Volume 12, Issue 48

TheWindhamEagle.com

November 27, 2024

## **VFW Post 10643 honors Patriot's Pen and** Voice of Democracy student winners

By Ed Pierce

There is no shortage of patriotism in Windham and especially on Veterans Day. During this year's annual Veterans Day observance, three local students were honored as winners of VFW Post 10643's Patriot's Pen essay contest and the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest.

The first-place winner of the 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 writing about "My Voice in America's Democracy." Taking home firstplace for students in Grades 9 to 12 was Windham Christan Academy junior Amber Sands for her audio-essay on the theme is "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" Each of the three winners got to read their essays before an audience of more than 200 attending Veterans Day events at the Windham Veterans Center on Nov. 11.

As local winners from Wind-



Winners of VFW Post 10643's Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy essay contests gather on Veteran's Day at the Windham Veterans Center. From left are Zoie Hougaz-McCormick, Brenna Wheeler, and Amber Sands. PHOTO BY ANDREA HOUGAZ-MCCORMICK

ham, 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 Patriot's Pen essay competition is open to all middle school students from Wind-

ham 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, in grades 6 to 8. Middle school students were invited to write a 300- to 400-word essay about this year's theme and what it specifically means to them. The Voice of Democracy competition is open to all high school students from Windham and Raymond in grades 9 to 12, including those who are home-schooled. Students are asked to write and record a 3- to 5-minute essay (on an audio CD) on this year's theme and the meaning it holds for them.

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society.

District winners compete in the VFW's annual state competition while trying to secure a berth in the national competition with a chance to win thousands of dollars in college scholarships. The first-place VFW state winner also receives a four-day trip to Washington, D.C. to compete → see **ESSAYS** Page 4

## Windham composer's beloved 'Maine Christmas Song' becomes illustrated children's book

#### By Ed Pierce

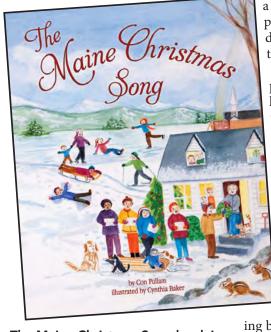
STAFF WRITER

When first approached several years ago about turning his beloved "Maine Christmas Song" into a children's book, composer Con Fullam of Windham was open to the idea but wondered how it would turn out. His answer is a beautifully illustrated classic that just like the song, will stand the test of time.

Fullam will be on hand at Windham High School for the Windham Chamber Singers "An American Family Holiday" concerts on Dec. 7 with copies of his book for purchase that he will autograph for the public. The "Maine Christmas Song" has been included in the "An American Family Holiday" concerts for decades.

Since Fullam composed the tune in 1986, the "Maine Christmas Song" has sold more than 100,000 copies and is the centerpiece of Christmas music set in the Pine Tree State. It's been a holiday favorite of students and adults since it first hit the airwaves on WPOR as sung by Malinda Liberty and shows no signs of decreasing in popularity.

Publisher Stephanie Mulligan of Maine-based McSea Books first heard the "Maine Christmas Song"



The Maine Christmas Song book is based upon Windham resident Con Fullam's popular tune. Fullam will be signing copies of the book at the 'An American Family Holiday' concerts on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 2 and 7:30 p.m at Windham High School. SUBMITTED PHOTIO

as a first grader growing up in Maine and always thought it would be great if it could be turned into a book.

"Like so many, I grew up with the song and always thought it could be

a wonderful book with an important message, given the deep divide that we are experiencing today," Mulligan said.

She sought out Fullam and pitched him the idea of using his song lyrics as a book filled with colorful illustrations. At the same time, Mulligan told an artist she knew in Otisfeld, Cynthia Baker, about the potential book and asked her to come up with some ideas for the book. As it turns out, Baker knew about the song because her husband had gone to college with Fullam.

Fullam grew up on a farm in Sidney and his father passed away when he was just 5, leav-

ing behind his ukulele which his son learned how to play. Within a year of that, Fullam was playing guitar at church and school functions and by the time he was 10, he was performing on a Saturday night radio show in Waterville.

As an adult, Fullam's love for performing, producing and songwriting lifted him to unprecedented heights in the music industry and five Emmy Award nominations. Along the way, he's appeared on stage with such renowned artists as Bob Dylan, Johnny

Cash, EmmyLou Harris, Joan Armatrading, John Sebastian, Asleep At The Wheel, Willie Nelson, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, The Earl Scruggs Review, Richie Havens, and Tammy Wynette. He is also responsible for creating The Wompkees, a popular animated television series for children on PBS.

In Maine, Fullam has a prominent place in music for his "Maine Christ-

"Reporter Bob Elliott of Channel 6 was working on a story about Christmas music in 1986 and I had just moved back to Maine from New York," Fullam said. "He asked me to write a song about Christmas and I agreed. It sounded like fun. I figured I would work on it over the next year, but I was wrong. Bob told me he needed it now and that changed my original plans."

Sitting down to create the song's music, everything came together fast-

er than Fullam expected.

"Sometimes things just magically happen in songwriting," he

→ see BOOK

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## Instrumental to my happiness

Music is such an integral part of our daily lives that it's hard to imagine what the world would be like without it. The people who create, compose and play music are observers of life, of possibilities, of tragedies and of joy. They inspire us and provide the soundtrack for each of our lives.

Here are a couple of stories about how I met several musicians whose songs are still remembered today.

In 1973, I was fortunate to be nominated to work for the Student Entertainment Committee at New Mexico Highlands University. The committee's mission was to use fees appropriated during student registration to bring nationally known musicians and entertainers to perform on our campus. We booked bands and selected available dates for their performances

After the dates were booked and confirmed, and once the performers arrived in town for their shows, committee members would assist them with transportation to and from the shows or locate area restaurants or other activities they requested.

Being a fan of progressive country in the early 1970s, I had both of B.W. Stevenson's first two albums, once self-titled and the other called "Lead Free." His music was powerful and ranged from singing about heartbreak to understanding the human condition. When I learned that the committee had booked him to perform a concert at our school, I volunteered

to assist him and his band while they were in town.

They arrived by tour bus late in the evening the day before their show. I met Stevenson, who promptly instructed me to call him "Buck," short for his nickname, Buckwheat. We made sure that the hotel suite he had chosen for his band was satisfactory and the next day I guided Stevenson and the band to the auditorium for a sound check prior to the concert.

While waiting backstage to be introduced, Stevenson pulled me aside and asked me if I knew of any parties or things to do in town after the concert. I told him that my fraternity was having a party with a keg of beer later and I invited him and the band to stop by. During the concert, Stevenson performed songs from his latest album, and I really liked one of them called "My Maria." It was a smash hit for him and is the song he is most remembered for today.

After the concert, Stevenson and his band did indeed drop by our fraternity house and I had him autograph his albums in my collection. I found it incredible that I was standing and talking with someone whose music was all over the radio and it's a memory that I cherish to this day. I was saddened to learn 14 years later that Stevenson had died at the age of 38 following open-heart surgery in Texas.

In 2016, I was the Editor of the daily newspaper in Laconia, New Hampshire and wanted to write about an upcoming concert there featuring Peter Noone of the 1960s band Herman's Hermits. Event organizers gave me his cell phone number and I called him in California and did a phone interview with him.

I asked him lots of questions about his career and his music and by the time that lengthy phone conversation ended, I felt like I understood Peter better and it was evident that his charisma, personality and talent were a major factor in his success. He had first started with the band as a 15-year-old lead singer and said he was proud of what he had accomplished in his career. He mentioned a fact I didn't know that in 1965, Herman's Hermits had sold more records worldwide than The Beatles did.

To me, Noone came across as down to earth, candid and humorous. I told him that I could recall dancing to one of his songs with one of my classmates, Janet McGraw Howland, in junior high school and he laughed and said, "Don't we all wish we were young again?"

Before ending our conversation, I asked Noone if I could bring my wife Nancy backstage before the show to meet him and take a photo. He agreed to do so, and we got to his concert early and met up with my wife's boss, Mary Jane Cooney, who was also attending the show. She was the principal of the Catholic school in Laconia and when I told her we were going backstage to meet Peter Noone, she asked if she could go with us.

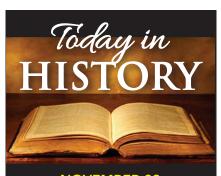
The three of us then met Peter and he graciously let us take photographs with him. He thanked me for writing about his concert in the newspaper and we returned to our seats. During the show, he dazzled the audience with some of the band's biggest hits such as "Mrs. Brown You've Got a Lovely Daughter," or "Can't You Hear My Heartbeat" and "I'm Into Something Good."

A week or so later, Noone sent me an autographed photo and a CD of Herman's Hermits' greatest hits. Without reservation, I can say he's as genuine as they get and remains one of my all-time favorite entertainers.

As a journalist, through the years I've met and interviewed many singers, but these two really stand out. <

~ Ed Pierce

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#### NOVEMBER 29

1890 – Navy defeats Army by a score of 24-0 in the first Army-Navy football game played at West Point, NY.

1929 – The first airplane flight over the South Pole is made by U.S. Navy Lt. Commander Richard E. Byrd.

1961 – The Mercury-Atlas 5 spacecraft is launched by the U.S. with Enos the chimpanzee on board. It orbits the earth twice before landing off Puerto Rico.

1963 – A Trans-Canada Airlines DC-8F with 111 passengers and 7 crew members crashes in woods north of Montreal 4 minutes after takeoff from Dorval Airport killing everyone on board.

1971 – The Professional Golf Championship is held at Walt Disney World in Florida for the first time.

1975 – Bill Gates adopts the name Microsoft for the company he and Paul Allen forms to write the BASIC computer language for the Altair.

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Editor@TheWindhamEagle.com

## ON THE

What's the most ridiculous thing you've seen someone do on Black Friday?

"I saw a couple young guys sleeping on the sidewalk outside Best Buy for four days to get a PlayStation that literally every single other person in line got on the same day." – Brian McCarthy

"Fighting for merchandise."– William D. Reiner

"Oh, the Cabbage Patch Doll years were insane. Literal fighting over the dolls."

– Julie Mallett

"Running around in the store with a cart. Dumb and dangerous." – Griphen Stone

"One year when I was in college, my mother had me get up at 4:30 a.m. and drive to J.C. Penny's at the mall so I could be there when they opened at 5 a.m. and receive the door prize. It was a snowflake Christmas tree ornament." – Chris Macklin

"Trying to make it through the door at Walmart along with 500 other people when they opened early in the morning one year to buy a half-off digital camera.

– Mia Potenzio-Ransey

"I witnessed two mothers with kids in strollers yelling at each other over which one should get the last Tickle Me Elmo on the shelf." – Louise V. Snider

"A guy was selling sandwiches for \$5 to people waiting in line to get into Jordan Marsh at the mall at 7 a.m. one year."

– Isabella Mongon

"A few years ago, I saw someone grab an iPhone out of a kid's hand in the Target parking lot on Black Friday and run like crazy while the kid stood there crying."

- Deirdre Schulte

"Grown men coming to blows about a Star Wars Lego set." – Lois Fuller

"Anyone dressed in pajamas at Walmart at 8 in the morning." – Lollie Gomez Nunez

"My friend Al started talking to a woman in front of him at the checkout line and asked her out for a date. They have now been married for 25 years." — Mitchell B. Robinson The Windham Eagle Page 3



## Significant renovations completed at Mill Street dam

## By Kendra Raymond STAFF WRITER

Editor's note; This is the final part of a two-part series about activities and renovations at Mill Street dam in Raymond. If you missed it in the Nov. 22 edition you can find it on our website www.thewindhameagle.com under the local news tab.

The recent salmon egg retrievals that were conducted at Mill Street dam, also known as Panther Run, in Raymond were much easier this year, thanks to some major improvements that took place over the summer. Fisheries biologists and culturists are wrapping up the yearly "egg take" from salmon as they make their way up the Jordan River from Sebago Lake to spawn.

Mill Street dam is an iconic spot in Raymond, frequented by residents and visitors hoping to participate in recreational activities such as fishing, picnicking, and swimming. Mill Street is located just off Main Street in the original downtown area. Motorists and pedestrians can observe the pastimes as they travel over the bridge heading away from town.

In recent years, the dam has become dilapidated and deemed unsafe after years of use and it became apparent that it was time to deal with the issues before there was a major failure.

Panther Pond Association member Bill Brennan said he's pleased to see the renovations completed.

"Given the unfortunate circumstances surrounding the Dundee Park dam failure in Windham and results thereof, the Mill Street dam is a positive story," he said. "I also know that these dams are aging out. The Town of Raymond is dealing currently with a request for the Dingley dam at Thomas Pond."

Richard Parker is the Director of the Engineering Division for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. He emphasized that it was time to get the repairs underway.

"The water control structure of the dam was badly deteriorated posing unsafe conditions for staff who were tasked to manipulate the gate elevations to control water levels of Panther Pond," he said.

Vital conservation role

The Mill Street dam plays a vital role in conservation of the area.

"The dam has two main purposes. It controls the water level of Panther Pond upstream. Secondly, it is crucial to provide water and flow to allow biologists to entrap spawning salmon for the purpose of removing the eggs to use to raise additional salmon at the hatchery," Parker said. "Without the dam, water levels would be extremely low in Panther Pond. I would say it is very important to the community."

Dam renovations began in May and were completed at the end of October, just in time for the spawning season. The process was involved and required a significant amount of planning.

Parker outlined the process.

"Steel sheet piles 30 feet in length were driven 12 inches upstream from the existing concrete structure to eliminate water seeping under the dam. Hundreds of yards of badly deteriorated concrete on the structure were removed to a point where the existing structure was solid, forms were erected, and new concrete with extensive reinforcement was installed," he said. "The gate structure and gate were 100 percent replaced with new materials, and the right embankment received extensive drainage improvements and a new concrete retaining wall. One exiting upgrade that was made was the height of the left and right ogee on each side of the gate. The elevation of the left ogee is set to the ideal elevation of Panther Pond so water can naturally leave the impoundment without the necessity of opening the gate. The right ogee is set 3 inches higher than the left so it can alleviate high water caused by a storm. If rain events are extreme, then the gate can still be opened to evacuate the excess flow, but our hopes are this will only occur on a limited basis."

Association involvement

PPA played a significant role in the renovations, as related by the Panther Pond Association Fall 2024 newsletter.

"Mill Street Dam is owned by the

state of Maine and managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. The dam is critical for IFW in support of the fisheries hatchery activities focused on salmon spawning at the building adjacent to the dam. Many years ago, the state established a target water level for Panther Pond at 280.5 feet above sea level and have been managing to the target level ever since. This level assures there is enough water in Panther Pond to support a mid-October - late November release of water into the Jordan River of sufficient volume to allow salmon to migrate up the river to spawn. These salmons use a fish ladder to get into the building where they are milked for eggs, fertilized, and moved to the IFW fish hatchery in Casco. The salmon are then returned to Sebago Lake. The smolt are used to stock many lakes in Maine, including Panther Pond and Sebago. With a scientific name Salmo Salar Sebago, these fish have thrived as far away as Patagonia in Traful Lake and

"The old dam required a flood gate to be continuously opened and closed for management of the Panther Pond level with the goal of achieving the target level of 280.5 feet," the newsletter article said. "Lake levels can fluctuate materially as most recently witnessed in the spring of 2022 and 2023. In 2022, many docks installed in mid-April were 6-12 inches underwater by

→ see **DAM** Page 6





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ESSAYS Cont. from page 1

in the national Patriot's Pen contest.

Each year, nearly 25,000 students in grades 9 to 12 from across the country enter to win their share of more than \$2 million in educational scholarships and incentives awarded through the Voice of Democracy program. The first-place winner nationally receives \$5,000 for the Patriot's Pen winning essay and the first-place winning essay nationally for the Voice of Democracy receives a \$35,000 college scholarship.

Hougaz-McCormick said the best part of this year's contest was being able to share her work with the community because she could show others her opinions and make a difference in the world.

"Making sure my opinions were strong enough that people would listen to them and consider what I had to say was the hardest part of the

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contest for me," she said. "It took me about three weeks to write it and I worked on it after school for about 30 to 45 minutes a day. I thought about how much democracy means to me and I wrote down all my feelings and then put it together in an essay."

She said that her family was excited and happy for her when she won the contest, but it was challenging to read her essay aloud before the audience.

"I was a little nervous at first, but I felt honored and excited to read my essay," Hougaz-McCormick said. "I would recommend participating in this contest to other students because it gives others an opportunity to express their feelings about topics they feel strongly about. I learned that if you step outside your comfort zone it can have a positive consequence."

According to Hougaz-McCormick, she would like to become a police officer when she grows up and specifically a D.A.R.E. officer.

Patriot's Pen second-place winner Brenna Wheeler said the best part of the contest was typing out her essay and seeing the progression she was making.

"This helped me show how much my essay had grown since the rough draft," Wheeler said. "The hardest part was keeping to the word count. My rough draft was over the word limit and I had to cut it down. And, for me, I would have typed more and more." It took her about three weeks to fully complete her essay.

"My teacher did a great job making sure we started early and had enough time to edit and make sure we were happy with our final draft," she said. "My teacher suggested we start with a question and write an answer for that question. It helped so I could summarize what we could do for My Voice in America's Democracy."

Once she learned she was one of the local winners, Wheeler said her family was very surprised and excited.

"It was really encouraging for me as it showed you can accomplish something you work hard for," she said. "I am proud of what I did and honored to be one of the winners. Reading my essay in front of the VGW members and their families was nerve racking. I was so nervous. But I soon realized that it would all be just fine and that I needed to have confidence. I was honored to be the first person to read their essay. I highly recommend other students participate in this contest. It is hard work to write an essay, but it is worth it. You get to see your progress and you may even get the chance to read it in front of veterans and their families. Do not be afraid to be a voice, and do not be afraid to speak in front of others. Both of these will help you in the future and show that hard work pays off. You should always try and maybe you'll receive a reward."

Wheeler said she wants to pursue a career in photography, science, or astronomy when she's older.

For Amber Sands, the best part about being in the Voice of Democracy contest was the confidence it gave to her writing.

"I've been hoping to win this contest for years, and finally achieving that was a great boost for my creative self-esteem," she said. "The hardest part was recording my essay. I tried to put as much feeling into it as I could, like I would if I was speaking directly to someone. It was difficult to manage without sounding like I was simply reciting a paper. I worked on this in my government class for a few days, so probably a total of an hour and a half. Being in a government class was great for writing my essay, because I was able to use terminology I hadn't known before. I'm also a fan of the musical Hamilton and enjoyed referencing that time period using my knowledge of the movie."

She says her family members are proud of her achievement and excited that this could be a great step for her potential writing career.

"I'm generally fairly confident speaking in front of people, but I was definitely nervous at the Windham Veterans Center," Sands said. "They were a great audience though, and many people came up to me afterward to congratulate me and compliment my essay. I would recommend this contest to other students because it really is a great platform, and it is totally worth it. I have taken away from this experience that you never know what will happen and how much people will like your work, but it's still good to try! You could end up touching a lot of people."

Sands said she plans to go into creative writing for a future occupation.

"Writing is something I've always loved to do, and so this was a great step for me," she said. <



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**DAM** Cont. from page 3

the end of the month. Two significant rainstorms caused the lake to rise over a foot over a period of 4 to 5 days post-storm. The opening of the flood gates allowed the lake to subside, and it took around 3 weeks for the level to recede to the level it was at when the docks were put in. The results from the manual opening of the gate were a combination of art and science, with the goal of achieving the target level."

PPA has good historical data on lake levels which fluctuate continuously depending on the extent of rain, melting, and other weather events.

According to the article, the new dam uses spillways to manage water levels, and the heights have been set and are completed.

"On Sept. 18, 2024, the lake level was 3 inches below the target level. There has been no material rain event

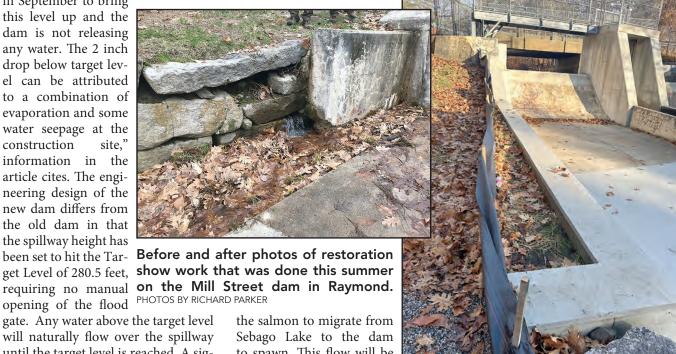


in September to bring this level up and the dam is not releasing any water. The 2 inch drop below target level can be attributed to a combination of evaporation and some water seepage at the construction information in the article cites. The engineering design of the new dam differs from the old dam in that the spillway height has opening of the flood

gate. Any water above the target level will naturally flow over the spillway until the target level is reached. A significant rain event will raise the lake level, and the spillway will overflow until the lake is back down to the target level. The PPA will be monitoring the lake levels of the new dam to determine how long it takes the lake to settle back to target levels after rain/ melt events under the new dam engineering design."

Salmon migration

On or about October 18, 2024, the flood gates were opened, bypassing the spillways, to release enough water into the Jordan River to allow



to spawn. This flow will be maintained until late No-

vember and the fish will return to Sebago. In the absence of any material rain event, this will cause the lake to drop below the target level. This drop could be a material drop if there is no rain to offset the draw down.

Association members say the lake is very low, and many have commented that they have never seen it so low. Brennan concurs and believes that the lake should not drop much lower since the salmon drawdown has been completed.

"There is minimal water passing through the flood gate on the dam," he said. "We have also experienced a lack of significant precipitation since

The salmon milking on Nov. 13,



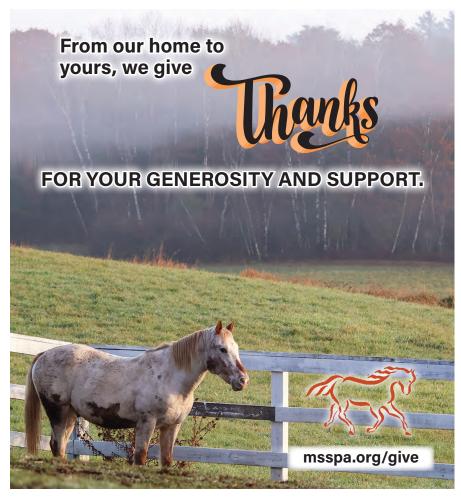
was a success with more salmon in the milking house and in the pool below the dam than anyone can remember,

"The lack of any meaningful precipitation created a condition where Panther Run was one of the few streams dumping significant water into Sebago Lake," Brennan said. "IFW believes this concentrated the salmon into Panther Run and some estimates suggest that over 1,000 fish that made the journey to Mill Street dam. It was quite a sight to see all these salmon swimming up Panther Run and then settling into the pool below the dam. We hope mother nature provides the precipitation and deep snowpack that will be needed to refill the pond by spring."

Brennan agrees that PPA is committed to the health and preservation of Panther Pond.

"The mission statement is about the water quality and ecology of the pond," he said. <

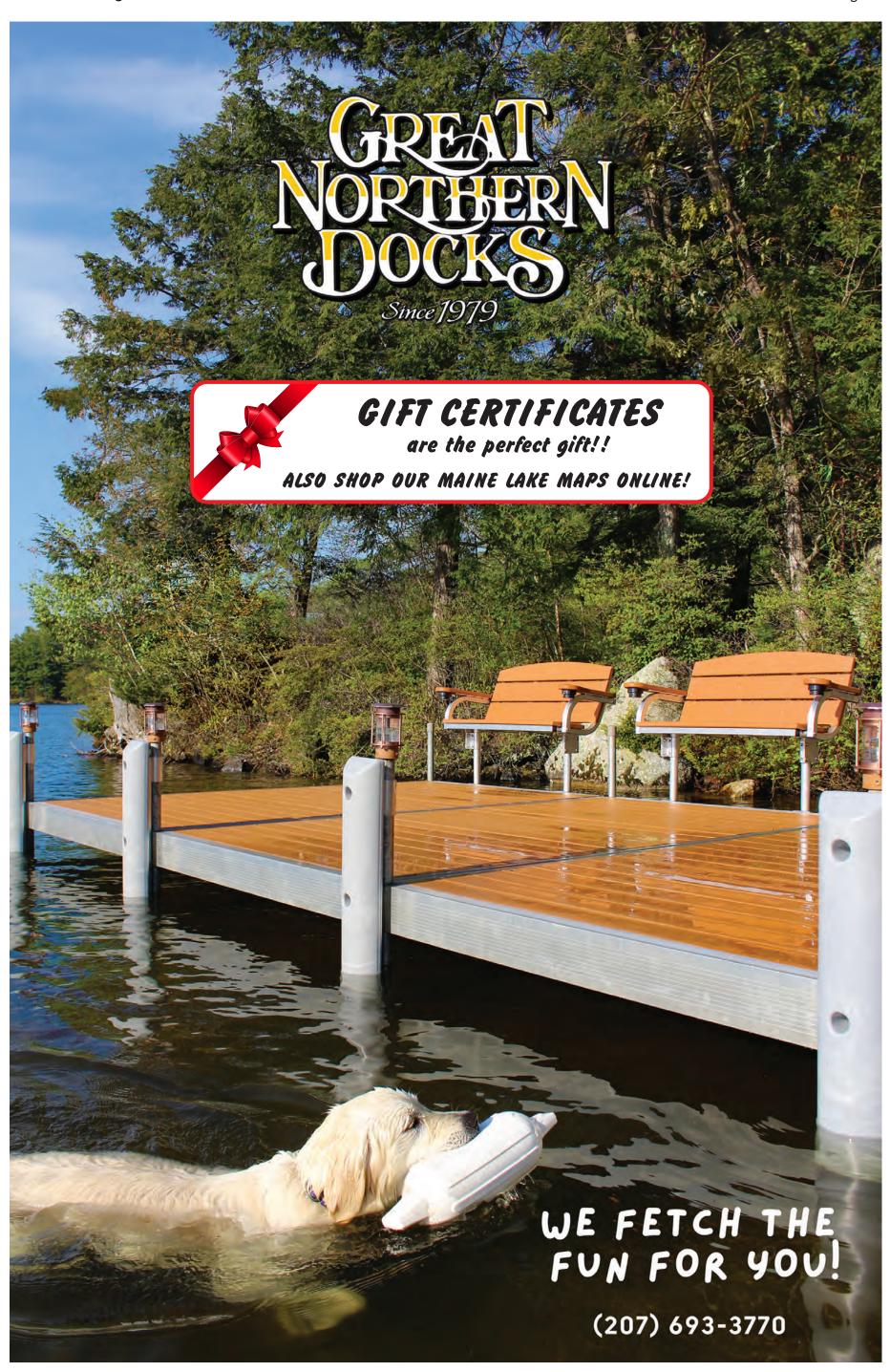








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## **Community donations sought for Christmas season**

By Ed Pierce

Residents of the Lakes Region are known for their willingness to help their neighbors in need and their generosity especially during the holidays.

This year is no exception and there are many ways throughout the community to bring much-needed holiday cheer and assistance to those experiencing difficulties this Christmas.

Here's a quick rundown for ways you can help others in the community this holiday season:

North Windham Veterinary Hospital at 1 Badger Run in Windham and

Sticky Buds, 815 Roosevelt Trail, Suite 1 are collection points for the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots campaign. The Toys for Tots Program collects new, unwrapped toys each year and distributes those toys as Christmas gifts to needy children in the community in which the campaign is conducted. The last date to drop off toys at North Windham Veterinary Hospital is Dec. 9 and Sticky Buds is Dec. 13. Pet supplies plus at 770 Roosevelt Trail Suite 2 in Windham, and Windham Automotive, Inc. at 385 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, are collecting new unwrapped toys for

Toys for Tots and will accept donations through Dec.15.

Monetary donations are requested for Kids Peace of Cumberland County. The organization gives toys, food, gift cards and holiday Christmas baskets to low-income families in Windham and Raymond. To help with a donation, call 774-226-8414.

It Takes a Village 207 helps struggling families get on their feet, while making them feel loved and understood. It has Amazon wish lists to shop from on their Facebook page and a convenient Venmo to make donations to support their program. You can also

**HOLIDAY** 

Gifts & Events

contact them if you want to sponsor a child or family. To make arrangements call 207-322-7065. There are It Takes a Village 207 toy collection boxes at The Windham Eagle, 585 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, On the Docks, 889 Roosevelt Trail in Windham, and Percy's Table and Better Fit Fitness at 111 Ossipee Trail East in Standish. All items are due back Dec. 14.

Windham Neighbors Helping Neighbors provides one-time emergency assistance to those Windham and Raymond residents who require immediate heating fuel. It uses its re-

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GIVING Cont. from page 8

sources on behalf of those who have fallen through the cracks and either don't qualify or are stuck in a bureaucratic process waiting for assistance from other entities. To make a donation or to volunteer to help, call 207-749-1336.

Blue Seal Feed at 43 Main St. in Windham is a collection point for Home Instead's "Be A Santa To A Senior" program. It has requests from seniors in need for items such as socks, gloves, scarves or stationary supplies that you purchase and return to the location or to Home Instead at 502 Main St. in Gorham no later than Wednesday, Dec. 4.

Rustler's Steakhouse at 61 Tandberg Trail in Windham and Lake House Tavern at 907 Roosevelt Trail in Windham have giving trees where patrons select a request for a gift for a child and then purchase and return them to the restaurant. For more details, call Rustler's at 207-892-8808 or Lake House Tavern at 207-894-3020.

Consider making a donation to

many local nonprofit organizations, such as the Windham Food Pantry 207-892-1931; Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center at 207-892-2813; the Raymond Food Pantry at 207-655-4334; the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals at 207-892-3040, Safe Kids Maine at 830-1123;

or the Sebago Lakes Region Fuller Center for Housing at 207-387-0855. The Windham Lions Club provides Christmas assistance to area families in need and gratefully accepts donations. To donate to the Lions Club's holiday assistance program, call 207-892-5690.

Knuckle Up Customs at 608-A Roosevelt Trail in Windham is conducting a coat drive for children. Along

with coats, drop off new and gently

used hats, gloves, mittens, snowpants and boots. Monetary donations and gift cards will also be accepted through Dec. 13. Call 207-232-5533 for more details.

The Essentials
Pantry at St. Ann's
Episcopal Church,
40 Windham Center
Road in Windham
serves all those in
need in the Wind-

ham area and provides bags of cleaning products and personal hygiene products provided by parishioners, local businesses, and benevolent organizations in the Greater Windham area. Monetary donations for the program can be made by calling 207-892-8447 or mailing a check to St. Ann's Episcopal Church, 40 Windham Center Road, Windham, ME 04062.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Church, 919 Roosevelt Taril in Windham is looking for warm winter clothing to give to those in need in the community. The church is asking for donations of warm clothing and gently used outerwear and putting it in the red barrel located in the Narthex coat room. Clothing will be distributed monthly. For further information, call 207-446-1012.

Windham American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 places wreaths every Christmas season on the graves of deceased military veterans in Windham cemeteries. It gratefully accepts monetary donations to keep the wreath program going. All are welcome to support the placements on Dec. 7 beginning at 9 a.m. To make a donation or for more info, call 207-892-1306.

Both Windham Primary School and Windham Middle School each have programs available to assist families in need during the holidays. Call the schools at 207-892-1840 or 207-892-1820 to see what types of donations are needed. <











BOOK Cont. from page 1

said. "I didn't have time to think about it. The melody and words came gushing out and in 20 minutes it was done."

His inspiration for the song's lyrics came from his recollections of his early life in Sidney and many Christmas seasons he spent there with his family growing up.

Maine actor Gary Merrill, the former husband of actress Bette Davis, recorded the opening narration for "The Maine Christmas Song" and Fullam then asked his friend, singer Malina Liberty, to record the tune in Portland. When it was first released in November 1987, the song became an instant sensation with proceeds from sales donated to Maine Credit Union League's "End Hunger" initiative.

According to Mulligan, it took about 18 months from coming up with the book idea to its completion.

She said she was thrilled with the final product.

"It represents generations before us, but the message is timeless," Mulligan said. "We're trying to preserve the goodness and sharing with oth-

Fullam, who is included in the 2023 Marquis edition of "Who's Who in America," said he was delighted when he saw a proof of the "Maine Christmas Song" book.

"I really had no idea how it would turn out, but it was great," he said. "The feedback I get about it is always wonderful. People all have stories about the song and what it's meant to them and how it's been a part of their lives."

The "Maine Christmas Song" books are available in bookstores and gift shops throughout Maine, and online at McSeabooks.com and Amazon.com. <

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The Windham Eagle Page 11

## **Chamber preparing for 'Bid of Christmas' auctions**

By Ed Pierce

Amber Rankine has only been the President and Chief Executive Officer for the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce since October but she's about to take part in one of the chamber's most popular annual events, the "Bid of Christmas" auction.

This year's holiday chamber gathering will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 at Rustler's Steakhouse, 61 Tandberg Trail in Windham and will include festive holiday food, a cash bar, live music, shopping and both a live auction and a silent auction of prizes donated to the chamber for the event.

Rankine said anyone can participate and bid for items in the chamber's live online auction which runs from Dec. 6 to Dec. 13. Auction items for the online auction may be viewed online by visiting BID of Christmas Online Auction. The link can be found on the homepage at www.sebagolakeschamber.com.

"We are expecting to auction off around 70 to 80 items and that is combined with the live/silent and online auctions together," Rankine said. "Money raised from the auction goes toward the support of other events that we contribute to during the course of the year as well as for our Feed the Need Campaign."

Feed the Need is funded by the Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce Charitable Trust and benefits local food pantries in the communities of Casco, Gray, Naples, New Gloucester, Raymond, Sebago, Standish and Windham.

→ see **BOC** Page 12







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BOC Cont. from page 11

This will be the first time that Rustler's steakhouse will host the chamber's annual holiday event.

"Rustlers, the hosting location, is stellar. The auction, the people, the vendors, the food, it's all an amazing experience," Rankine said. "It's a networking event but with lots of holiday cheer and laughs. It's one of the few times a year we can all collectively come together and appreciate what we

do for one another as a community."

About 75 people are expected to attend the holiday chamber gathering at Rustler's and that's in line with previous chamber events in December. The "Bid of Christmas" auction has proven its worth over the years since its inception and has helped raise thousands for chamber activities and charitable causes.

"My primary goal for this year is to foster a sense of unity and collaboration among local businesses, com-

munity members, and stakeholders," Rankine said. "Of course, I would love to see us hit financial benchmarks for subsequent years but that's not what is most important. It's truly a great way for the chamber to honor, recognize and showcase our amazing businesses through auction contributions to the lo-

cals, visitors, and business part-

ners that join in on the event." The "Bid Christmas" auctions are sponsored by the chamber, Ruster's Steak-

house, M&T Bank, Fielding' Oil & Propane Company, Paul's Boutique and Maine State Credit Union.

Some of the items up for auction so far include gift cards to Natural Beauty Day Spa; a gift certificate for a onehour private pickleball lesson at The Woodlands Club; a gift bag from On the Docks; a gift card for Bob's Seafood; a gift certificate for a free exam at Lake Region Animal Hospital; a holiday table decoration from Willow

Sebago Lakes Region A Community Wide Initiative to Eliminate Hunger

Tree Primitive Shop; a gift card from Erik"s Church; a set of Tick Tweezers from Mainely Ticks; a gift card for Sportsman's Kitchen and Keg; a gift card for Aroma Joe's; a gift certificate for a two-hour set of live music with Doc and Dave; and a gift card for Rustler's steakhouse. More items are expected to be added soon.

People are welcome to attend the live "Bid of Christmas" auction in person at Rustler's. RSVP is suggested but not required. If you would like to participate in the online auction or RSVP to the live event you may find the links on the homepage of their website at www.sebagolakeschamber.com <





**Teacher:** Mrs. Jorgensen

**Favorite subject(s) in school:** Art is his favorite because it is his passion. He is really good at art.

Parents' names: Nicole and Adam

Reason for selection: Cole Costa is a funny, bright learner. He is a sensitive soul who constantly pushes himself and tries hard to do the right thing. He is a very kind and helpful person who loves to do jobs around the classroom. Cole is very artistic and loves to draw and do

crafts. His teacher has many of his beautiful drawings decorating her classroom. Cole really works hard at following the rules at school. He is often seen smiling in the hallways and saying, "Hi."

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## **Holiday Celebration brings Christmas cheer to town**

By Ed Pierce

As the song says, "it's the most wonderful time of the year" and beginning this Sunday night, families in the Lakes Region will be able to personally welcome in the Christmas season during the Annual Holiday Light Parade in Windham.

Hosted by the Windham Fire/Rescue Department, the Windham Police Department, and the Windham Parks and Recreation Department, the immensely popular annual parade will kick off at 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 1. Floats will line up and leave from Stadium Drive and the parade route travels throughout the Windham school campus before ending up at Windham Middle School.

This is the fifth consecutive year that this parade will be held in Windham. In 2020, the parade replaced the long running traditional Windham tree lighting event which was held every year at the Windham Public Safety Building on Gray Road.



Windham's Annual Holiday Light Parade starts will be able to gather and see all the floats and to Windham school campus before ending up at wave hello to Santa and Windham Middle School. The public is invited to a Christmas party after the parade inside WMS to meet Santa and Mrs. Claus. COURTESY PHOTO

Will be able to gather and see all the floats and to wave hello to Santa and Mrs. Claus during the parade.

The parade will fea-

The tree lighting ceremony had grown so much since it was first launched in 2016 that it was reaching maximum capacity for an event of its kind, and a decision was made by Windham Parks and Recreation to try a new activity. It turned out that the Holiday Light Parade launched in 2020 proved to be instantly popu-

lar with Windham residents and has been able to accommodate more local families and residents looking to participate.

For those seeking the best vantage point to view this year's parade, it will be from the grounds of the Windham school campus where families will be able to gather and see all the floats and to wave hello to Santa and Mrs. Claus during the parade.

The parade will feature an array of brightly decorated Windham Fire/Rescue Department trucks and vehicles, along with Windham Police Department cars, a Windham Parks and Recreation vehicle, and Windham Public Works vehicles.

Each participating Windham vehicle in the Holiday Light Parade will be lit up with hundreds of brilliant electric Christmas bulbs and will include a wide variety of Christmas décor to usher in the season in style.

Following the parade, participants are invited to gather in the Windham Middle School gymnasium for a Christmas party to enjoy hot chocolate, listen to holiday music, make reindeer food and Snowman soup, work on some Christmas crafts, play some holiday games, and take photographs with Santa and Mrs. Claus.

Handicap parking for the parade and the Christmas-themed party afterward will be available in the front Windham Middle School parking lot.

No registration is required to attend the parade, event organizers remind the public that no pets are allowed on the school grounds.

Those looking to attend or to find more information such as the parade route and the best spectator locations to see it can visit the Windham Parks and Rec. website at Windhamrecreation.com or call 207-892-1905.





## EVERLASTING GRATITUDE WREATH PROGRAM AMERICAN LEGION FIELD-ALLEN POST 148

Everlasting Gratitude Wreath Program, founded in 2013, is a program which ensures all 1,000 Veteran graves in Windham cemeteries (Arlington and Smith Cemeteries) get a wreath

with a red, white, and blue bows placed at their resting place

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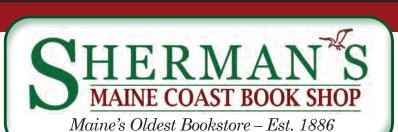




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## There's always a reason to be thankful

By Jeff 'Chief' Urbaniak SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope each and every one of you are thankful for something or someone this Thanksgiving season. Enjoy some time with family and friends, and if you know someone who is alone on Thanksgiving, invite them to join your Thanksgiving gathering.

There are times that we all feel some degree of despair in our lives and find it difficult to have a thankful mindset. Some more than others. It can be tempting to be bitter, envious, or maybe even jealous when we don't feel like we get our fair share of resources, joyous relationships, or good health. But don't let those moments consume or ruin you. You have much to be thankful for regardless of your circumstances.

So this Thanksgiving season, try to find things you are thankful for and place them at the forefront of your thoughts.

Here are some things that can bring someone to the realization that they should be thankful:

First and foremost, the fact you're alive is a great reason to be thankful. You've been given an opportunity to be a human being on Earth. Just think about that for a moment. If you didn't have that opportunity, you'd never know the joys associated with your

senses or the intellectual enlightenment brought on by learning new things.

The overall experience of life is certainly a gift that we should be grateful for. Enjoy your gift for as long as you can.

Next, America is a great place to live. In America you can choose any kind of life you want (legally) without reprisal. Regardless of your background or situation, there are opportunities for you if you are willing to make an effort.

Even people born in poor and broken-down neighborhoods have avenues to take if they're willing to travel them

Other countries are similar to America indeed, but many are wartorn, poverty stricken, government regulated, or rampant with disease. Be thankful you live in a country with such opportunity, health, wealth, and freedom.

Everyone's situation is different.

Obviously, some people are more fortunate than others. However, if you're able to pay your bills, live in a building, eat meals, stay warm and safe, or are in good health, you have reasons to be thankful. Somewhere, someone is not so lucky. Somewhere, someone is laying on a sewer grate trying to stay warm.

Somewhere, someone is standing in line at a soup kitchen for a meal they can't afford (or they are pilfering through a garbage dumpster near a restaurant). Somewhere, someone is sick and has no healthcare insurance. Somewhere, someone's house burned to the ground. Somewhere, someone is sitting in a nursing home with no one coming to visit them. In a shelter service somewhere, there's a woman and her child sleeping on cots because her husband has battered her and she has nowhere else to go. Somewhere, someone is going through a painful divorce. Somewhere, someone just found out they have terminal cancer with a diagnosis of just six months left to live. In a gang-ridden neighborhood somewhere, someone is trying to get home without getting mugged or shot

Somewhere, someone has it worse than you.

So as you can see, in the grand scheme of things, life may not be as bad for you as it currently seems. Of course, you may have a legitimate issue that sets you back temporarily, but that's all it has to be: a temporary thing.

We all have and feel them from time to time. It's how you think and what you do afterwards that determines if your setback is temporary or perma-

Being thankful for what you have is a first, great step in not letting your setback linger on longer than necessary.

Years ago a wise man gave me some great insight. He said that I already have what I need and to not waste time needing what I want.

So I learned to be grateful for what I have and to know that it's enough. And in time, I'll have more opportunities to be even more grateful -- and so will you!

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## **LELT to build loop trail at Sebago Cove Forest**

By Ed Pierce

Less than a year after conserving 362 acres along the shoreline of Se-bago Cove in Naples, Loon Echo Land Trust (LELT) has obtained funding from the Land for Maine's Future program for construction of a loop trail at Sebago Cove Forest.

In a statement posted on social media, LELT Executive Director Matt Markot said that construction of the new loop trail is scheduled to begin in 2025, along with a nearby new offstreet parking area.

"This 2-mile loop trail will improve public access to Sebago Cove For-est, guiding visitors right to the shore of Sebago Cove," Markot said. "The trail will be accessible by car or boat. Our work goes beyond con-serving land

for wildlife and water quality. Supporting and directly providing access to the outdoors is at the center of our mission."

This comes on the heels of LELT's multi-year fundraising effort which allowed it to purchase a conservation easement from the landowner, Oani-SC LLC, enabling LELT to conserve the undeveloped forest land. While Sebago Cove Forest remains under private ownership, the easement permanently secured public access for hunting, fishing, hik-ing, and other recreational activities while prohibiting commercial and residential development and subdivision.

"The Lake Region has a long and proud tradition of public use on private land for hunting and fishing," Markot said. "We're proud to pro-tect

those traditional uses and enhance access for other recreational activities."

Conservation easements limit future development and ensure that working forests, farmland, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and scenic beauty remain an important part of the regional landscape for generations to come. LELT's conservation easement for Sebago Cove Forest will run with the land regardless of future ownership.

Sebago Cove Forest is an important addition to the region's network of conserved lands in the Lakes Region because of its 2,500 feet of frontage on Sebago Cove, part of Sebago

→ see **LELT** Page 24



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**PARTICIPANTS** 

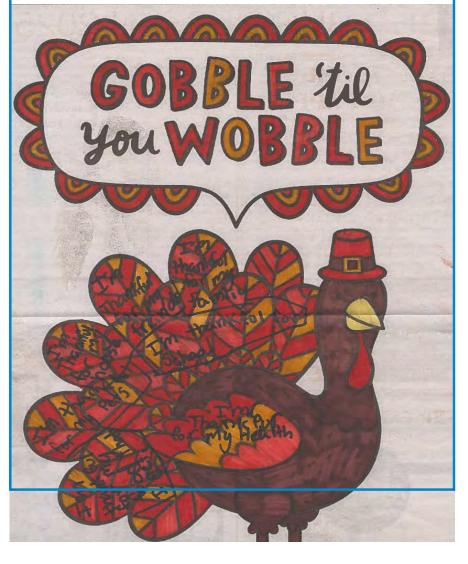
THAT ENTERED

**OUR CONTEST!** 

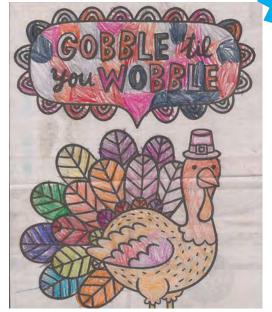
Due to limited space not all have been published. (These are in

Thanksgiving COLORING CONTEST

Congratulations to our Winner Clara Davis, Age 10, of Windham



Runner Up: Phoibe Villacci, Age 5, of Windham







Lucy Johnson, Age 5



Lydia York, Age 13



Penelope Townsend, Age 8



Myra Hammond, Age 11



Lia Christopher, Age 9



Darya Sheehan, Age 6



Jackie Pennell, Age 10



Jaxson Stanley, Age 8



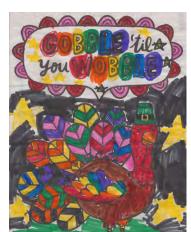
Logan Stanley, Age 6



Etta Sparrow, Age 12



Isaac Littlefield, Age 8



Reese Milone, Age 5

The Windham Eagle — Page 21







Aubrey Vargas, Age 5



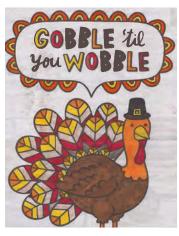
Liam Hughes, Age 10



Natalie Fiske, Age 8



Gwen Cobb, Age 8



Connor McGovern, Age 10



Rosalee Lewis, Age 11



Clara Hughes, Age 10



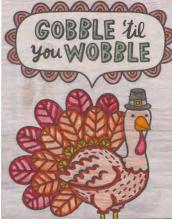
Liana Popov, Age 8



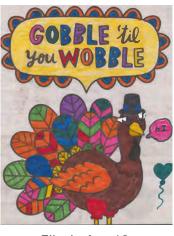
Lydia Foley, Age 6



William Petersen, Age 7



Layla Brinkman, Age 8



Ella J., Age 12



Haylee Royer, Age 9



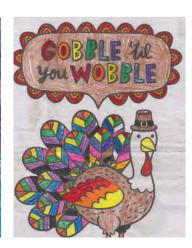
Mabel Bennett, Age 5



Bryce Coffin, Age 7



Virgil Aldrich, Age 7



Michael Aldrich, Age 9



Makayla Roghelia, Age 12



Ronan Green, Age 7



Brock Milone, Age 8



Finley Bennett, Age 7



Will Stewart, Age 10



Brooklyn Koza, Age 5



Laurel Jerry, Age 3

## Eagle SPORTIS

## WHS girls' basketball anticipates successful season

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

The start of the varsity girls' basketball regular season is just a week away and Windham High is in position to be a contender with experienced returning players and new additions making WHS tough to beat.

"I think our goal is to work together and play as a team and I feel like already with this first tryout that we've had, I think we are already achieving that goal," said Windham junior Addison Caiazzo. "I'm excited to see how the season goes. Our dynamic and team bonding (from last year can be a positive this year), because we only lost one senior last year, so I think just keeping that bond and bringing it over to this year."

The team focus this year is to bring in as much positive energy to everything the team works on in practice and to translate that positivity to bring high energy into their games.

"We are excited to start the season, with a team that is mixed with some veteran players as well as some new additions to the roster that are going to step into some big roles in a major way," said Windham varsity girls' basketball coach Brody Artes. "Our overall goal is always to win a state championship, but the emphasis will be playing our best basketball in February. Marked improvement from November to February is something we always strive for."

Artes and his coaching staff want players to improve individually each day by working hard in practice, recognizing their strengths and how they can use those strengths to contribute to the team's success, and to be the best version of themselves during the playoffs.

"I'm really going to focus on being







(L to R) Windham junior Addison Caiazzo holds the ball as she glances toward the hoop during the girls' basketball tryout on Monday, Nov. 18 at Windham High School. Junior Marley Jarvais gets a pass off. Sophomore Mackenzie Delewski goes in for a layup. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA



Freshman Yani Kostopoulos takes the ball to the basket.

positive with my teammates, especially with it being such a younger team," said Windham senior Stella Jarvais.

"I'm working to be more positive and more team-oriented when it comes to practices and having high energy and being inclusive with everyone. Last year it was ... a growing year for our team. At the end of the year, we started to learn our new offense, so I think working through the summer and being able to incorporate it now in the early season, I think we're going to be able to get it down and run it continuously. Obviously to make it to the tournament is a goal; making it there, and just having a fun last year with the people that I love."

Windham will continue to be a strong defensive team. The overall size and strength of their players will be a significant benefit this season. Jarvais and sophomore Mackenzie Delewski will lead the way with both players being great defenders and a significant threat offensively. Junior Marley Jar-

vais will be a defensive specialist for Windham, as a very adaptable player who can guard all five positions.

"I will approach the upcoming season with a positive and a determined mindset," said Delewski. "Last year we were a very young team that lost to Bangor early in playoffs by just a few buckets, I feel like this year we can go much farther as long as we work hard and fine tune our skills. Last year I learned what it takes to be a varsity athlete; it meant being a smarter player because I was up against older girls, and it also meant learning new plays and how the team works together. My goals for this year include our team making it to the Civic Center and trying our best in each and every one of

The regular season opens for Windham at 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 6 against Lewiston at home. <

## TANKER OF THE WARRENCE

# WINDHAM

### Zoe Dries

**Age:** 17

**Team:** Windham High School Field Hockey **Coach:** Cory DiDonato

**Parents' names:** Kim Palmer Dries and Brian Dries **Reason for selection:** Zoe has been a huge part of the Windham High School Field Hockey team's success this season. She has tallied 10 goals already and has even played a large part of the team's defensive setup. Coaches say that she is the most versatile play-

er they've ever coached and she always puts the team first. Zoe's field hockey IQ is off the charts, and coaches say that the team is lucky to have her.

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The Windham Eagle

## Senior Cunniffe commits to Bates College to play soccer

By Matt Pascarella

Like many kids at a young age, they try out a variety of sports before they find one that sticks. Once Windham senior Luke Cunniffe first played soccer, it did not take him long to fall in love with the game.

He decided early on that this was a sport worth his time and that dedication has continued up until today. Cunniffe will continue his soccer career at the next level and has committed to attend Bates College in Lewiston, where he will major in economics with a minor in math, while also playing soc-

cer for the Bobcats.

like to stay involved in soccer through coaching and provide local communities with the opportunity to play at low or no cost.

"Luke's drive and work ethic to make himself a better player sets an example for others to follow," said Windham varsity boys' soccer coach Jeff Neal. "He places very high expectations on himself. More often than not, you'd see Luke out on the pitch, in all kinds of weather, either working out by himself or with a group of teammates he helped organize. Luke's technical ability on the ball, coupled with his vision in reading and understanding the game should definitely help him fit in and adjust to the increased pace and physicality of the collegiate level as he makes the jump to the next level of play."

The first time Cunniffe stepped on the soccer field he was 3. It wasn't only the thrill of playing that held his interest, but the relationships he made through playing. He loves the game and the strategy of it; he loves learning from teammates. He's put in a lot a time practicing his game. He would even shovel the driveway as a kid so he could practice.





After college, Cun- (L to R) Windham senior Luke Cunniffe has had a spectacular prep career and has committed to attend Bates College niffe would like to get in Lewiston where he will major in economics with a minor in math, while playing for the Bobcats' mens' soccer team. involved in business PHOTO BY AMY WITHAM CUNNIFFE Cunniffe competes during the boys' soccer semifinal match against Portland on Nov. 2 at analytics. He would also Windham. Cunniffe looks to pass the ball in a boys' soccer match against Scarborough on Oct. 1. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

> "Luke is such a good teammate because he can give advice, but he's not harping on you," said his friend and Windham teammate senior Lukas Hammond. "He teaches you and he'll show you how to do it because he knows how to; he's always been good at that. He made our (Windham) team so much better with his leadership, whether it was ... how we were acting in school or on the field and how to play and how to improve our game. He'll bring a lot of talent and his competitive nature (to Bates). He's just a great teammate and he'll bring all of what he's always had, probably much more. I hope to see him grow in the offseason as well. He's not just a great guy on the field, he's a great guy off the field - he's awesome, that's just what he is. He's smart, he's always there for you."

> It's taken a lot of hard work on the field and in the classroom for Cunniffe to reach this point. He has seized many opportunities to improve, like playing semi-professionally in the United Premier Soccer League for Lewiston Stars or for Seacoast Soccer in New Hampshire and Kennedy Park Football Club in Portland. This has

allowed him to push himself against some of the best players statewide.

"I am extremely excited about having the opportunity to play for Bates next year," said Cunniffe. "Starting college and playing soccer with a new team will definitely bring its nerves. However, I am looking forward to the opportunity to push myself and work as hard as the more experienced players. With new coaches comes a new culture and I am really excited about being part of that. I am going to bring my drive and dedication to improve myself and others around me every day into training and games. It will take time for me to find my role within the team, but I feel I can be a great addition to what they already have."

Cunniffe says he would also like to thank his mom, his dad and his brother Sean, who have all supported and believed in him which helped contribute to his successes. <









Lake. It is part of a large network of undeveloped forest land near Sebago Lake and home to countless wetlands, vernal pools, wild brook trout habitat, and deer wintering areas.

It is also within the traditional and unceded territory of the Abenaki, a member tribe of the Wabanaki Confederacy. The Abenaki First Na-tions of Odanak and Wôlinak maintain reservations along the St. Francis and St. Lawrence Rivers in the Canadian province of Quebec, where they sought refuge from colonial warfare

in the Saco and An-droscoggin River watersheds during the 17th and 18th centuries.

Markot said that protecting the Sebago Cove Forest also plays an im-portant role in safeguarding the water quality of Sebago Lake, which is the source of drinking water for more than 200,000 Maine residents and many Cumberland County businesses. Sebago Lake is so clean, thanks in large part to its forested watershed, that it is just one of 50 surface water suppliers out of more than 13,000 nationally that is not required to be filtered.

The new loop trail will be funded with financial assistance from the Land for Maine's Future Fund, part of the Land for Maine's Future Program, which is the State of Maine's primary funding source for conserving land for its natural, economic, and recreational value.

Loon Echo
Land Trust was
founded in 1987, Loon Echo La
and is a nonprofit
organ-ization that
protects land, ensures public access to the outdoor

sures public access to the outdoors, and builds and maintains recreational trails in Raymond, Casco, Naples, Harrison, Sebago, Bridgton, and Denmark. The organization currently conserves more than 8,500 acres of



founded in 1987, Loon Echo Land Trust has obtained funding from the and is a nonprofit Land for Maine's Future program for construction organ-ization that of a loop trail at Sebago Cove Forest in Naples.

land and manages a 35-mile trail network across the Lake Region. LELT protects many important local landmarks like Pleasant Mountain, Bald Pate Mountain, Raymond Community Forest and Hacker's Hill. <

### **LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

**TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE** 

## PLANNING BOARD PUBLIC MEETING & WORKSHOP

Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM

### Wednesday, December 11, 2024 7:00 PM

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Meeting and Workshop at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on **Wednesday**, **December 11**, **2024**, **at 7:00 pm** on the following matters:

#### PUBLIC HEARING ON WORKSHOP FOR THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

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

## WORKSHOP TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING PROPOSED ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS:

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

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

#### JOIN ZOOM MEETING

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82322800834?pwd=lnVtK6EG6TH38tY7sB FHqxGX7R1uUA.1 Meeting ID: 823 2280 0834

Passcode: fdvMW6

ONE TAP MOBILE Meeting ID: 823 2280 0834

Passcode: 418646

Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kd5y6dDwJL

### **LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

## TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday, December 4, 2024 – 6:30pm

At the Broadcast Studio 423 Webbs Mills Rd, Raymond ME 04071 & Via ZOOM

The Town of Raymond will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, December 4, 2024, at 6:30pm for the purpose of receiving public input on the Comprehensive Plan.

The complete text of related documents is available online at compplan.raymondmaine.org and at the Town Office.

Zoom link can be found on the Town's website calendar notification for this meeting.

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The Windham Eagle Page 25

## Fire safety for stick season

By Warren O'Shea SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



I was in the midst of putting together an article about the typical winter prep suggestions like turning off and draining outdoor spigots, — Warren O'Shea
Owner, O'Shea Builders

disconnecting gar-

den hoses, air sealing windows, and breaking down what frequently causes ice dams when I smelled the smoke.

It wasn't that comforting, seasoned hardwood in the woodstove on a damp and chilly morning that gets the yuletide juices flowing type of smoke. It was plastic. Nauseous and toxic plastic. White, double 4-inch with faux embossed wood grain vinyl siding plastic to be overly specific. Of course, I think to myself, "it's only 50 degrees out, it's way too warm to burn plastic."

I then looked out my window and saw the smoke. And I think to myself," it's way too warm to burn a boatload of plastic."

This begins my article. My neighbor's house caught on fire. Everybody is safe, the family cat "Bob" took refuge under my '79 International Scout

in the barn where I find him sometimes. He's an aloof guy and for the most part, has stopped peeing on my dropcloths. I believe we have come to a silent understanding. The home appears to be a total loss. Five towns responded and a backhoe was called in to pull the metal roof off to get to the burning rafters.

No word yet as to what started the fire, but I will use this as an opportunity to convey what I know about the fire safety code in no particular order. You may have heard this before but.... Smoke detectors only work if they have power to them. Hard wired, interconnected, photo electric, with battery back-up is the standard. It is a good idea to test them monthly.

There currently is no "National Change Your Smoke Detector Battery Day" but it is recommended by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) to replace old batteries with new ones every six months and replace the detector itself every 10 years. It is a common First Responder recommendation to change the batteries in your alarms when Daylight Savings begins in the spring and ends in the fall, as this is an easy way to remember to do it twice each year.

Egress windows for bedrooms

In Maine, egress windows must meet the following minimum size. A minimum of 5.7 Square Feet, a minimum height of 24 inches, a minimum width of 20 inches, and be no more than 44 inches above the finished floor. These minimums are not based entirely on the occupant's ability to escape but by the fire/rescue personnel, and their gear, to enter the building.

#### Fire extinguishers

Our friends at NFPA have some more recommendations. A multipurpose ABC, dry chemical extinguisher is a good choice for homes but needs to be readily accessible, stored away from a heat source, and kept out of reach of children and a certain Black Lab named Misha (buy me a beer and I'll tell you the story). You should also consider keeping an additional "Class K" extinguisher in your kitchen for cooking fires. Class K extinguishers

use alkaline chemicals to mix with cooking oils and fats to form a foam that cools the fire. In an emergency baking soda or salt can be used only if the fire is small. It takes a lot of baking soda to do the job, so be sure to sprinkle in an even layer. The heated powder releases Carbon Dioxide which smothers the flame.

#### Plan for fire emergency

Pull together everyone in your household and make a plan. Walk through your home and inspect all possible exits and escape routes. Households with children should consider drawing a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out of each room, including windows and doors. You can share your updated floor plan with the town office, so they have it in your property file. Rescue personnel can pull that floor plan en route and be able to navigate through

→ see **REAL ESTATE** Page 28





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#### HOLIDAY ROUNDUP WORD SEARCH S G L Ε R Α Ε В K Α 0 Ε S D R F В X Н 0 Ε D 0 K 0 Ι Ι W Ζ N U Ε C Α S S N Т Ι D C C 0 R G Ε Н U R W R Ε C D 0 0 Ε S S Ε S N 0 R S Ε Ι Ε G Н Т S Α Z L S Т Ι G N ٧ F Z Т Ε Α Z W K 0 X U Ε Α N Α Ε G U В N Ι F Υ ٧ G Α М Ε

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

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## 

Solve the code to discover words related to veterans. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 26 = E)

**26 17 26** 22 A.

Clue: One who served in the military

В. 26 22 12 7 **26** 

Clue: Participation in the military

C. 14 5 22

Clue: Show of respect

12 22 D. 9 3 5

Clue: Strength of mind or spirit

#### LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

	В	Е	С	K						R	Е	s	Т	
F	U	s	ı	Ν	G				s	Α	М	Α	R	Α
R	Е	Р	R	0	0	F		Р	Α	С	ı	F	1	С
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	Р	Е	N	Ν						М	0	D	s	



## 14 16 22 38 48 52 53 56 **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Hand (Spanish) 37. Clarified butters

- 5. Siskel and \_\_\_, critics
- 10. Seaman
- 12. Chemical weapon
- 14. One who eliminates
- 16. They precede C
- 18. Baseball stat
- 19. Americans' "uncle"
- 20. Cassia tree
- 22. Surround

**OSSWORD P** 

Answers: A. veteran B. service C. honor D. valor

- 23. Crisp and Pebbles are two
- 25. A sudden very loud sound
- 26. Affirmative
- 27. Disadvantage
- 28. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
- 30. OJ trial judge
- 31. New York art district
- 33. Become more bleak
- 35. Upstate NY city

- 38. One who witnesses
- 40. Condemn
- 41. \_\_ juris
- 42. Natural
- 44. Prohibit
- 45. Swiss river 48. Greek war god
- 50. 5 iron
- 52. New Zealand mountain parrot
- 53. Scandinavian surname
- 55. Follows sigma
- 56. Doctor of Education
- 57. Spanish be
- 58. One that feeds on bugs
- 63. Tooth issue
- 65. Get into
- 66. Lumps of clay
- 67. Overly studious student

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 1. Variety of Chinese
- 2. Boxing's GOAT
- 3. Japanese classical theater
- 4. Prayer
- 5. Inspire with love
- 6. Ballplayers' accessory
- 7. Retailer payment system
- 8. More raw
- 9. Atomic #81
- 10. Fencing sword 11. Hostilities
- 13. Sea dweller
- 15. Resinlike substance
- secreted by certain insects 17. Businessmen
- 18. Rest here please (abbr.)
- 21. Loud devices

- 24. One point west of due south
- 27. Trout
- 29. Type of grass

- 32. South American plant
- 34. Letter of the Greek alphabet
- 35. Not secure
- 36. Traveler
- 39. Sweet potato
- 40. Period after sunrise and before sunset
- 43. Some are choppy
- 44. Asian country
- 46. Genus of mosquitoes
- 47. Cool! 49. Shrill, wailing sound
- 51. A baglike structure in a plant
- or animal 54. Within
- 59. Unhappy
- 60. Decorate a cake with frosting
- 23. Make a soft murmuring sound 61. Videocassette recorder
  - 62. Largest English dictionary (abbr. 64. It cools a home

## SUDOKU

6						8	3			
7			8	9				4		
8		3		2		5				
	5	8								
oronolo	3					4		5		
4				www			2			
	6		2					9		
5	7	ageorge V	3				4	8		
9				5		sessely.				

#### **HOW TO SOLVE:**

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

#### **LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS**

8	3	2	6	4	9	5	7	george
9	4	7	work.	8	5	3	6	2
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The Windham Eagle — Page 27

## PLEASE NOTE: THE BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT IS A PAID ADVERTISEMENT. TO HAVE YOUR BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTED CALL MELISSA: 207-894-3500

Based upon expert opinion, as interest rates continue to fall and the real estate market is poised to become redhot again, sellers seeking a competitive edge and new homeowners looking to put their own stamp on a new place have creative local experts available to help. TS Staging and Design offers expert assistance to homeowners and may just turn out to be the best investment they've ever considered.

TS Staging and Design provides an array of helpful services ranging from home staging to interior redesign, color consultation and Airbnb design. Company Owner and Co-Founder Theresa Bouchard, Co-Founder and Lead Designer Stephanie Eklund and Designer Amber Bouchard channel their creativity and use it to turn spaces beautiful through color, design, décor accessories, and proper room arrangement.

"Professional home staging is the primary part of TS Staging and Design. We also offer interior design for homeowners that wish to make changes to their existing home or investment properties and homeowners that have recently purchased a new home and want to make it their own with updates," Theresa Bouchard said. "We believe all homeowners should have the opportunity to stage their homes to make them shine above the rest. Therefore, we offer packages that will fit any budget. Our priority at TS Staging and Design is to develop long-lasting pro-



fessional relationships, superior customer service and curate designs to attract buyers or make homeowners fall in love with their homes again."

Serving all Southern Maine, TS Staging and Design is excited to announce that it has purchased a new warehouse at 630 Roosevelt Trail in Windham and will hold its Grand Opening there in January 2025 celebrating the four-year anniversary of the company. The new facility will help the company continue to grow and improve services. It also has partnered with a local company, All-Haul Junk Removal and Recycling, to become their exclusive movers.

"It really puts us on a different level," Bouchard said. "And it helps us tremendously to create designs that tell a story and attract buyers to all the properties we stage."

Bouchard said with the real estate market predictions for the months ahead, staging can make a significant difference for homeowners which will help them sell their home fast with a financial award.

"According to the Real Estate Stag-

ing Association (RESA), staged homes can sell for up to 15 percent more than non-staged homes," she said. "The investment in professional staging can yield significant returns for sellers in terms of final sale price. Over 85 percent of staged homes sell for their asking price or above, according to RESA."

If that wasn't enough incentive, a report issued earlier this year by the National Association of REALTORS\* more than 82 percent of buyer's agents said that staging helped their clients to better visualize the property as their future home.

"Staging gives buyers the emotional connection needed to envision how they would live in the space," Bouchard said. "In this competitive real estate market, staging is essential. Staging is an investment, and statistics say the Return on Investment can be from 5 to 20 percent and 41 percent of buyers are more willing to tour a home in person after viewing staged photos they saw online."

Working with real estate agents and sellers directly, TS Staging and Design stages spaces in homes for professional photos, open houses, and work with both occupied and vacant spaces. Residents looking to refresh their homes use TS Staging and Design for interior redesign expertise such as room layout and décor guidance based upon a client's requirements and design aesthetic. TS Staging and Design also provides clients with a detailed proposal that includes their recommendations based on the discussion during the client consultation and an estimated cost of the project. They offer shopping services and all the final touches to make a client's house a home.

"The homes we stage sell within days of being on the market," Bouchard said. "Buyers often ask to purchase the staged home 'as is' which is a great complement to our work. We use beautiful furnishings and decor that are on trend. We offer excellent customer service and are approachable and friendly. Our designs tell a story and attract buyers to all the properties we stage."

Bouchard said TS Staging and Design excels in building strong professional relationships with clients and listens to a client's ideas while offering their expert advice to enhance their goals.

"Our small team loves what we do, and it shows in our work," she said.

FMI about TS Staging and Design, visit www.TSstaginganddesign.com or call 207-400-9393. Find them on Facebook and Instagram <



**REAL ESTATE** Cont. from page 25

the home more quickly than they could otherwise.

This is just a short list of what you can do to prepare for a worst-case scenario. When it happens, it happens so fast there is little time to think. Preparation is the key.

This article was brought to you by Warren O'Shea, the owner of O'Shea Builders LLC, Maine's most award-winning remodeling contractor. He has 35-plus years of residential remodeling experience. He is a certified home inspector and has been featured on HGTV, Food Network, and Maine *Cabin Masters. He is a recipient of the* Portland Police Department's "Citizen Award," and is a staunch consumer advocate. Warren has, and continues to, co-author articles for nationally distributed trade magazines. <

## **BRIEFS**

#### **Christmas Fair**

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

#### **Bids and Brews**

The Homeless Animal Rescue Team (HART) of Maine, an adoption center and shelter for cats in Cumberland, will conduct a fundraising event called Bids & Brews at Maine Beer Company in Freeport from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. The event will feature a silent and live auction, free pizza, and all the excitement of outbidding others for a good time and a great cause. Admission is free (but HART will gladly accept donations at the door). Silent auction selections will include an eclectic and curated mix of gift cards, jewelry, professional services, gift baskets, artwork, and more, all generously donated by individuals and local establishments. The live auction will feature signature trips and VIP experiences. This fundraiser will help HART continue the excellent work of helping abandoned cats survive, thrive, and be ready for adoption into their next forever home. FMI visit hartofme.org

#### Passes available

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

#### **Food Pantry**

The Windham Food Pantry and General Assistance at 377 Gray Road in Windham is open by appointment only Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. To make an appt for the Food Pantry call 207-892-1931 or for an appt for General Assistance call 207-892-1906.

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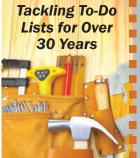
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