step guides at: www.maine.gov/paidleave

The Department partnered with FAST Enterprises - www.fastenterprises.com to build the online contributions portal. Benefits are scheduled to begin May 1, 2026. <

STUDENT OF THE WEEK **William (Liam) Kindred**



Grade: 9 **School:** Windham Christian Academy
Teacher: Mrs. Brigitte Morse
Favorite Subject(s) in school: Math/Science
Parents' Names: William and Lucy Kindred
Reason For Selection: Liam shines as a positive leader in the high school, respected by both peers and school leaders. He is inclusive at all times and works to ensure all students have a voice while still respecting decisions of those in positions of authority. As a freshman, he was chosen by his peers to represent the Freshman Class, with fellow student council members from every grade level voting him in as Student Council President. He shows compassion and caring, at school and for his community, volunteering and giving a hand without being prompted. Liam never settles for "good enough," going above and beyond when completing assignments and learning new concepts. He challenges his other peers to do the same and cheers them on as they try hard things, striving to excel in all areas of academics and athletics. He is a true shining light in his community and our school.

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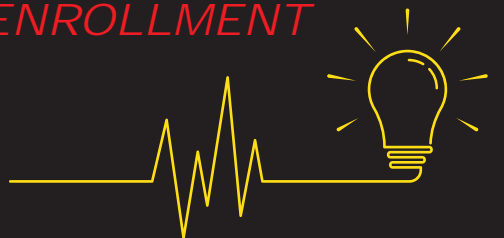
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LETTERS to the editor

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

Editor,
 For years I thought fluoride was a great deal. It was just a mineral and fewer cavities, what's not to like.
 Then I had a stroke and was paralyzed on the left side, non-ambulatory. I started taking all the You Tube natural stuff, 30 pills a day of actual min-

erals, natural biocompounds, etc. Stuff like sulforaphane, natto kinase, Benfotiamine, Luteolin, Berberine ALA, etc. and it really helped. That got me walking with a limp. But then it slowed, and I was failing, I could feel it, time to get the house in order.
 The same story as for most with

strokes, you get a year or two then it's over. Then I got wind of the debate to get fluoride out of the schools because it was impeding kids' brain development, the very same thing you need to do to replace the parts of the brain that were damaged in a stroke!
 I quit all fluoride, spring water, changed my toothpaste, stopped eating grapes and drinking wine (UGH). The difference I noticed in one week was shocking to me, slow recovery started anew. Had I not had this unique experience, I would never have known.
 Kids have powerful brain development capabilities, old folks not so much, the difference when you're old and really need it is profound. Now I really suspect it is a possible reason

why so many people seem so stupid these days! Everybody gets all kinds of fluoride these days. They put it in just about everything. It is universal, so nobody notices anything.
 One thing I have noticed is that you occasionally run into people who had their stroke 10 or even 15 years ago and are still kicking. So far, every single one I have met and asked was on well water. The stuff doesn't even work on cavities. Time to rethink a public policy that makes the COVID shot mandates look tame by comparison.
 It's "good for you" so we will just put it in everything and not tell you! But what if it's costing stroke patients years of their lives?
 ~ Dan Pride, Windham



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PUBLIC WORKSHOP

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road
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Wednesday, January 8 • 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Workshop at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING
PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

- Docks
- Solar
- Lot Sizes

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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89205415693?pwd=Pn7QgkneSCNvIhR8eOTT1aClzXdzYl.1>

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Passcode: Ke4W53

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Passcode: 341725

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdmAkl7nAn>

New Year's is a great time to refresh house plants

By Kendra Raymond
STAFF WRITER

The start of a new year traditionally brings about resolutions, diets, fitness regimes, and plans for vacations. Just visit any local store immediately after the holidays and you will notice workout wear and luggage galore.

For those of us who tend to be a bit more “jaded” and less likely to fall prey to the pressures of societal marketing tactics, it can be refreshing to find a new cause that could be more rewarding.

During a recent cleaning project, my daughter realized that she had a lot more plants in her bedroom that she could care for or fit comfortably. Rather than discarding them, she took some cuttings from each to propagate some smaller plants. We then tapped into social media to rehome the large healthy plants.

After posting on a local plant swap and sell Facebook page, we promptly received a message from an individual who helps rehome people who have

experienced domestic abuse. Only known to us as “Jane,” she told us that she was looking for things to make the new apartment feel cozy and homey for the survivor. “You are some of my earth angels,” she said as she loaded the wrapped plants into her vehicle. “I’m glad I found you – this is a good thing!” she exclaimed out her open window as she drove away. It seemed like the perfect fit for us: we had too many plants and we could help someone in need rebuild their life. It was only a small gesture and little effort for us, but somehow we knew that we had done something pretty important.

High school junior Kris Raymond said that sharing her beloved plants felt incredibly rewarding.

“It was really nice to bring some brightness to someone else’s home. Plants make a living space feel warmer. I had grown those plants for years and knew that they would be appreciated. Plus, it was great to declutter my space,” she said.

There are many other options to

explore if you have too many plants, or some that have overgrown and are taking up more space than you’d like. As a horticulturist, I have discovered lots of tricks of the trade, some more successful than others.

Repotting plants: If your house plants have outgrown their current receptacle, it is probably time to move up in size. Choose a planter that is one-third larger than the current one. Tip the plant on its side and ease it out, trying not to disturb the root system. Place a layer of fresh potting soil below and around the roots and gently pack into place. Water the soil until saturated and consider fertilizing the next time the soil dries out.

Dividing and taking cuttings: Many house plants can be divided into several smaller plants. Gently separate the roots and place the new plants into their own separate pots. This method works well for many tropical plants as well as pothos and spider plants. Monstera, hoyo, and peperomia respond well to pruning. This is actually healthy for the plant, promoting new dense growth. Cuttings removed from the plants can be rooted and potentially create new plants. The rooted cuttings can also be planted back into the orig-

inal planter to bulk up the appearance of the plant. Plant propagation tubes or stations are available online for an affordable price. A simple glass jar will also suffice and promotes recycling.

Donations and gifts: If you simply have too many plants in your space, why not consider gifting extras to willing co-workers, family and friends? Often those without a “green thumb” will appreciate the contribution of a well-established plant to add to their home. There are several houseplant groups to discover on social media, and members are often eager to make trades, purchase or receive a new plant for free. My daughter was the recipient of such a bargain. She obtained a small jade plant cutting from the mother plant, “Midge”, at no cost. The lady was even nice enough to give her growing recommendations and tips. The new plant has flourished over the past year, and is now a healthy plant of its own.

The Apartment Therapy website offers several bits of advice for those of us overrun by houseplants, “Don’t be afraid to prune houseplants, propagate first before buying new plants, and be more intentional about houseplants as décor.” <

BRIEFS

Coed basketball

The Raymond First and Second Grade Coed Basketball League schedule continues with a game between Beacon Pizza and Cobb’s Energy Solutions at 8 am. Saturday, Jan. 4 at the Jordan-Small Middle School Gymnasium located at 423 Webbs Mills Road in Raymond. Admission to the game is free. FMI, call 207-655-4742.

Family Breakfast

St. Ann’s Episcopal Church at 40 Windham Center Road is hosting a Family Breakfast from 9 to 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 5. The meal includes scrambled eggs, sausage, pancakes, French toast, juice, coffee, and tea. Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$10 per family. FMI, 207-892-8447.

Freeze Out Hunger

Erik’s Church, 824 Roosevelt Trail in Windham is hosting the Dueling Piano Winter Gala featuring Jimmy Ciampi at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 19. Proceeds benefit the RSU 14 Backpack

Program which feeds children in need when school is not in session. To purchase tickets, visit eventbrite.com

Girl Scouts

Raymond girls interested in joining the Girl Scouts are encouraged to attend an informational meeting at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13 at Raymond Elementary School, 434 Webbs Mills Road. FMI, call 888-922-4763.

Snowmobile Club meeting

The Windham Drifters Snowmobile Club will hold a meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, Jan. 13 at Pat’s Pizza, 844 Roosevelt Trail, Windham. During the meeting, new club officers will be elected. FMI, visit www.windhamdrifters.com

Suicide Support Group

The Alternatives to Suicide Support Group meets at 2 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays each month at Lake Region Recovery Center, 2 Elm St., Bridgton. FMI, call 207-803-8707.

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TOWN OF WINDHAM



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NOTE: Maine.gov website is currently having issues renewing online

The license fee is \$6.00 for altered dogs, \$11.00 for unaltered dogs, and please make sure to bring your rabies certificate.

Questions, please call 892-1900.
Thank you-Town Clerk’s Office

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

Reviewing what happened over the past year is always a significant opportunity for all of us to assess and reflect on what has been achieved in the Windham and Raymond communities and to determine the direction of where our towns may be heading in 2025.

Following a thorough review of all issues of *The Windham Eagle* from 2024, we've chosen to highlight the top story for each edition as featured in the newspaper and we wish everyone a healthy, safe, and prosperous year ahead.

JANUARY

★ Jan. 5's top story was about a family living in Raymond who discovered a box of Bric-A-Brac and art items stored in an unused house addition which turned out to be a veritable time capsule undiscovered for more than 50 years in their home. The items were carefully wrapped in a 1973 newspaper and stored in a home addition, and included English china, small plates, and miscellaneous pieces of dishware and home goods. Most of the items were in perfect condition and many of the pieces of pottery were crafted by the family's grandmother who was also a ceramics instructor at Camp Wawenock in Raymond and studied under Hungarian sculptor George Julian Zolnay in the early 1900s. The family's favorite items from the previously undiscovered collection featured several sculptures that their grandmother had made of babies and children. The art treasures were found in an add-on portion of the former one-room schoolhouse that has passed through four generations of the family in Raymond including a great-grandfather, grandparents, parents,

and now down to this current generation. The house itself was moved to its current location in Raymond when a previous farmhouse owned by the family burned to the ground. When the family's grandmother passed away in 1973, evidently the box was packed up and stored in an unused area over a new house addition. The family says it was unaware of its existence, so the Bric-A-Brac time capsule had been lying in wait to be discovered for more than 50 years.

★ The top story for Jan. 12 was Apparel Impact's expansion into Windham. With the average American consumer throwing away more than 81.5 pounds of unwanted clothing every year resulting an estimated 17 million tons of textile waste entering U.S. landfills every year, Joe Whitten's for-profit company, Apparel Impact, has established several drop-off points in Windham to recycle textile waste and used clothing instead of throwing it out. "We provide easily accessible recycling bins across New England and New York that give people the opportunity to see their clothing, reused, upcycled, or downcycled," Whitten said. "Aside from our primary mission of being a clothing reuse and clothing recycler, we also have an entire division dedicated to providing free clothing to those most in need within the communities we provide service to." In 2023, Apparel Impact provided clothing, shoes, and other resources to more than 4,000 people and families in New England. "All of the schools that host Apparel Impact bins have access to an outreach link where they can request needed items for students," Whitten said. "As we grow in Windham, we

hope to expand our reach within Windham schools and the surrounding towns." The expansion into Windham includes local partners in Apparel Impact's efforts to divert textile waste and provide community support.

★ Jan. 19's top story reported that pending working out specific details of a contract, the Town of Raymond has a new Town Manager after the Raymond Select Board offered Susan L. Look the position during a Select Board meeting on Jan. 9. Look, who had been serving as Raymond's Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters, was filling the Town Manager position on an interim basis since July 2023 before accepting the job on a permanent basis. Through the years, Look has organized the Raymond Select Board's monthly meetings, taken the meeting minutes, coordinated with all the people who want to be in the meeting and compiled requests for items to be placed on the agenda. Look has also prepared the warrant for Raymond's Annual Town Meeting held every year. Look was born in Lewiston and has worked for the Town of Raymond since July 2014. She formerly served as the Town Clerk for the Town of West Bath and she was originally hired by Willard to replace long-time town clerk Louise Lester, who was retiring at the time. Don Willard had served as the Raymond Town Manager for more than 22 years when he left on Paid Family Medical Leave in July 2023, and he officially retired on Jan. 2. The Raymond Select Board is currently formulating a transition plan to appoint a new Town Clerk and Registrar of Voters to succeed Look in those duties.

★ The top story for Jan. 26 was about the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner held on Thursday, Jan. 18 at Camp Sunshine in Casco. Robin Mullins, the Chamber's President and CEO at the time, shared a video on the Chamber's history and discussed how the organiza-

tion continues to thrive and evolve as the region changes. During the meeting, two new board members were added to the chamber's leadership team for 2024. Tricia Zwirner of the Nominating Committee introduced the new board members, Maureen LaSalle of Northern Lights Mechanical, and Maureen Mazur of Taro Health. The Chamber Board also voted Jonathan Priest of J. Priest Insurance to succeed Jennifer Arseneault of Edward Jones as the new Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Board Chair. The Chamber's Community Service Leadership Award was presented to Lacy Antonson for her work in Gray, especially at the Gray Wild Blueberry Festival. The Chamber's Entrepreneur of the Year Award was presented to Shaw Dwight of Paul's Boutique in Windham. The Chamber's Business of the Year Award was presented to Kenny Cianchette and his team at Erik's Church in Windham. Mullins presented the Frank Koenig Chamber Hall of Fame Award posthumously to George Bartlett. It was his wife, Jane, and his daughter, Vickie, who spoke on behalf of the family, expressing their gratitude for recognizing how much George meant to the community, and how much he would have loved this award.

FEBRUARY

★ Feb. 2's top story detailed an initiative by the Raymond Parks and Recreation Department to provide opportunities for area children to learn more about skiing while also improving their skills on the ski slopes and keep kids active during the winter months. The Raymond Ski Program is a five-week program which meets after school each Friday for an exciting evening of skiing. Kids and volunteers ride in a donated bus to Pleasant Mountain in Bridgton for their excursions, said Raymond Parks and Recreation director Joseph Crocker. The goal of the Raymond Ski Program is to help children and fami-

→ see REVIEW Page 13



**Happy
NEW YEAR**

Thank you for being an essential part of our story.
Wishing you joy and success in the coming year!



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2025

As we look down the road ahead, we're excited for the adventures and opportunities the New Year will bring.

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Our biggest wish for this year is for peace, kindness, and goodwill to all. May the year ahead bring harmony, compassion, and joy to you and those around you.

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 12*

lies enjoy healthy and fun outdoor winter lifestyles while nurturing a connection to the natural environment. Crocker said that the Raymond Ski Program does just that. Not only are the kids out in nature, but they are actively engaging in fitness, interacting with other youth outside of school, meeting new people, and learning a skill. All ability levels are welcomed, and the atmosphere is inclusive, welcoming, and supportive, Crocker said. Volunteers are always welcome and needed to participate. Those who would like to help out with the ski program may contact the Parks and Rec director by email at joseph.crocker@raymondmaine.org. Chaperones and other support are always welcomed. Crocker said, "Volunteers are key to our program. We couldn't do it without them."

★ The top story for Feb. 9 reported that Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing's President Diane Dunton Bruni of Windham recently completed a 488-mile bicycle ride through Florida to raise money to eradicate poverty housing. She rode as part of a group traveling down the east coast of Florida from just south of Orlando to the southernmost part of the United States in Key West. This was the fourth time Bruni was part of the Fuller Center Bike Adventure. Even though the ride was in Florida, Bruni said it was far from a vacation. "Every ride keeps a rigorous schedule," says Bruni. "We are up at 6 in the morning after a night sleeping on thin mattresses, pack our gear and get it to the support van by 6:30, eat breakfast and clean our host church by 7:30 a.m. We circle up and hear about the route for the

day, then someone in the group shares a devotional, a prayer is said for our safety, and we are off. The average ride is 65 to 70 miles. The support vans stop every 20 miles to offer snacks and water or Gatorade." After they arrive at their next location, the riders unpack the van, get escorted to showers, share a community dinner and then do it all again the next day. Bruni is the Board Chair, President and a founding member of the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing, which launched in 2019 with five churches and Saint Joseph's College.

★ Feb. 16's top story was regarding the Town of Windham as it renewed its annual contract with the Animal Refuge League to help care for stray animals picked up locally. The contract started July 1 and runs through June 30, 2025, at a cost of \$27,098 for the care and shelter for stray, abandoned, confiscated or relinquished animals picked up in Windham and transported to the shelter. During a council meeting, Windham Assistant Town Manager Bob Burns said that the rate for the contract's renewal is based upon 2020 U.S. Census figures, which recorded 18,434 residents living in Windham. Under the new contract terms, the per capita rate charged for Windham rose 4 cents overall, going from \$1.43 to \$1.47 per resident. ARLGP then collects and reimburses Windham \$25 for an animal impound fee on animals recovered by the Windham Animal Control Officer. The impound fee rises to \$50 for a second offense and \$100 for each subsequent offense. Maine law requires municipalities to provide shelter at a state licensed animal control shelter for stray and

lost dogs, cats, and domesticated animals that are a problem in the community and undomesticated animals that pose a threat to public health and requires that the municipality also must provide services relating to the humane disposition of said animals in the event they are not claimed by their owners. Funding obtained by the communities it serves allows the shelter to offer veterinary care for strays and provide adoption services.

★ The top story for Feb. 23 was about Windham High School boys' varsity basketball coach Chad Pulkkinen being hon-

ored as the 2024 North AA Coach of the Year by the Maine Association of Basketball Coaches. Pulkkinen said the award is a representation of his team and that he gratefully shares it with his players and assistant coaches George McCrillis, Geoff Grigsby, and Noah Estey. "For me it means I have great kids and great players," said Pulkkinen. "I have honestly been overwhelmed with the praise from the community. Our community is extremely passionate about Windham and our kids feed off that passion. I do not get this award with-

→ see REVIEW Page 14



Happy New Year!

For your business we thank you and we wish you all a happy, healthy 2025. We look forward to seeing you soon!



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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 13*

out the play and effort from our guys.” He graduated from WHS in 2002 and played professional basketball in England after playing for Saint Joseph’s College. During his first season as WHS coach in the 2015-2016 season, the Eagles finished 7-11 but by the following year, WHS was 13-7 and Pulkkinen was honored as SMAA Coach of the Year. As a collegiate player for Saint Joseph’s College, he served as team captain for three years and helped the Monks to an NCAA tournament appearance in 2003 and an ECAC championship in 2007. He would like to thank his family and credits Pat Moody for pushing him to apply for varsity coach and for being an inspiration to the team and the community.

MARCH

★ March 1’s top story was about U.S. Army Captain William Barton Skelton, Jr., who served with the 603rd Camouflage Engineers Unit of the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops Unit, also known as the ‘Ghost

Army’ during World War II. His daughter, Malinda “Mindy” McKinney of Windham will join her sisters in Washington, D.C. on March 21 to receive the Congressional Gold Medal recognizing her late father’s service with the top-secret unit. Skelton’s unit waged war by deploying inflatable tanks and vehicles, broadcasting fake radio traffic and troop statistics, sound effects, and creating messages between fake generals. It harnessed imagination and illusion to trick the enemy and saved thousands of lives. McKinney, a retired Raymond Elementary School secretary, said that her late father kept his word not to discuss his service in wartime with the secretive Ghost Army. “He never spoke of specifics of the five battles that he was part of but rather wanted to share stories about the bonds among the men of his unit and the good things that happened such as wild boar hunting in France with locals that then fed all the troops, discovering a tank of beer at a German brewery that they requisitioned,

and when a wild boar startled them as they ate K-rations at the edge of the woods near the Moselle River,” McKinney said. “They tried their best to get that boar for a barbecue, but it did not happen. The Battle of the Bulge started the day after that.”

★ The top story for March 8 reported on the local celebration as the Windham High School varsity boys’ basketball team defeated Gorham, 62-58, in overtime on Saturday, March 2 at the Cross Insurance Arena in Portland to win the AA state championship and claim the first gold ball in the program’s history. “It means everything to me because these guys got to experience it,” said Windham head varsity coach Chad Pulkkinen. “That’s all I wanted; I just wanted these guys to feel what they’re feeling right now and all the hard work they put in. This group is very special and have set a standard for groups to come of how to play unselfishly and stick together and be good kids and most important that’s what they are, a great group of kids, who happen to be really good at basketball.” WHS players were thrilled with their accomplishment. “I dreamed about this when we were in middle school,” said senior Quinton Lindsay. “Always wanted a gold ball; just a perfect way to end the story. We were all together – we did not get down on each other, if we got down, we knew we would have fallen apart, we

stayed composed and won the game. We just knew one stop at a time, one stop and we’d be champions – and we are.” Windham was led by great seniors who showed the younger guys the way and Pulkkinen said he has never been more confident in a team throughout a season.

★ March 15’s top story was about Anna Seavey of Windham Christian Academy, who won a \$2,000 college scholarship during the national 2024 VFW ‘Voice of Democracy’ contest in Washington, D.C. She was presented the award by VFW Auxiliary President Carla Martinez and the VFW National Commander Duane Sarmiento on March 6. Seavey said she plans to use the scholarship to attend Southern Maine Community College to study early childhood education. She hopes to eventually teach at a daycare or preschool following her college graduation and was inspired to enter the local Voice of Democracy contest sponsored by Windham VFW Post 10643 after knowing several previous students at Windham Christian Academy who have won the contest in the past few years. In addition to the \$2,000 scholarship she earned at the national level, Seavey received a \$750 scholarship for winning the Maine Voice of Democracy and she also earned a \$200 check from the Windham VFW for her win at the lo-

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

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cal level last November. VFW Post 10643 Commander Willie Goodman said that he is impressed by how well Seavey represented Windham in the state and national competitions. “Anna is a delightful young woman with an engaging personality and I’m sure this was an experience of a lifetime for her and her parents,” Goodman said. “Clearly, Anna is on her way to an extremely bright future and our post thanks her for her participation in our annual essay contest.”

★ The top story for March 22 was about students at Raymond Elementary School and Windham Primary School hosting John Patrick Green, the author and illustrator of the beloved graphic novel *InvestiGators* and *Agents of S.U.I.T.* series. RES third-grade teacher Carolynne Bacon said that Green engaged the student audience by weaving humor into his stories, describing his early experiences of reading and illustrating during his own elementary school years. Teachers at both schools have subsequently incorporated some of the inspiration of Green’s visit into lessons for their own students. “The story of his youth resonated with the students, who recognized a few parallels between John’s journey and their own, inspiring them to embrace their passion for graphic novels while fostering a love for reading,” Bacon said. She explained that Green promoted graphic novels as an authentic reading experience that enhances the students’ vocabulary, improves their reading appreciation, and helps to understand plot and character development like any other novel. “Students experienced a boost of confidence upon realizing that graphic novels are also considered as ‘real’ literature,” Bacon said. “They are often told that graphic novels are not ‘true’ books.” WPS third grader Carter Caswell, who reads about two hours per day said that Green is one of his favorite authors, boasting a collection

of eight books from Green’s two prominent series. “He really liked to draw Garfield,” Caswell said. He said he got so good at it that he started selling his drawings of the cat to his friends at school.”

★ March 29’s top story focused on RSU 14’s choice to donate retired school vehicles used by the district to various community programs such as the Windham Food Pantry and to the Raymond Parks and Recreation Department rather than auctioning them off. RSU 14 has donated a retired school van to the food pantry and a retired school bus to Raymond Parks and Recreation. The idea of donating a van to the food pantry emerged from a collaborative community meeting that discussed the issues of homelessness and food insecurity within the school district. “Community service has always been a focus and academic commitment of the school board,” said RSU 14 Superintendent Christopher Howell. Windham’s General Assistance Administrator Rene Daniel said that the Windham Food Pantry has been delivering food to shut-ins that had no means of coming to the pantry, but now the donated van will allow the pantry to elevate itself to the next level. “It will allow us to pick up generous donations from in and out of Windham,” Daniel said. “Also, we can now institute and implement visiting our senior housing communities by using the van, bringing the Windham Food Pantry to them where they reside. It is our sincere appreciation to the Windham School Committee, the Windham Superintendent, and Windham Public Works for their dedication to our community,” Daniel said. “And to Marge Govoni for her continued 100 percent support of the Windham Food Pantry/Clothes Closet since its inception. Words are not enough to express our thanks.”

APRIL

★ April 5’s top story reported how Windham High sophomore Shane Don-

nelly’s unexpected death at age 16 in 2015 was tragic but led to the creation of a volunteer organization called PowerServe which performs home repairs and an array of community service projects during an event held every April in his memory. The 2024 event started at the Windham Historical Society Gardens on April 27. Each volunteer received a PowerServe t-shirt and after the projects finished, all volunteers were treated to a barbecue lunch at the Windham Historical Society. The first PowerServe event was only supposed to be a one-time occurrence but following an enormous volunteer response, it has become an annual event growing to include hundreds of volunteers and dozens of projects each year. Shane’s mother Kim Donnelly said that PowerServe is such a gift and tribute to Shane’s memory. “Shane

loved the peace and beauty of the outdoors,” his mother said. “The projects that we do mean that our volunteers are working outside together to do good.” PowerServe Committee Member Anne Daigle said that she has known the Donnelly family for 30 years and personally knew Shane. “I felt compelled to do this in hopes that it would help to heal the family as well as the community,” Daigle said. “Giving back and helping others is the heart of any community and having the students and other members of the community work together I believe gives us all a little hope that this coming generation is amazing.”

★ The top story for April 12 was about Ari Anghel, 16, a sophomore from Windham attending the Maine School of Science and Mathematics, who helped his team

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earn first place at the 45th Annual Maine State Math Meet at the Augusta Civic Center on April 2. The Maine School of Science and Mathematics is Maine's only magnet high school and one of the few public boarding schools in the country. The competition drew the top math students from around Maine to demonstrate their understanding of challenging math concepts. Anghel placed fifth overall in the competition for high school sophomores and his award from the state math meet was in addition to his reciting Pi to 919 digits on Pi Day at his school on March 14. Vanda Madore, one of the MSSM Ivory math team coaches, said that the students should be proud of their accomplishments at the Maine State Math Meet. School officials say that Anghel exemplifies the caliber of outstanding students drawn to MSSM, where academic excellence and a passion for mathematics converge. "Last year, as a freshman, Ari stunned onlookers by reciting Pi to 500 digits. This year, the sights were set even higher to nearly double their previous record, captivating the audience with mathematical virtuosity," said Ryan McDonald, Director of Admissions and Summer Programs for the Maine School

of Science and Mathematics. Anghel remains committed to shattering the record for reciting Pi digits. "So long as you keep going, eventually you'll make more and more progress."

★ For April 19, the top story detailed how although about three months behind schedule, Polar Dip participants rushed into 38-degree lake water at Raymond Beach to raise money for the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce's "Feed the Need" Program. The event is typically held in February but this year the Sebago Lake ice wasn't thick enough for participants to safely hold people, so the decision was made to postpone it until April when all the ice was completely melted. This year's Polar Dip raised more than \$5,000 in pledges for "Feed the Need," which provides financial support for more than 12 different Lakes Region food pantries, including those in Windham and Raymond. The Polar Dip previously was around for many years as part of the Sebago Lake Rotary's Ice Fishing Derby. The Maine Children's Cancer Network was the benefactor of the Polar Dip for many years. The chamber took over the Polar Dip portion in 2021. "In 2020, I was approached by my

fellow Sebago Lake Rotarian, George Bartlett," says Mullins. "He was a huge proponent of the 'dip' and wanted to bring it back as part of the 2021 Ice Fishing Derby, and he wanted to know if I would help. I immediately said I would and asked if the proceeds could benefit the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Charitable Trust, or what we call 'Feed the Need.' Food insecurity is a concern in the region and the 'trust' was started in 2016 to address that need."

★ April 26's top story reported on efforts by local property owners dealing with the aftermath of a surprise late-winter nor'easter on April 4 inflicted that inflicted severe damage on many parts of Windham and Raymond area, downing trees and knocking out power for more than 48 hours. Some property owners tackled cleanup efforts on their own, while others were unable to safely restore their site to pre-storm conditions. A lot of locals found a sense of community, sharing, and assistance through various social media outlets and sought help from arborists or landscape professionals as more trees were downed by this nor'easter. Raymond resident Bruce Small visited Sebago Lake State

Park and was astounded by the damage he saw. "The lake is very high with lots of erosion from the winter and spring storms," Small said. "The last big snowstorm devastated the area. There are trees and big limbs down everywhere! It's really sad. It's going to take an enormous amount of work to clean things up." According to Heather Fontaine-Doyle, a Raymond resident, her yard looked downright apocalyptic following the storm. "The road in has a bunch of broken and bent trees and limbs down as well," she said. "Still contemplating having someone come in for a spring cleanup since it was already a mess before the last storm, but at least we have the big limbs in piles now." Both Windham and Raymond Public Works Departments are working to remove tree limbs and other debris posing hazards to motorists.

MAY

★ May 3's top story was about Windham football player Kendra Cummings, who was in her second season of playing tight end and defensive end for the Maine Mayhem, a women's tackle football that competes in the Women's Football Alliance. The Mayhem is the only women's tackle football team in the state of Maine. Cummings is a registered nurse at Maine Medical and is the mother of six children. She had never played football previously but caught on fast in her first year with the Mayhem, racking up nine solo tackles and assisting on five others. Cummings also recovered a fumble in a game against the North Connecticut Nightmare and ran it in from 38 yards out for a touchdown. The Mayhem provides opportunities for women ages 18 and over to play full-contact football, a sport traditionally dominated by male athletes and it's something that Cummings welcomes. "I became interested in playing after watching my daughter, Niyah, play youth tackle football in Windham," she said. "The Maine Mayhem is the only women's tackle football team in the state. We practice at Memorial Field at Deering High School and at the Portland Sports Complex during the snowy months. We practice twice a week for a total of five hours." According to Cummings, playing tackle football last season was stressful, nerve-wracking, and exciting. "I love football because it's challenging and competitive. I enjoy being taken out of my comfort zone and it's a nice stress reliever being allowed to hit people," Cummings said.

★ For May 10, the top story was about Windham's Riding to the Top Therapeutic Riding Center welcoming two new mini horses, AppleJax and Apollo, to their farm. AppleJax was donated to the farm last fall and Apollo is a new addition this spring. Both mini horses work with unmounted therapy sessions and are planned to be an active part of RTT's school-based programs, field trips, and summer camps. "We believe that the minis will be a great fit to have at RTT again and are looking forward to being able to have them active in all sorts of programming," said RTT Executive Director Sarah Bronson. "They make a wonderful addition to the diverse group of horses at the farm." AppleJax also has carriage driving experience and plans are for him to join the program at RTT in the near future. Currently age 9, AppleJax has been doing very well on the farm. Bronson describes him as having a curious and adventurous personality. "AJ's been working on his 'office skills' and is pretty comfortable visiting all of our staff in their offices,"

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she said. Apollo is 17 years old and is continuing to adjust to his new environment, after arriving few weeks ago. He is a “free lease” horse, meaning he has an owner, but resides on the farm where RTT takes care of him. Following protocol, Apollo was in two weeks of quarantine to ensure the health of the rest of the herd on the farm.

★ May 17’s top story was about Windham High School senior Alex Pooler, who placed third among participants in the 2024 Maine App Challenge. He designed an app that makes it quick and easy for educators to assess a student’s well-being, winning a \$1,000 scholarship from Tyler Technologies for placing third in the competition. His app is called Good Morning Class and is an interactive check-in app for elementary school teachers and students. Prior to working on his Good Morning Class app, Pooler says he had never developed an app before. He started working on his app idea in 2022. At the start of his junior year, he was talking with a primary school teacher, Mrs. Farrin, who thought it would be a good idea to design an app

to make it easier for teachers to check-in on their students. “Last year I developed Good Morning Class using MIT App Inventor, a block-based coding program,” said Pooler. He first developed a prototype for the app and then tested it with the help of Mrs. Farrin. “This year, I developed version two in Python, a coding language, and Kivy, a graphical framework. This was a major improvement and difficulty, as I was still learning both languages,” says Pooler. After graduation Pooler intends to study Game Design and Development at the Rochester Institute of Technology. The Maine App Challenge is a contest hosted annually by Tyler Technologies Inc., a Plano, Texas-based provider of software and technology services with around 1,200 employees in Maine.

★ For May 24, the top story covered a gathering at Veterans Park in Raymond on May 17 to remember two British Royal Navy pilots killed during a training mission over Sebago Lake in 1944. Representatives from Great Britain and the United States dedicated a new memorial at Vet-

erans Park in Raymond in the memory of the British aviators with two nephews of one of the lost pilots in attendance. The special ceremony included sailors from the USS John Basilone, the British Royal Navy, State Senator Tim Nangle, State Representative Jessica Fay, members of the Raymond Select Board, Raymond town officials and Dr. Peter Abbott, the British Consulate General for New England. David McIntire of Raymond, the lone member of Raymond’s Veterans Committee and a retired U.S. Army officer, worked closely with James Normington, a representative of the British Commonwealth and Remembrance Project – USA to create a lasting memorial lakeside for the two Royal Navy pilots. A granite memorial was purchased from Collette Monuments in Lewiston and designed by McIntire and Collette Monuments and approved by the British and Commonwealth Remembrance Project and the British Consulate General Abbott. Funding for the memorial was paid for by the British and Commonwealth Remembrance Project, a British organization situated in New England, which recognizes the service and sacrifice made by British and Commonwealth service personnel in times of war. Its volunteers help look after more than 200 British war grave sites throughout the New England area from World War I and World War II.

★ May 31’s top story reported on the dedication of a new black granite monument outside Windham’s Public Safety Building on Gray Road as a tribute to those who render assistance to the public when emergencies arise, put out fires, and keep

residents safe 24 hours a day. The monument recognizes the contributions that police officers and firefighters have made to the town and is intended as a permanent way to say thanks to those who have served as members of Windham Fire/Rescue, Windham Police, Rescue Association, or as a dispatcher for the Town of Windham. Surrounding the monument is a courtyard made up of new benches and special brick paver stones for families of first responders. During the dedication, Windham Police Chief Kevin Schofield and Windham Fire/Rescue Chief Brent Libby shared their thoughts about the monument. “Today’s activities are the culmination of two to two-and-a-half years of work,” Schofield said. “This recognizes people in public service to the community, and it means a great deal to all of us.” Schofield introduced Karen Lewsen, the wife of the late former Windham Police Chief Richard B. “Rick” Lewsen Jr., whom he replaced as top law enforcement officer for the town in 2015. A granite bench in the courtyard is dedicated to Chief Lewsen, who died in 2022. “We are grateful for the work that Nancy Graves, Fire Rescue Coordinator for Windham did on this and for all those who placed the paver stones and worked on this monument,” Schofield said.

JUNE

★ For June 7, the top story was about 2024 Windham High graduate Conner Vail, who has been working as an aviation line service technician for MAC Air Group in Portland maintaining fueling systems for aircraft. He’s racked up 33 hours of the

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required 40 hours for pilot training and hopes to obtain his pilot's license within the next year. "My plan following high school is to continue my flight training and become a professional pilot alongside working in aviation," Vail said. "I plan on taking online classes toward a bachelor's degree once I am settled in a flying job." Back in fourth grade, Vail said he wrote an essay discussing that he wanted to someday pilot a Boeing 777 aircraft, and that an aviation career has been a lifelong dream. Wanting to be as close as possible to flight led Vail to apply with MAC Air Group after school during his senior year of high school. "I have a passion that is hard to come across nowadays and I do everything I can to be around it," he said. "My goals in life are unlike others and it seems to make me stand out from the rest of my classmates. I gave up playing sports my senior year and that was hard, but I'm farther ahead now of reaching my goal. My job is fun for me so I have never really considered it a chore, but instead a break from the stress that life can bring while in school."

★ June 14's top story covered the dedication of a new granite bench at Raymond Veterans Park overlooking Sebago Lake honoring the late George Bartlett of Raymond, a tireless community champion and someone who unselfishly gave his time to others. Bartlett owned and operated the Busy Bee Laundromat in Windham for 38 years before his death in 2023 at age 84 and he was heavily involved in the activities of both the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce and the Sebago Lake Rota-

ry Club where he helped organized events that helped those less fortunate in the area. The dedication ceremony included an American Legion Color Guard and a bagpiper and several of his friends and Rotary colleagues shared stories about Bartlett. "George was the epitome of what it is to be a member of Rotary," said Sebago Lake Rotary Club President Robin Mullins. "George was a Rotarian for 38 years and he accomplished so many good things during that time." As an international ambassador for Rotary, starting in 1990 and continuing right up until a few months before his death, Bartlett made numerous trips to Romania, bringing them greatly needed medical supplies and books for students. During a Rotary International project in 1998, he helped to collect and deliver more than \$750,000 worth of dialysis and medical equipment for Romanian hospitals. Bartlett's daughter, Vicki Bartlett, said her father would be proud of the bench. "He did it his way, but he would be honored and humbled by this gesture today."

★ For June 21, the top story was about the death of Korean War veteran Walter "Junie" Braley Jr., 92, of Windham. He passed away peacefully at his home in the Cornerbrook subdivision of Windham on Father's Day, June 16. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1947 at the age of 17 and was sworn in for active military duty by the late Maine U.S. Senator Margaret Chase Smith. He rose to the rank of Sergeant in the Marines and was stationed at bases in Cuba and California and then was sent to South Korea during the Korean War. While in Korea, one of his duties

was to patrol the DMZ, the no man's land separating South Korea from its hostile North Korea neighbor. While stationed at Moffett Field in Mountain View, California, Braley transported a fellow Marine to the base, and it turned out to be future county music superstar George Jones. Braley said they became good friends, and he would accompany Jones on weekend leave excursions. When Jones was in Maine to perform a concert years later, he introduced the audience to Braley and asked him where he had been since he last saw him in the 1950s. "Right here," Braley is said to have told him. Braley worked 35

years for the Animal Refuge League and volunteered for the Bruce Roberts Fund and Meals on Wheels. He was an active member of VFW Post 10643 in Windham and the American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 in Windham.

★ June 28's top story involved the creation of a domestic violence awareness garden in Raymond by the "Lavender Lady" Jenny McCarthy of Raymond. For the past three years, McCarthy has spent countless hours preparing, designing, and implementing the project, which she

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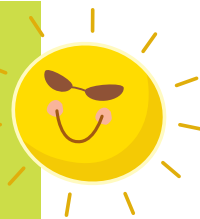
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PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

★ KIDDIE GYM at Windham Town Hall

Tuesdays from 9-10:30AM • Thursdays from

★ CREATIVE KIDDIE CRAFT TIME

Tuesdays from 11AM-Noon at Windham

• WINTER CRAFT – January 14

• VALENTINE'S CRAFT – February 11

• CRAFT TBD – March 11

• EASTER/SPRING CRAFT – April 15

★ CREATIVE MOVEMENT

11:45AM-12:15PM for ages 2-5 • 12:20-1:00

at Windham Public Library (2 sessions)

• Wednesdays, January 22-March 5 (excluding

• Wednesdays, April 22-May 21 (excluding

YOUTH PROGRAMS:

★ DISCOVERY SCIENCE for GRADE

Wednesdays from 1:15 to 2:15PM

at Manchester School Band Room (2 sessions)

• January 8 - March 12 (excluding 2/19)

• March 26 - May 28 (excluding 4/23)

★ BABYSITTER TRAINING COURSE

Tuesdays, February 4 from 2:30-5:30PM

★ HIGH TOUCH HIGH TECH for GR

Wednesdays from 1:15 to 2:15PM

at Primary School Art Room (2 sessions)

• Natural Wonders – January 8 - February

• To the Moon & Beyond – February 26 -

• Gold Rush – April 30 - June 11

★ NO SCHOOL REC DAYS for GRAD

from 9:00AM to 4:00PM at Windham To

• Trips to Sparetime & Troubh Ice Arena

• Trip TBD – March 14

• Trips to Fun Z Tramopline Park, Roun

and Smitty's – April 18, 24 & 25

★ EARLY RELEASE DAY for GRADE

• Pleasant Mountain Trip – February 5

• More info TBD – May 7

★ WINDHAM MIDDLE SCHOOL O

Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00PM at Windh

★ TENNIS IN THE PARKS Stay tuned

★ KARATE for GRADES K-5

Tuesdays from 3:15 to 4:15PM

at Windham Primary School

• March 18 - June 3 (excluding 4/22)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

FMI & TO REGISTER, GO TO:

WindhamRecreation.com, call 892-1905, or visit us at Town Hall, 8 School Rd

NOTE: There are registration start & end dates for many of our programs.

Registration will be allowed after the registration deadline if space allows, however, a late fee may be applied.

MS:

10-11:30AM
Town Hall



00PM for ages 3-5

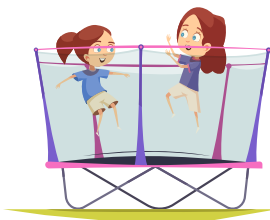
(ending 2/19)
4/23 & 5/7)

GRADES 4 & 5



FOR AGES 11+

\$60 - All materials included
GRADES K-3



12
- April 9

GRADES K-5

Town Hall Gym
- February 20 & 21

and 1 Bowling & Arcade,

AGES 6-8

OPEN GYM DAYS

Town Hall Gym

Registration info



ADULT PROGRAMS & TRIPS:

- ★ **MEN'S 4X4 BASKETBALL LEAGUE Thursday Nights**
 - March 6 - June 26 at Town Hall & Manchester Gyms
- ★ **PICK-UP BASKETBALL Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday Nights**
 - New session begins January 2 at Manchester & Windham Primary School
- ★ **TENNIS IN THE PARKS** Stay tuned for Spring registration info!
- ★ **SUNDAY OPEN GYM at Windham High School**
 - Basketball 8:00-10:00AM • Volleyball 10:00AM-1:00PM
- ★ **PICKLEBALL LESSONS at Windham Town Hall Gym**
 - Saturdays starting January 4 from 11:00AM-Noon
- ★ **COACHED PICKLEBALL PLAY at Windham Town Hall Gym**
 - Saturdays starting January 4 from Noon-1:00PM
- ★ **CANDLEPIN BOWLING: Monthly on Tuesdays from 10:30AM-1:00PM**
1/28, 2/25, 3/25, 4/29 ~ Cost \$10 per session
- ★ **SIM CITY INDOOR GOLF: Wednesday, January 8 from 10:30AM-2:30PM**
Cost \$15 includes simulator & golf clubs
- ★ **BUILD YOUR OWN TERRARIUM:**
Thursday, January 23 from 11:30AM-4:00PM Portland. Cost \$60 per person
- ★ **WMTW NEWS STATION TOUR & BRUNCH:**
 - Tuesday, February 4 from 8:30AM-12:30PM \$15 per person
- ★ **MURDER ON THE LINKS: Thursday, February 13 from 1:00-5:00PM**
at Portland Stage. Cost \$65 per person
- ★ **WINTER SLEIGH RIDE: Thursday, February 20 from 11:00AM-3:30PM**
at High View Farm Harrison. Cost \$60 per person
- ★ **NUNSENSE: Sunday, March 9 from 10:30AM-5:00PM**
at Lewiston-Auburn Community Little Theatre. Cost \$35 per person
- ★ **WILBUR'S CHOCOLATE FACTORY TOUR:**
Tuesday, March 18 from 10:00AM-3:00PM \$20 Lunch at Antonia's Pizza (pay own)
- ★ **MAINE MAPLE WEEKEND: Sunday, March 23 from 9:30AM-Noon**
at Jo's Sugarhouse in Gorham. \$10
- ★ **MURDER MYSTERY DINNER for AGES 15+**
 - Friday, April 11 from 6:00-9:00PM at Town Hall Gym. \$68
- ★ **CASINO DAY: Wednesday, April 9 from 10:00AM-4:00PM** at Oxford Casino. \$15
- ★ **FITNESS FOUNDATION: Every Monday & Wednesday 10:00-11:00AM**
at Town Hall Gym starting January 6. \$5 drop in fee or monthly rates offered
- ★ **LUNCH BUNCH: 1/16, 2/16, 3/6, 4/23** See restaurants & times online



SENIOR WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

- ★ **FREE BINGO: 2 Monday's per month 1:00-2:30PM**
1/6, 1/27, 2/3, 2/24, 3/3, 3/17, 4/7, 4/28 at Town Hall Gym
- ★ **FREE CRIBBAGE: Thursdays 1:30-3:30PM starting 1/22**
at Town Hall Council Chambers
- ★ **FREE TRIVIA: Monthly 1:00-2:30PM** at Town Hall Gym
1/22, 2/18, 3/19, 4/22 at Town Hall Gym



2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 19*

hopes will provide a peaceful, safe, and serene space for anyone to enjoy some quiet time to rest or take in the sweet fragrances of the garden at her Raymond home. McCarthy moved to Raymond in 2020 under the address protection program so she could safely rebuild her life following a domestic violence experience and she is now safe. "I didn't know anyone, I had no local friends, and I wondered what I could do with my time," said McCarthy. "I want the garden to be a calming place to share with everyone, not just for me. People can feel comfortable just stopping to sit

on the purple bench and chairs. Anyone can relax, take in the lavender, or just be. I definitely want people to feel welcome." Her garden project sprouted as McCarthy cleared away copious amounts of invasive bittersweet plants from her overgrown property. She said that she knew nothing about gardening or plants at the onset of the project and didn't realize what she was getting into. The soil was dry and sandy, and she started researching plants that would grow in those conditions. "I started looking into lavender and found out it loves sand. I also connected with its beauty and relaxing properties," McCarthy said.

JULY

★ July 5's top story was about Tayla Pelletier of Windham High School, a junior who finished seventh in the nation in the triple jump at the Adidas Nationals at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, North Carolina in June after winning the Maine State Championship and the New England Championship this spring. Pelletier won the Triple Jump event at the Maine State Championships at Thornton Academy on Saturday June 1 and went on to win the New England Championships at the University of New Hampshire on Saturday June 8 in the triple jump. She then traveled to the Adidas Nationals where she competed in the 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles and the triple jump events. "Competing in sports has definitely shown how hard I can be on myself," Pelletier said. "I set very high expectations and always strive to do my best." Pelletier began competing in the triple jump during the spring season

of her freshman year at WHS. "What I like most about being an athlete is the goals I am able to set for myself, and the team and coaches who push me to and support me with achieving these goals," Pelletier said. Competing at the Adidas Nationals was a great experience, and Pelletier said she's happy with her times in both the 100-meter hurdle and 400-meter hurdle events, considering it was her first time running the 400-meter hurdles. As for her triple jump, she started seeded ninth and came out of finals placed seventh overall.

★ The top story for July 12 was the announcement that Robin Mullins, the President/CEO of the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, is stepping down from her chamber position to focus on her new role as Marketing Manager for Octagon Cleaning & Restoration in Windham. Mullins has led the chamber since 2019. "Now seems like the right time to leave my chamber President/CEO role as I was offered a position too good to turn down," Mullins said. "It was hard turning down no more nights or weekends for a bit more money and a company car. What I love about my current role is all the relationships I have built and the marketing I have done for the region. In my new position I will do what I love and continue to build and foster relationships, and instead of marketing hundreds of businesses in eight communities, I will be able to focus all of my efforts on just one company." SL-RCC Board Chair Jonathan Priest said that Mullins has left an indelible positive stamp upon the chamber. "I am excited for her in her new role, but I know we will all miss

her boundless energy, her giant heart, and her passion for the people and businesses of our region," Priest said. "She has worked tirelessly during her time with the chamber to support our area businesses, grow our membership, expand chamber member benefits, boost attendance at our Business Breaks, and raise money for worthy causes like Feed the Need."

★ July 19's top story was about an upcoming concert at Lenny's in Westbrook to be performed by three Windham High School graduates who turned their passion for music into a thriving musical career. David Young (Class of 2017), his younger brother, Deven Young (Class of 2019), and their friend Seth Martin (Class of 2017) are members of the Nashville-based band called David Young and the Interstate Kings and perform vintage American music with a modern indie focus. They have recently embarked on their first "Vintage American Tour" which includes a stop in their home state of Maine. The folk/rock group are performing songs on the tour from their latest album recorded in Nashville entitled "Vintage American." Upcoming dates will see the Interstate Kings play in cities throughout Ohio, Pennsylvania, Upstate New York, Illinois, and Kentucky, including a stop in Kansas City, renowned for its blues legacy. However, the stop they are most looking forward to is their homecoming performance in Maine. "We are pumped to be coming home to play for all of our friends and family again - all those who loved our music and believed in us," said David Young, guitarist, vocalist, and

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

→ **REVIEW** *Cont. from page 22*

lyricist. They are eager to perform their homecoming show at Lenny's, it's the venue where the band perfected their performance skills. "We are especially excited to do the show at Lenny's," Deven Young, the drummer, said. "We played there several times over the years, and it was there where we honed our sound as a band."

★ The top story for July 26 was about the Raymond Boy Scout Troop 800's involvement and activities, community service and enriching experiences, all while developing strong character, leadership skills, and a commitment to service. Raymond Scoutmaster Jason Moreau said that this summer, Troop 800 has already completed two camping events at Rangelly Lake State Park and hiking Tumbledown Mountain in Weld. Another trip is planned in August where the troop will start planning activities for the upcoming year. "What we do is highly driven by the scouts themselves; the adult leadership works to help them implement the program," said Moreau. Assistant Scoutmaster Matt Engelman agrees. "To me, one of the greatest things about Scouting is the focus on troops being youth-led. Our meetings as well as our camping trips and other outings are planned by the youth in Troop 800," he said. "What, when and how of our outings are all worked out by the Scouts, right down to preparing the menu, shopping for the food, and preparing meals. I believe scouting is unique among youth organizations in that regard," said Engelman. Camp William Hinds in Raymond provides a great resource for the Scouts to attend events such as the Fall and Spring Camporees, and the winter Klondike Derby. "Camp Hinds is special in a lot of ways. Having the camp in our 'backyard' makes it special to our Troop but it's also played an important part of the Scouting experience for youth across the state and beyond," said Moreau.

AUGUST

★ Aug. 2's top story covered the appointment of Windham Town manager Barry Tibbetts to serve as chair of the Windham Middle School Repurpose Ad-

visory Committee. The committee will undertake the important job of making recommendations to the Windham Town Council about how the existing Windham Middle School can best be used once the new Windham/Raymond Middle School opens in 2027. Tibbetts' role will be as a non-voting, impartial and objective member of the committee. Windham Councilor David Nadeau had originally proposed having either a town councilor or the town manager or the assistant town manager chair the committee but ultimately withdrew that idea in an amended motion during a July council meeting. "We've gone through this before and want to make sure this committee has a little bit of structure and stays on task," Nadeau said. Councilor Jarrod Maxfield said having Tibbetts to chair Windham Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee makes sense because he is not an elected official. "I don't want people to say the council is hijacking it," Maxfield said. The purpose of the Windham Middle School Repurpose Advisory Committee will be to serve as an advisory body to the Windham Town Council for the analysis of potential re-uses for the Windham Middle School's renovation design, documentation, construction and its potential benefit as a Community Center for the town. The committee will provide a comprehensive recommendation to the council for consideration in making a final determination for the school building, which was first opened to students in 1974.

★ The top story for Aug. 9 reported that swimming remains closed at Dundee Park in Windham as a gate malfunction at the dam there resulted in the pond being drained in May. The Dundee Dam at Dundee Park is a hydroelectric project on the southern end of Dundee Pond, and it experienced a gate malfunction resulting in water being drained out of the pond there. The New York-based company that oversees the dam at the park, Relevelate Power Management, explained what happened. "Dundee Pond is currently drained, and the performance of critical maintenance on the dam is underway," said Matthew

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 23*

Wenger, Chief Executive Officer of Relevate Power. “The Dundee Dam is owned by Presumpscot Hydro, the licensee of the Dundee Hydroelectric Project, and is operated by Relevate Power Management.” According to Wengert, on May 17, one of the dam’s two deep sluice gates, used to pass large amounts of water during flooding events malfunctioned, sticking in the open position. “These gates are original components of this historic 1913 dam, over 100 years old, and while proper maintenance has kept them in service for over a century, one of the gates reached the end of

its useful life unexpectedly,” Wengert said. “While the dam was at no risk of failure, the malfunctioned gate caused water levels to drop until the pond was completely drained.” He said given the location of the gate at the very bottom of the 52-foot structure, repairs could only safely begin once the pond had been emptied.

★ Aug. 16’s top story was about the Town of Windham preparing to convert to a new automated trash collection system. Trash will be collected curbside starting in September by a Casella driver using an automated retrieval system. Under the

existing system, trash and recyclable waste is manually collected at the roadside which requires a trash truck driver and a trash laborer for more than 5,400 stops in Windham. The town also uses the Pay As You Throw (PAYT) system, requiring the purchase of blue bags for residents. Windham Town Manager Barry Tibbetts said this new collection system will be a big change, but he believes residents will find it efficient and convenient. He said that the blue “Pay As You Throw” trash bags will no longer be needed as of Sept. 9 and thereafter. “The use of the Windham trash bags has been required as a way of controlling the total volume of trash deposited at the curb,” Tibbetts said. “Once implemented, the cart system will accomplish the same volume control that the trash bags now create and is what Casella has contracted with the town to do.” The new system was supposed to be in place last fall but was delayed as Casella Waste Systems obtained automated trucks from an out-of-state manufacturer. Tibbetts said residents possessing blue bags after the new system is implemented will be able to sell unused bags back to the town. All trash routes in Windham have been evaluated before the new system becomes effective.

★ The top story for Aug. 23 was about a gathering at Smith Cemetery in Windham on Sunday, Aug. 18 by Daughters of the American Revolution regents and members to remember the life and accomplishments of Edith Pride Elliot, a lifelong resident who was valedictorian of the first graduating class at Windham High School in 1897. Elliot, who died at the age of 100 in

1977, was honored with a special engraved DAR designation on her headstone at the cemetery, a bouquet of flowers and graveside remarks by the regent at a DAR chapter in St. Cloud, Florida that she helped to found. DAR members from Maine, Vermont, and Florida attended the remembrance event. Regent Julia Smythe of the DAR’s Elizabeth Wadsworth Chapter in Portland introduced members from the other states and said that Elliot deserves the attention because her legacy is far reaching and relevant years after her death. “We who continue the work of the National Society and carry the responsibilities have been inspired by the lives of those whose tasks are completed, especially Edith Pride Elliot,” Smythe said. Windham’s Edith Gertrude Pride was born June 24, 1876, and as a child helped at Windham’s first library which was founded by her mother and grandmother. She completed her high school studies ranked first overall academically in her class and was among the first group of students to graduate from the school. Every winter Elliot would travel to St. Cloud, Florida and helped to organize a DAR chapter there.

★ Aug. 30’s top story was about a 21-year-old college student from Windham, Rosie Haibon, who won the 2025 Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant and will compete in Orlando, Florida next July in the USA Ambassador National Pageant. Haibon captured the title during the Crossroads’ Maine Academic Scholarship Pageant in South Portland in July. During her reign, she will volunteer throughout

→see REVIEW Page 25

Best Wishes & Many Thanks

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

→ **REVIEW** *Cont. from page 24*

New England to promote the Crossroads platform Crown CARES program, creating a respectful environment in schools and society. Haibon is a junior attending the University of Southern Maine and is studying history education and minoring in dance. She also earned the Silver Presidential Award during this year's competition and shared the "Mom and Me" competition award with her mother. She previously held the MASP Teen title and the YAWOS International Teen title and has competed in pageants for 10 years. Her platform involves Autism Education and Awareness, and she said that she believes mental health is an essential topic of conversation because of how strongly it affects our society and being transparent about her own struggles. She graduated from Windham High School in 2021 and was first diagnosed with autism at age 12 as she was getting ready to go into sixth grade. "Knowing that I can personally relate to my cause and who I'm doing it for, it makes me feel good knowing I'm doing something they will love, and it makes me feel happy," Haibon said. She attributes her ability to overcome her diagnosis to her participation in pageants.

SEPTEMBER

★ For September 6, the top story was about a controversy surrounding the Windham Town Clerk job and whether it should be an elected or an appointed position. During the Windham Town Council meeting on Aug. 20, comments were received from the public and a motion was discussed by councilors to place

a referendum on the General Election ballot for Nov. 5 to change the position from elected by voters to an appointed position by town councilors. The proposed referendum would have included language to amend the Windham Town Charter to grant councilors the ability to appoint and remove the Town Clerk on a vote of five members and to remove the Town Clerk position from provisions related to elected officials, making the position essentially by appointment without a residency requirement. Councilor Jarrod Maxfield was not present for a vote about the issue on Aug. 20, and councilors deadlocked, 3-3, effectively killing the issue from going to a referendum. But per council rules, a councilor can petition the Town Council chair to bring up an issue again if there is a substantive change from its original language. Council Chair Mark Morrison said this was done and councilors voted 4-0 to authorize a referendum for the Nov. 5 ballot. Councilor Bill Reiner did not vote because of a previous commitment and Councilor Nick Kalogerakis walked out of the meeting and did not vote. Councilors Maxfield, Morrison, David Nadeau and Brett Jones voted for the referendum. Councilor John Henry did not attend the meeting.

★ September 13's top story was about living organ donor Barbara "Billie" LaVallee of Windham. She donated a large portion of her liver to save the life of a person suffering from acute liver disease. This makes her a so-called "living donor." Most people are familiar with posthumous organ donation, where organs are harvested from a deceased person and transplanted

into a recipient. But many are less familiar with the notion of donating an organ while the donor is alive. Billie shared her story and her experience in the hopes of raising awareness about this life-saving endeavor. LaVallee, 54, grew up in Windham and has deep roots here. She and her husband, Dan, recently purchased a home and moved back to Windham. She says she has done lots of noteworthy things in her life, but perhaps none as incredible as her choice to become a living donor. LaVallee said the real heroes in the realm of organ donation/transplantation are the individuals who persevere through daily pain and hardship while waiting in the hope of a donation to be available. Billie credits a friend and former co-worker with inspiring her interest in exploring living organ donation. "This friend spearheaded our office's participation in National Donate Life Blue & Green Day, which is celebrated every year in April," she said. "We would wear blue and green that day to raise awareness about organ donation. Sadly, my friend became ill and in an ironic and tragic twist of fate, she died from liver disease."

★ For September 20, the top story was about Brian Eastman of Windham, who was part of a group of 42 barefoot waterskiers towed behind a powerboat who established a new Guinness World Record at Lake Dubay in Wisconsin on Sept. 14. The team set the world record for the most barefoot waterskiers towed behind a single boat. Eastman lives on Highland Lake, and he grew up in Windham. He's been waterskiing on Highland Lake for 50 years and has been a barefoot waterskier

for 42 years. He learned to waterski when he was 8, has been a barefoot water-skier since he was 16, and has been in and out of the water ever since. "I think it was the excitement, the adrenaline, that made me want to start," says Eastman. "The difference between regular waterskiing and barefoot waterskiing is essentially the fact that you are going without skis, but you are instead going on your two bare feet. To go on two feet without skis, you need to go much faster. So, for example, if you are typically going 20 mph with water skis,

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 25*

then you would be going 40 mph without skis. It is much faster, and you also need to have the correct body posture for it to work. Once you are going, you are on your bare feet skimming across the surface at a much higher speed than regular waterskiing." The event was called "The Big Pull" and attempted to beat the previous record of 38 barefoot waterskiers.

★ September 27's top story was about Cole Robie of Windham, 16, a sophomore at Windham High School, who won the Nelcar Tour Race at Star Speedway in New Hampshire on Sept. 14 and that came after he won the Legends Feature Race at that same track on Aug. 30. He comes from a racing family and has won five championships in just three years, starting at age 13. Robie has since then built a resume of success on the racetrack including winning five

different championships so far and counting. Racing cars in Legends, Late Model and Super Late Model divisions, he continues to rack up wins and gain experience as he aims for a racing career. His chances of doing that are excellent as racing is a family tradition with his grandfather, father, and uncles all having raced professionally. "I have always wanted to race," Robie said. "My dad had a lot of interest in getting me into racing and was the one that made it happen. We started in 2021, and racing is just in my blood." His exceptional driving skills and will to win at such a young age show that Windham remains at the forefront in state for developing championship auto racers, a fact not lost on Robie. "There are a lot of race families born and raised in Windham, and I just happen to be part of one," he said. "Racing has just gone from

generation to generation in those families which is pretty cool."

OCTOBER

★ Oct. 4's top story covered Amber Rankine, the new President and Chief Executive Officer for the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce. Rankine started in her new role on Oct. 1, succeeding Robin Mullins in the leadership position for the chamber. She previously served as the Executive Director at the Greater Fort Kent Area Regional Chamber of Commerce. "She is eager to collaborate with local businesses and stakeholders to enhance the economic vitality and quality of life in the Sebago Lakes Region," said Jonathan Priest, chair of the SLRCC Board of Directors. "Amber brings a wealth of experience and a deep commitment to community growth." She will work in collaboration with the SLRCC's Board of Directors and will be responsible for all facets of the organization's performance. Her primary objectives will include implementing strategic initiatives to promote the economic prosperity of the Sebago Lakes Region through promoting, marketing, and advocating for the interests of the membership, developing a strong membership base, and supervising all Chamber of Commerce staff. "Sebago Lakes Region has always been my happy place," Rankine said. "From the time I could walk we

gathered here every summer as a family to visit a camp on Watchic Lake. Since then, most of my immediate family has all migrated to the area and my family has had a desire to live and thrive in the area alongside of them." In her new position with the SLRCC, Rankine says she is bringing new ideas and a new perspective to the organization.

★ The top story for Oct. 11 was about Windham Middle School's new School Resource Officer, Windham Police Officer Devyn Rogers. As a school resource officer, Rogers will serve as a valuable resource for students, parents, teachers, staff and administration. His mission is to gain the students' trust and respect and become a positive role model in their lives. His work is more than breaking up fights and ensuring the physical safety of the staff and students. It also involves being a teacher, counselor, and law enforcement officer, and much of his duties result in conversations that help students navigate tough situations. He's in charge of the physical security of the entire WMS facility, student safety, emergency operations planning for the school district, safety training, education on various topics for students, and the day-to-day operations of the middle school community. "I wanted to become a school resource officer to help provide

→ see REVIEW Page 27



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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 26*

a safe school environment, interact with a different part of the community, and work with students to provide a potentially different perspective on law enforcement,” says Rogers. “As an SRO, I help provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff, assist school staff with resolving conflict and problems, and as a resource for the students if they have issues that they don’t want to bring up to other staff.” Married and the father of two children, Rogers grew up in North Yarmouth and graduated from Greeley High School and the University of Southern Maine before entering law enforcement.

★ Oct. 18’s top story covered the death of the oldest resident of Windham, Hazel Gilman, who died Oct. 9 at the age of 106. Gilman was born July 20, 1918, and graduated from Windham High School in 1935. When Hazel was 2 years old, her parents moved in with her grandparents to help take care of them. “My grandfather was deaf and blind, so my mom and dad wanted to be there and help them out in any way they could,” After high school she

stayed in Windham and in 1941 she married Kenneth Gilman, and they enjoyed 55 years together until his death in 1996. The couple did not have any children of their own but helped to raise Hazel’s three younger brothers in the family’s home. “My mother died at the age of 50, leaving my father a widower, so Ken and I stepped in to help raise my younger brother,” she said in a 2021 interview. Her father remarried and together, he and his new wife welcomed two more sons into their lives. Gilman was employed by Universal Watkins and National Medical Care and upon her retirement she volunteered at Brighton Hospital. In 2018 at the age of 100, Windham Town Clerk Linda Morrell presented Gilman with the town’s Boston Post Cane, for her being the oldest living resident of Windham. She was reticent about receiving that distinction, saying “It’s nothing I’ve done to deserve it. I just happen to be the oldest person alive in Windham.”

★ The top story for Oct. 25 reported about Windham varsity field hockey coach Cory DiDonato earning her 100th career victory as Windham High School’s coach.

She had previously coached Windham’s varsity field hockey team from 2003 to 2008, and then after taking time off to have her son, returned in 2016 and has been the varsity coach ever since. On Tuesday, Oct. 15, DiDonato earned her 100th career win as her WHS team defeated Sanford, 2-1. “I come back every year because they are like daughters for me,” said DiDonato. “I love them, and they give me the competitive drive. It’s the best group of girls; a lot of them I’ve had in class as middle schoolers, and I’ve gotten to see them grow all the way up through (varsity). I come back ev-

ery year because I enjoy spending every fall with them and I get to help hopefully mold them into good people who know how to work hard for something that they want.” DiDonato served as an Educational Technician at Windham Middle School from 2003 to 2008. Since 2016, she’s taught sixth grade English Language Arts and Social Studies at Windham Middle School. “Cory embodies dedication to the program,” said WHS Junior Varsity coach Lyndsay Stretch, who has been with the program since 2017 and has coached alongside Di-

→ see **REVIEW** Page 28

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2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

REVIEW *Cont. from page 27*

Donato since 2021. “She has instilled in me the values of perseverance, community, and cultivating leaders off the field. Her lifelong passion for athletics has fostered incredible teams and athletes.”

NOVEMBER

★ Nov. 1’s top story was about the Raymond Comprehensive Plan committee producing a preliminary draft of a proposed new Comprehensive Plan in time for the fall 2024 projected deadline. Residents on the email list received a copy of the draft and it is also available on the town website. Town of Raymond staff, the Comprehensive Plan Committee, and North Star Planning have been working together since May 2023 to update Raymond’s comprehensive plan. This draft plan includes mandatory Maine state requirements along with goals, policies, action items, and a Future Land Use Plan based on what the Raymond community through online surveys, workshops, informal polls, and the Committee has formulated. The CPC draft features several top Priority Goals and Actions that emerged through community surveys and workshops held over the past year. CPC Co-chair Peter Leavitt discussed the progress of this long-term and much-anticipated project. Leavitt highlighted the priority actions of the committee’s work and proposal as building a more resilient Raymond regarding extremes in weather and natural disasters; protecting Raymond’s natural and water resources; investing in road safety and traffic improvements; and strengthening Raymond’s sense of community. “While these are intentionally broad goals, the data and detail of the many initiatives necessary in achieving them are contained in the section of the draft entitled Goals, Policies and Action Items,” Leavitt said. Once the public comment period has ended and state review is complete, edits and updates will be made to finalize the plan.

★ The top story for Nov. 8 was about an outpouring of affection and love for coach, father, husband and Windham’s most enthusiastic supporter, Pat Moody, who was surprised when the basketball courts he championed for were officially named the “Patrick Moody Basketball Courts” at a gathering on the basketball courts next to Windham’s Public Safety Building on Sunday, Nov. 3. Moody has received some difficult news that his cancer has returned, and he has been given just a few months to live. People showed their love and support for Moody as the dedication to him was made through tears, applause and laughter. “I love this town, and I love this sport,” said Moody. “To come out here and have this dedication, it basically just made my heart explode seeing everybody’s faces here and all the love. ‘Gratitude’ isn’t a strong enough word; It’s just super, super special. It’s too special for me to put into words.” Moody said that his goal was always to give back to Windham basketball and do whatever possible to better Windham so that people could enjoy the greatness he enjoyed growing up. Windham residents Tyler Graves and Windham High varsity boys’ basketball coach Chad Pulkkinen wanted to do something lasting to honor Moody. He was a big part of the blue basketball courts by the Public Safety Building being built. Moody had wanted

lights on the blue courts and Pulkkinen and Graves, along with the help of various companies, organizations and donations, made that happen.

★ Nov. 15’s top story reported on the death of Pat Moody, exactly one week after more than a thousand supporters gathered to dedicate basketball courts in Windham to him. Moody died of pancreatic cancer on Sunday evening, Nov. 10. Immediately upon hearing the news about Moody’s death, a flood of support, condolences and stories poured in. Many residents have shared the positive affect that Moody had on their lives and the lives of the many children he coached. “Pat and I first met in 1993,” said Windham High School varsity assistant basketball coach Geoff Grigsby. “I had just moved back to Maine and was playing in the first basketball game of the season against Windham. We started out as rivals, and it was such a big rivalry that he was actually my ‘pet peeve’ in my senior picture in the yearbook. I ended up going to Windham’s prom with a friend of Pat’s and she introduced me to him for the first time off the court, and he was just the friendliest guy, so I couldn’t hate him anymore. We’ve been friends ever since. When I moved to Raymond and became part of the Windham community 17 years ago, he started recruiting me for Windham Youth Basketball and other roles. He pushed me to join the Windham High coaching staff, and more than anything, we’ve just been friends forever.” Others expressed gratitude for Moody being so positive and that he was able to see WHS win the state basketball title.

★ The top story for Nov. 22 was about Carroll McDonald, the last surviving World War II veteran living in Windham, who died at the age of 99 on Nov. 14. He was born on his parents’ dairy farm in South Windham on March 1, 1925. From an early age he was fascinated by airplanes, and it was a passion he never lost sight of. “When I was about 4 years old, I heard a biplane flying near a school,” McDonald said. “The sound of it going up and down and buzzing all around stirred my interest and it never left me when I was growing up. At first, I was scared, but the longer I watched that old biplane, the more impressed I became, and I knew from that moment that I wanted to be a pilot.” He graduated from Windham High School in 1942 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army Air Force and then trained as a P-51 Mustang fighter pilot at Page Field in Fort Myers, Florida. He received his flight wings in 1944 and spent the remainder of the war in Fort Myers flying P-51s, a long range, single-seat fighter-bomber used during World War II and the Korean War. Following his active-duty discharge in 1945, McDonald returned to Windham and joined the U.S. Post Office as a rural postal delivery driver, a job he worked at for 32 years. In 1951 McDonald joined American Legion’s Field-Allen Post

148 and eventually served as Post Commander.

★ Nov. 29’s top story was about Windham VFW Post 10643 honoring local students as winners of the Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy essay competitions. The first-place winner of the 2024 Patriot’s Pen competition for area students in Grades 6 to 8 was Zoie Gabriel Hougaz-McCormick, a sixth grader at Windham Middle School who wrote her essay on the theme “My Voice in America’s Democracy.” Sixth grader Brenna Wheeler of Windham Christian School was second in the Patriot’s Pen contest also writing about “My Voice in America’s Democracy.” Taking home first-place for students in Grades 9 to 12 was Windham Christian Academy junior Amber Sands for her audio-essay on the theme “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?” Each of the winners got to read their essays before an audience of more than 200 attending events at the Windham Veterans Center on Veterans Day. As local winners from Windham, Hougaz-McCormick, Wheeler and Sands advance in the contest to compete at the VFW district level in Maine. The girls also were presented with checks by VFW Post Commander Willie Goodman for winning the local contest. Hougaz-McCormick received a first-place check for \$200, while Wheeler took home a second-place check for \$150. Sands received a first-place check for \$250. Goodman said that the annual competitions are open to all middle school students from Windham and Raymond attending Windham Middle School, Jordan-Small Middle School in Raymond, Windham Christian Academy, Baxter Academy for Technology and Science, and other public and private schools and home-schooled students.

DECEMBER

★ Dec. 6’s top story was about a Windham family, the Morrisons, who were honored with the Fogler Legacy Award by the University of Maine in Orono. The award is presented to a family with a 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. Greg Morrison, a 2012 Windham High School graduate, had 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. “I’m proud of my family,” said Alola Morrison of Windham, a 1959 UMaine graduate who is Greg and Kristen’s grandmother, as well as Mark’s mother. “I’m very proud of my family and education, but education isn’t just college,” she said. “Education is in the trades, too. We need each other for a successful society.”

★ The top story for Dec. 13 was about three Raymond residents who recently had their works chosen for a selective exhibition hosted by Maine Audubon. The “Taking Flight” exhibition features abstract and realistic bird art, which is being displayed at the Gisland Farm Falmouth Audubon location through the new year. The juried art show and sale is currently running and open to the public. Most of the pieces in the show are for sale and 20 percent of the proceeds serve as a fundraiser and go to help support various Maine Audubon programs. Bruce Small’s metal print is entitled ‘Piping Plover with Chicks.’ It is an image he took while volunteering as a beach monitor, helping to educate and protect the endangered, nesting, piping plover population at Higgins Beach in Scarborough. Trish Kohler’s watercolor entitled “Yellow Warbler” was handpicked for the show. “It is a significant honor to have artwork selected for display by the Audubon organization which was spawned by the great artist John James Audubon,” she said. “I am inspired by the bird paintings of J.J. Audubon, Roger Tory Peterson and JF Lansdowne.” A photograph by Brien Richards called “Snowy Owl” was taken in a snow-covered field south of Ottawa, Canada. “The owl was looking right at me, and he will be looking at anyone who sees the image,” Richards said. Jenn Schmitt, Gisland Farm Gallery Curator, said this is the first time they have featured bird art at the gallery and shows are held twice a year.

★ Dec. 20’s top story related the story of a Windham mother and daughter whose cat, Noodle, became lost Aug. 31. Neighborhood searches and their efforts to try and find him were unsuccessful and as the weeks tuned into months and the weather turned cold, their hope of ever recovering him and bringing the cat home became bleak. But about a mile away, a mother and her son noticed in early November that a large orange cat was hanging out in their neighbor’s yard. The cat had eaten some leftover chicken from their backyard grill. They determined that the cat was lost and a stray and began feeding it. They eventually gained the cat’s trust and were able to pet it while finding it a warm spot to sleep in their garage. A family from Raymond contacted them on Facebook and thought it might be their lost cat, but as it turned out, it wasn’t. At 5 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 9, the woman who found the cat read a Facebook post by the mother and daughter looking for Noodle. She contacted them and they

agreed to meet later that day at the veterinarian’s office to see if the cat was theirs. It seems Noodle had been microchipped and the vet could determine if the cat that was found was the lost Noodle. It was and by some sort of what Noodle’s family calls “a Christmas miracle”, they were reunited after more than 13 weeks of the cat being missing. <

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5	6 Parks & Recreation Fall & Winter Photo Contest Opens	7	8 Zoning Board of Appeals Site Walk 7:00AM Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC AL Post 148 Mtg 6pm WVC RSU 14 Board of Directors Meeting	9 Library Board of Trustees meeting 4:30PM Zoning Board of Appeals 6:30PM	10	11
12	13 Planning Board Meeting 6:30PM Adult Ed Classes Begin www.Windham.MaineAdultEd.org	14 Parks & Recreation Creative Kiddie Craft 11:00AM Council meeting 6:00PM	15 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC Red Cross Blood Drive 12-5pm WVC Operation Ray of Light 6pm WVC	16	17	18 AL Bean Supper 4:30pm WVC Library Closed
19	20 No School WVA Meeting 6pm WVC Town Offices, Library Closed Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday	21	22 Veterans Coffee 9-11am WVC DAV 6pm WVC RSU 14 Board of Directors Meeting	23	24	25
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Windham girls' basketball falls against Cheverus

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Coming off back-to-back wins over Edward Little and Portland, Windham girls' basketball headed to Cheverus in Portland to play the Stags on Friday, Dec. 27. Cheverus took a considerable lead in the first half, and although Windham started slow, their momentum built, and they picked it up in the second half. Despite their best efforts, Cheverus was too far ahead and defeated Windham, 61-41.

We did really well in the second half, because their zone defense is very aggressive, so we needed to be more patient and play as a team," said Windham sophomore Mackenzie Delewski, who knocked down four-three pointers and scored 17 points overall. "Obviously we'll get shots in the zone, but instead of taking ok shots when we're open we were getting better shots when it's one more pass and we're just coming together as a team and playing for each other. We played really good defense and did really good help, (Cheverus) just hit their shots ... we'll finetune some things and get the next one. We need to play better help-side defense. We can work on being more patient with the ball, making good passes and not taking two dribbles and picking it up."

Cheverus jumped out to an early lead. While Windham was slow to start, once they got on the scoreboard, they began to close the gap. Windham moved the ball and picked up some solid turnovers leading to Delewski sinking a three-pointer. Windham rebounded but trailed, 31-15, at the half.

"We as a team were definitely cold at the beginning," said Windham



(L to R) Windham sophomore Mackenzie Delewski is about to sink a three-pointer during a girls' prep basketball game against Cheverus. Senior Stella Jarvais keeps her focus on the hoop as she goes to put a shot up. Sophomore Isabella Vassoler makes a pass while keeping her eyes on the court. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

sophomore Isabella Vassoler. "I think switching to man-to-man helped. Taking care of the ball is a big thing in that game, a lot of turnovers. Adapting to how they play (is what can be learned). We need to focus on what's working and what's not working and balancing out more pros rather than cons. Some pros of the game were splitting the floor and making sure we got in that middle to Stella ... as well as swinging the ball faster and try to calm and play with poise and make sure they aren't speeding us up."

Windham kept their heads up and went on a run in the second half. They adapted to Cheverus' star player Kylie Lamson and contested several of her shots. Switching to man-to-man defense made a difference.

Delewski hit another three-pointer to start the second half. Windham of-

fense had improved. Windham went hard after the ball, but Cheverus remained in the lead. Delewski sunk another three, then several moments later, Windham freshman Sitota Hatch sunk a three-pointer.

According to Windham senior Stella Jarvais, who scored 14 points in the game, it's difficult to adapt to how fast Cheverus plays. Going into the game, Windham wanted to slow the game down and try to run their stuff. She said this game was eye-opening; they need to work on man-to-man defense in practice, seeing the floor and not rushing. As long as they keep working hard, they'll get better controlling the ball.

"We just needed to make sure we attacked Cheverus' pressure and do what we could to stay composed," said Windham girls' varsity basketball coach Brody Artes. "We did that well at times and at times we didn't. Cheverus shot the ball really well at the beginning of the game and we didn't Junior Marley Jarvais moves past two Cheverus players.

and that was kind of the difference right there. The kids have done a good job all year of maintaining a good attitude, good energy, whether they're on the floor or on the bench - everybody has contributed that way. We had to switch things up defensively in that second quarter and as soon as we did, we had a bit more energy and were able to maintain our defensive identity a little bit; we were able to get some better shots because of it. It's a matter of knowing what to expect and being able to shoot a little bit better early in the game." <



ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Sam Foley

Age: 18 Team: Windham/Bonny Eagle/Westbrook Trail Blazers Ice Hockey

Coach: Bobby Fothergill

Parents' names: Patrick and Amy Foley

Reason for selection: Sam leads by example, and he comes to compete every time he touches the ice. He's a good two-way hockey player who is tough to defend. Currently, Sam is leading the state in points scored with 11 after five games. What stands out to

coaches is how he wills himself to win. He's a quiet leader, who never takes shifts off and then competes, and his fight is second to none. Even when the Trail Blazers lose, Sam competes to the buzzer. There is no quit in him. His leadership will be crucial as the season moves forward and coaches are very proud of him.

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Surge in third period solidifies girls' hockey victory

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

The Cheverus/Windham/Medomak girls' hockey team added another win to an impressive season when a third-period surge resulted in multiple goals. Its game against Saint Dominic Academy ended in a 4-0 shutout victory on Saturday, Dec. 28 at the William B. Troubh Ice Arena in Portland. "We weren't playing with a lot of a passion and energy (early on)," said Cheverus/Windham/Medomak coach Scott Rousseau. "I thought we played very well in the second period, especially the last seven, eight minutes; our younger forwards started getting more involved in the forward check, we were getting really close to the net, we were missing or (shots were blocked). I thought we showed a lot of resolve to stay patient and stay with it and we got a break with the power play and that relaxed everybody a little bit and took a comfortable lead from there. In the long run, I think it'll be a good experience for us to feel some tension and anxiety and be comfortable winning 1-0. We need to rely on our younger, inexperienced players to get that experience and start wanting the puck and make those plays. We're going to have to play low scoring, tight-checking games and be comfortable with that; at the end, I thought we'll take that learning experience and keep moving forward."

Cheverus/Windham/Medomak came out a little slow in the first period, but had stellar defense, with multiple shots on goal. Roughly seven minutes into the first period, Cheverus sophomore Caroline Rousseau scored, assisted by Cheverus junior Joey Pompeo.

While the second period was scoreless, Cheverus/Windham/Medomak's intensity picked up as they continued



(L to R) Cheverus senior Lucy Johnson stays ahead of her opponents as she makes her way to the goal at the William B. Troubh Ice Arena in Portland in a girls' ice hockey game against Saint Dominic Academy. Windham junior Ashley Cloutier looks to go around the net. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

to give Saint Dominic Academy's goalie a workout. Cheverus/Windham/Medomak commanded the ice. Their defense remained strong.

In the third period, Cheverus/Windham/Medomak really turned up the intensity. Seven minutes into the period, Cheverus senior Lucy Johnson scored, assisted by Cheverus senior Zoey Radford. With two minutes remaining Caroline Rousseau scored again, assisted by Windham junior Ashley Cloutier. Windham freshman Taylor Lucas scored, assisted by Caroline Rousseau with less than 15 seconds remaining to end the game on a high note.

"It was a really great pass from Caroline; I was there in the right spot in the right time," said Lucas. "Despite not playing as well as we wanted to in the first ... we were able to pull together as a team and play really well in the second and third. I feel like we

got more energy going on the bench and just brought ourselves together.

In the second and the third periods we did really well at passing. I feel like in this game we should've come out stronger in the first period, but overall, we did really well."

Windham junior Ashley Cloutier said the team had good teamwork toward the end, but they need to get that going earlier in the game. It was a spark inside them that got them to work together to score multiple goals in the third period.

"We started pretty slow, but after a while our defense start-

ed making quicker passes and quicker decisions and our forwards started getting involved in the cycle game," said Caroline Rousseau. "We wore the Saint Dom's players out and I think it just took us a second, but once we got it going, we started making quicker decisions and started moving our feet a bit quicker and got our head in the right space. We definitely started passing more ... all of our goals in the third came off passes with a quick release. Making those quick decisions, making the pass without holding on too long really helped us." <



Cheverus sophomore Caroline Rousseau controls the puck.

Outstanding Achievements



Windham High School seniors Sam Rogers (middle left), Lukas Hammond (middle), and Luke Cunniffe (middle right) are presented certificates during the 2024 Maine Soccer Coaches Annual Banquet on Sunday, Dec. 15 in Bangor. Rogers, Hammond, and Cunniffe were all awarded All-Maine honors, identifying them as the best high school boys' soccer players across all classifications (A, B, C, D and 8-man) in the state for the past 2024 fall season. Rogers and Cunniffe were also honored with distinction as All-New England boys' soccer players. PHOTO BY SU-ANNE HAMMOND

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By Angela Paris

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Salt & Pepper Chicken

Let's add some sizzle to your stir fry with this crispy salt and pepper chicken! Get ready for a flavor explosion with my favorite recipe for salt and pepper chicken stir fry, featuring Chinese five spice powder for bold flavor.

Prep Time: 5 minutes • Cook Time: 25 minutes

4 Servings

INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup of corn starch
- ¾ tablespoon of kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon of black pepper
- 1 tablespoon of Chinese five spice
- 1½ to 2 pounds of boneless skinless chicken thighs
- 1 cup of vegetable oil for frying
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 red chili diced
- 1 green chili diced
- 2 cloves of fresh garlic minced
- 3 green onions (scallions) chopped
- Add kosher salt & black pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Line a baking sheet with a paper towel; set aside.
 In a large skillet, heat 1 tablespoon of oil and cook the onion and peppers for 2-3 minutes. Add the garlic and cook 1 minute more. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Remove from heat and set aside.
 In a bowl, combine the dry ingredients: ½ cup corn starch, ¾ tablespoon kosher salt, 1 tablespoon black pepper, 1 tablespoon Chinese five spice.
 Toss the chicken in the dry ingredients to coat.
 Add the oil to a large frying pan over high heat until hot.
 Carefully add the chicken to the pan one piece at a time. Fry until golden brown turning occasionally, about 5-7 minutes. Do not crowd the pan.
 You will most likely need to cook the chicken in 2 batches.
 Place the cooked chicken onto the prepared pan to get rid of the excess oil.
 Add the cooked chicken to the skillet with the onion mixture.
 Add the green onions and toss to mix everything.

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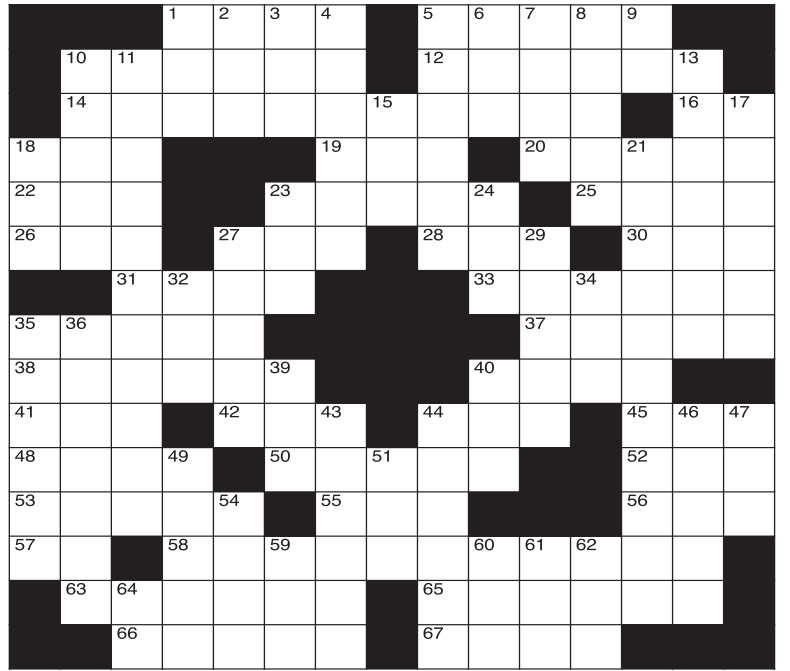
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M	A	C	A	O	C	H	E	F	E	L	I	S		
A	N	O	L	E	R	E	P	L	E	N	I	S		
W	O	R	L	D	S	E	R	I	E	S	G	A	M	E
S	A	D	E	O	N	S	T	I	R	S				
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B	L	I	N	I	A	A	R	M	A	R				
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N	W	I	T	A	N	
A	R	E	S	T	O	N	E	B	E	R	T			



CROSSWORD PUZZLE



CLUES ACROSS

- Tropical Asian plant
- Yankees' slugger Judge
- Helps to preserve food
- Plant disease
- One who predicts
- Equally
- Burundian franc
- Pouch
- Arizona city
- Surround
- Hard, heavy timber
- Witnessed
- They ___
- French river
- A way to drink
- Small constellation
- Peruse a written work
- Type of hound
- Plant of the goosefoot family

- Evade or escape
- A way to confine
- Volcanic crater
- Weekday
- Women's service organization (abbr.)
- Local area network
- Sensory receptor
- Posted
- Tibetan pastry
- Licensed for Wall Street
- Very willing
- Golf score
- Consume
- Touchdown
- Tends to remind
- In a way, smoothed
- Poke holes in the ground
- Herbaceous plants
- Taiwanese river

CLUES DOWN

- Body art
- Boxing's GOAT
- Film for posterity (abbr.)
- Prayer
- Calculating machine
- Keyboard key
- Outburst
- Man-eating giants
- New Hampshire
- Type of sword
- Counting
- Pants style
- Political action committee
- U.S. government legislative branch
- Civil Rights Act component
- Contractors take one
- Spanish soldier
- A person's brother or sister
- Expressed pleasurer
- Song of praise
- Shock treatment
- Patti Hearst's captors
- Counteract
- Goes over again
- Popular Dodge truck
- Male adult
- A part of a river where the current is very fast
- Rope used to lasso
- Become less intense
- Subway rodent
- Lead alloy
- Japanese honorific title
- Advise someone
- Famous NYC museum
- Ocean
- Cathode-ray tube
- Cologne
- It starts with these two

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

SUDOKU

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

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

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



Finding your Maine paradise: A guide to choosing the perfect recreational land

► **By Richie Vraux**
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



- Richie Vraux, Pine Tree Realty

Maine is a recreational paradise and buying and selling a property can be a complex process, but with the right strategies, you can enhance your property's market potential and achieve a successful sale.

Price it right: Setting the right price is crucial for attracting buyers. Work with a real estate professional to conduct a comparative market analysis and determine a competitive price based on recent sales of similar properties in your area.

Enhance curb appeal: First impressions matter. Maintain the lawn, add fresh plants, and ensure pathways are clear and clean. A well-kept exterior can entice buyers to see what's inside.

Stage for success: Staging your home can make a significant difference. Arrange furniture to highlight the best features of each room, remove personal items, and declutter to create a neutral and welcoming environment.

Leverage online marketing: Utilize high-quality photos, virtual tours, and detailed descriptions to showcase your home on real estate websites and social

media platforms. Engaging content can attract more buyers and generate interest.

Choose the perfect recreational land when buying: When selecting recreational land in Maine, several key factors will influence your decision when buying property.

Here are some handy tips to guide you along the way and assist in avoiding pitfalls.

Recreational interests:

- Hunting and fishing – Identify areas with abundant wildlife populations and suitable habitats. Research local regulations and hunting/fishing seasons.
- Boating and kayaking – Consider access to lakes, rivers, or the coast. Check water depths, navigation hazards, and boating regulations.
- Swimming – Look for properties near beaches, ponds, or lakes with safe swimming areas and clean water quality.
- Skiing and snowmobiling – Choose locations with proximity to ski resorts or groomed snowmobile trails. Consider snow accumulation and trail maintenance.
- Hiking and biking – Select properties with access to hiking trails, nature preserves, or scenic bike paths. Evaluate terrain, elevation, and trail conditions.

Land Rights and Access

- Public land rights – Maine's strong

public land rights offer excellent access to recreational areas. Research specific land management policies and regulations.

• Easements and rights of way – Ensure the property has adequate access for vehicles, boats, or other recreational equipment. Verify any easements or restrictions.

Local amenities:

- Convenience – Consider proximity to local amenities like grocery stores, gas stations, restaurants, and medical facilities.
- Community – Evaluate the local community's character, amenities, and social activities.
- Schools – If you have children, research the quality and accessibility of local schools.

Location:

- Climate – Consider your preferred climate and weather conditions. Maine offers diverse climates, from coastal to inland.
- Privacy – Determine your desired level of privacy and seclusion. Consid-

er factors like neighboring properties and road traffic.

- Accessibility – Evaluate access to major highways, airports, and other transportation options.

Commute Time

- Work – If you have a daily commute, consider the distance and travel time to your workplace.

Factor in commute times to other important destinations like family, friends, or entertainment venues.

Investment

- Budget – Determine your budget for land purchase and ongoing expenses like property taxes, maintenance, and insurance.
- Potential returns – Research property values and market trends in the area. Consider factors like land appreciation potential and future development plans.
- Resale value – Evaluate the property's resale potential, especially if you plan to sell it in the future.

Additional tips:

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 36

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NONPROFIT SPOTLIGHT

Age Friendly Windham (AFW) is dedicated to fostering an inclusive community where all generations interact meaningfully. This mission promotes shared activities, knowledge exchange, and social collaboration, ensuring everyone feels valued and connected.

To further this goal, AFW will host a Tea, Connections and Learning event from 1 to 3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 7 at the Windham Town Hall Gym with their partners, Windham Public Library and Windham Raymond Adult Education (WRAE). This will be a kick-off event to introduce a variety of upcoming classes this spring.

“There will be something for everyone, education, exercise and hobbies,” AFW Community Coordinator, Erica Bell-Watkins said. “It is important to stay active during the long winters in Maine to maintain social connections.”

The Tea, Connections, and Learning discussion will include an introduction to Techno Wednesday learning sessions and are a result of a grant provided to Windham Public Library (WPL).

“The Libraries Transforming Communities grant from the American Library Association (ALA) provided \$10,000 in funding to increase accessibility to library facilities, services, and programs to better serve people with disabilities,” WPL Director Jennifer Alvino-Wood said. “Our focus is on increasing digital literacy skills for community members who are unable to visit the library due to mobility chal-

Age-Friendly Windham
Tea, Learning, and Conversation: Discover Opportunities Offered By Age-Friendly Windham and partners

lenges or other issues. We are grateful for the support from ALA to help us provide these important services to our community.”

Guest speakers at this kick-off event include Tom Meuser, Ph.D., Founding Director of the Center for Excellence in Aging and Health, and Jason Adout, Physical Therapist and President of Maine Strong Balance Center. They will discuss upcoming classes that will begin in late January 2025.

Classes that will be introduced at this event include the following:

Pathways for Life Review: Exploring Personal Narratives for Healing & Growth. Taught by Tom Meuser, participants will discover the developmental benefits of life review while exploring their own narratives and (optionally) sharing them with others. Course materials will be accessible via Google Classroom. Class will be held at WRAE in person, unless weather conditions necessitate a switch to Zoom. Classes will meet from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

on Mondays Jan. 27 to March 3. The cost of this class is \$50.

AARP Smart Driver class taught by Andrew Grant is specifically designed for drivers aged 50 and older to brush up on their driving abilities and knowledge of traffic regulations in order to help lower accidents and traffic penalties. This two-session class will be provided from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday April 9 and Wednesday, April 16. The cost of this class \$19.

Assisted Living: Finding the Right Fit For Your Family. Kaitlyn Cunningham Morse will lead this program, taking a practical in-depth look at what assisted living truly entails and what to consider when exploring this option for yourself or a loved one. Participants will gain valuable insights to recognize quality care, ask the right questions and make choices that align with each family’s unique needs and values. This class is offered from 6 to 7 pm. Wednesday, March 26. The cost of this class is \$25.

Grief, Loss, and the Holidays. Get-

ting through that first year after loss with all the “anniversaries” of time spent together. Winter doldrums set in and we’ve got a “recipe” for darkness and depression. This class will offer a compassionate and uplifting conversation with steps for helping you to process grief. Join us on Friday, Jan. 24 from 10 to 11:30 am. The cost of this class is \$10.

Techno Wednesday sessions will cover subjects such as telehealth, cyber fraud, freezing your credit report, computer basics, social media, and much more. These classes will be held on Wednesdays with dates to be determined and are free.

Echo Dot smart speakers, smart plugs, and some tablets will be given out to attendees of these classes who are in need so that they may be used to turn lights on in their homes, know the weather, and be connected with contacts outside their homes.

“Technology such as this can assist community members stay safely in their homes and remain connected to family and the community at large,” Alvino-Wood said.

Representatives from the organizations will be in attendance to help sign people up and share more information. Register for the Jan. 7 event online at <https://windham.coursestorm.com/course/techno-wednesday>

If you need a ride to this kick-off learning event on Tuesday, Jan. 7, or to learn more and RSVP, please call Age Friendly Windham at 207-892-4649. <

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Guest Speakers:

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- Jason Adout, Physical Therapist, Founder, President Maine Strong Balance Center

Explore our Classes:

- Pathways for Life Review with Dr. Tom Meuser
- AARP Smart Driver with Andrew Grant
- Assisted Living: Finding the Right Fit with Kaitlyn Morse of Maine Aging Partners
- Grief, Loss and the Holidays with Hospice of Southern Maine

Also Learn About Age Friendly "Techno Wednesday" Learning Sessions through Windham Raymond Adult Education

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BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Deeply committed to fostering an educational environment that nurtures academic excellence, character development, and strong community values, Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences provides a joyful, integrated educational experience for children.

Located at 25 Shaker Road in Gray, Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences was one of the first free public charter schools established in Maine. Rooted in the Reggio Emilia approach, the school offers arts-infused, inquiry-based learning that encourages creativity for the younger ages and project-based learning that develops critical thinking and a deep connection to the natural world for students.

“Our emphasis on innovative and active, hands-on creativity, outdoor-based learning exploration, and community-focused events truly sets us apart,” said Fiddlehead School’s Executive Director/CEO Jacinda Cotton-Castro. “We nurture the whole child, blending the arts and sciences to create a deeply meaningful education. Fiddlehead is more than a school, it’s a place where all children discover who they are and how they can contribute to the world in a way that is unique to them.”

Fiddlehead began in 2004 as an early childhood center, and in 2013, it expanded to become a public charter school. Today, the school has a dedicated team of roughly 40 educators and staff members, all committed to supporting student growth and success.



Highly innovative and free, Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences is a place of wonder and possibility, and students are engaged and happy, Cotton-Castro said.

“As a public charter school grades Pre-K to Eighth Grade, there is no tuition cost for Maine families, she said. “Our goal is to make our innovative approach to education accessible to all, regardless of financial means. Our after-school enrichment programs and private music lessons do have a fee associated with them. Those fees go directly back into the school. We believe every child has unique gifts to share, and our role is to help them discover those gifts in a supportive, engaging environment. We have the privilege of taking our grades, K to 8 off site, as well for nature-based learning opportunities and this happens every week depending on staffing and weather.”

Beyond academics, Fiddlehead School cultivates a strong sense of community and personal growth in every child and strives to always stay flexible, meeting the needs of the community and children.

“Families often share that their children flourish at Fiddlehead in ways they hadn’t imagined. Parents tell us how their kids come home excited about what they’ve learned and eager to return each day,” Cotton-Castro said. “Our graduates are active members of the community. They are nonprofit leaders, performers, scientists and much more. Some of our graduates even return to the school as teachers to give back to up-and-coming generations. We’re proud to create a nurturing environment that truly brings out the best in our students.”

Based in Gray, Fiddlehead School proudly serves students from 15 different school districts located across the Lakes Region and beyond.

“Families from surrounding towns and even further join us because of our unique approach to education,” Cotton-Castro said. “We’re best known for our free, Reggio Emilia-inspired curriculum, which emphasizes hands-on, place-based, project-based learning and a strong connection to the arts, sciences, and nature.”

According to Cotton-Castro, Fiddlehead School is highly grounded in the foundational blocks it knows best and that includes a strong connection to outdoor learning.

“Now, more than ever, children need to be connected,” she said. “Children need to move, they need to experience, they need to see how what they learn interacts with the world around them. I saw a need for a school that celebrated curiosity and fostered learning through exploration. From those roots, Fiddlehead has blossomed into a vibrant community of learners and dreamers. This all started from a deep sense of love which then grew into a passion for creating holistic and accessible hands-on, nature-based education.”

The contrast between Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences and a regular public school is that Fiddlehead creates its own curriculum.

“That makes it so much different and richer,” Cotton-Castro said. “It’s an enormous amount of work but it helps develop critical thinking skills and is focused on children.”

Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences will offer an Open House at 5:30 p.m. Jan. 29, Feb. 4 and Feb. 6 and the public is welcome and encouraged to visit and explore what the school has to offer students and families.

For further details about Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences, call 207-688-3727 or visit them online at www.fiddleheadschool.org. Find them on Facebook at Fiddlehead School of Arts and Sciences. <



OUR PHILOSOPHY

At Fiddlehead, learning comes alive through exploration, discovery, and hands-on experiences that inspire young minds to think boldly and grow with purpose. Join us on a joyful journey where curiosity leads the way and connections spark lifelong learning.



ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

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Welcome to
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2025 Open House Dates

Wednesday, January 29
Tuesday, February 4
Thursday, February 6
From 5:30–6:30 PM

➔ REAL ESTATE *Cont. from page 33*

- Consult with Local Experts – Seek advice from real estate agents, land surveyors, and local recreational enthusiasts who are familiar with the area.
- Visit the property – Spend time on the property to assess its suitability for your recreational activities and lifestyle. Consider factors like views, wildlife, and overall atmosphere.

• Consider long-term goals – Think about your long-term plans for the property. Will you build a cabin, use it for seasonal recreation, or simply hold it as an investment?
 If a property is priced appropriately, it won't be on the open market for very long. As a result, be very prepared. Unless you are making a cash offer – always, always, always have a pre-qualification letter in hand so it can be presented to the seller's agent,

at the time of the offer. Be aware that if there has been a lot of activity on a property, it has become commonplace that agents are submitting offers well above asking price.
 Also, other things you should know about houses and properties include if they are: occupied, vacant, in foreclosure, short-sale or bank owned. You should know as much information as possible about each property before making an appointment. Make sure

you tell your real estate professional about your timeframe for buying or selling.
 If you need advice about choosing which way you should go, feel free to contact me.
This article was brought to you by Richie Vraux, a Real Estate Broker/Realtor with Pine Tree Realty of Maine, 76 Tandberg Trail, Windham. Call him at 207-317-1297 or reach him by email at richardjvraux@gmail.com <



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