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August 22, 2025

Windham attorney wins National U.S. Mrs. 2025 Pageant

INSIDE!

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

It's hard to stop Katie Winchenbach. After winning the title of United States of America's Mrs. Maine for 2024, the Windham resident was crowned National United States Mrs. 2025 at the National United States Pageant, held in Hershey, Pennsylvania from July 28 to Aug. 1.

Winchenbach is corporate attorney for a Fortune 500 company, a fashion designer, an international speaker and hosts her own podcast. She is widely recognized for her mission to empower and inspire rising women leaders of all ages and through her work, she blends professional expertise, entrepreneurial spirit, and heartfelt advocacy for women's leadership and confidence-building.

"In 2024 I competed for the United States of America (USOA) pageant system. This time I competed in the National United States pageant," Winchenbach said. "I chose to switch to National United States because the pageant has a significant community service focus through the 'Crowns Making an Impact' initiative and I felt

that it was more closely aligned with my personal values and goals."

Beside winning the national title, Winchenbach was honored at the pageant with the Diamond Crowns Making an Impact ™ Award for her dedication to volunteering and community service. She is passionate about advancing women's leadership, breaking barriers, and inspiring confidence in women of all ages.

Winchenbach is the founder of Lead Fearlessly, a movement and podcast dedicated to elevating women's voices, sharing stories of resilience, and providing actionable strategies for personal and professional growth. She is also the designer behind a new clothing line created to inspire confidence through bold, empowering designs.

Beyond her professional achievements, Winchenbach is deeply involved in numerous community organizations. She actively volunteers her time and expertise to initiatives that promote leadership development, mentorship, and education for

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Windham resident Katie Winchenbach, a corporate attorney, has won the National United States Mrs. 2025 Pageant and was honored with the pageant's *Diamond Crowns Making an ImpactTM* Award for outstanding community service work. CATHERINE FIEHN PHOTOGRAPHY

Windham Primary to start school year with popsicles

By Dina Mendros

STAFF WRITER

It doesn't get much better for kids on a summer day than enjoying an icy cold popsicle. To keep the summer fun going before heading back to school, Windham Primary School will once again be holding "Popsicles on the Playground with Principals" on Monday, Aug. 25. Two days after that on Aug. 27 is the official first day of school for first- through third-graders. Pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students start after Labor Day with half the students on Sept. 2 and the other half on Sept. 3.

According to WPS Principal Dr. Kyle Rhoads, a lot has taken place while students were having fun during summer vacation.

Some students didn't have the whole summer off as a number were attending summer school. "Summer Academies, both online and in-person, were successful and well-received by families," Rhoads said. "Like during the school year, our concerted efforts to support students make a difference. Impressive work indeed! Thanks to all the staff for their help this summer."

There will be some new faces during the 2025-2026 school year. New WPS teachers include Pre-K teacher Tatum Ledue; Special Education teacher Ashley Dunham-Conway; Grade 1 teacher Kim Courtemanche; music



Windham Primary School will once again be conducting 'Popsicles on the Playground with Principals' event to welcome students and families back to school from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 25. School begins Aug. 27 for students. COURTESY PHOTO

teacher Sara Wolfe; part-time music teacher Marie Jacques; and part-time music teacher Eric Yim. Other new WPS staff members include Special Education Site Coordinator Kim Guptill; school psychologist Kaylee Jipson; and Special Education Ed Tech Amanda Day.

In addition to new faces some physical changes took place at the school over the summer. "The construction crews, tech department and custodial crews have been very busy getting our school ready on time," Rhoads said. "Our school has been under construction with roof upgrades and a new gym floor. Many of our spaces have gotten a new paint job, too."

WPS is one of the largest elementary schools in the state with about 780 registered students for school this fall. It serves students from Pre-K through third grade. The school's core values are teamwork, growth, creativity, and acceptance, with learners at the center.

Among the changes this year is the addition of a Pre-K classroom. "We are adding one Pre-K classroom because we had the chance to expand the overall RSU 14 Pre-K program," Rhoads said. "In the future, we will expand Pre-K classes at Windham Primary School. Our program is just beginning, and it is exciting to welcome our first 4-year-olds."

The school will be using the Building Assets, Reducing Risks (BARR) model for the second year.

"The model has been research-based for over 20 years and addresses the needs of students by strengthening teacher-student relationships and using real-time data to inform interventions," Rhoads said.

"However, successful implementation requires expert coaching and support. Teaching staff will

>> see POPSICLES

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Memorable duty in the desert

Following two years of high-profile military service at The Pentagon in Washington, D.C., I was hoping that my next duty assignment for the U.S. Air Force would be somewhat less intense in the fall of 1981.

I was mistaken as I drew Luke Air Force Base in Glendale, Arizona. Sitting on land donated to the Air Force by the Goldwater Family after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941, Luke AFB was among the busiest military installations in the world and was training F-4 Phantom and F-15 Eagle pilots and maintenance aircrews.

With a 2 ½-mile runway, at the time of my arrival, Luke was third behind Cape Canaveral and Edwards AFB in California as a potential U.S. Space Shuttle landing site. Each time U.S. President Ronald Reagan and his wife Nancy flew home to his California ranch, Air Force One would land at Luke so they could visit with Nancy's mother and stepfather, who lived nearby in Scottsdale, Arizona. U.S. Senator Barry Goldwater would fly his Cessna aircraft home to Arizona from Washington, D.C. and would land at Luke.

Within weeks after I arrived at Luke for duty, my commanding officer informed me that I would be part of a base response team that mobilized quickly in the event of an emergency. Just three days later, I joined a team of airmen aboard an old Huey helicopter responding to the crash of F-4 pilot in the desert on a training flight. My job was to interact with any reporters who

arrived at the crash site and to safeguard any classified information in case it was exposed during the crash. I sat on a bench in the helicopter, which had no doors and secured myself to the bench with a rope instead of a seat belt.

As the helicopter hovered in a circle above the crash site, I wanted to throw up as the only thing preventing me from falling out of the open door was a flimsy piece of rope. We landed and all that was left of the F-4 was contained in a 10-foot black smoking hole in the sand. The pilot had ejected before the aircraft crashed, but the ejection seat landed upside down and he was dead upon impact.

While I settled in at Luke, my primary job was to write for the weekly base newspaper. But I did have other duties such as serving as a flightline guide for tourists and groups known as "tailspotters," who would take photographs of aircraft tail numbers as a hobby. These groups were required to apply to visit the base months in advance and couldn't stop by randomly as they wished.

Another of my duties was to serve as the Public Affairs Command Post representative one weekend a month. Back in the days before cell phones, I was handed a beeper and notified of emergency situations. One Saturday morning in May 1983, I was recalled to the base for a commercial airliner in distress.

Taking off from Fresno, California with 81 passengers and crew members on board, a Republic Airlines DC-9 aircraft enroute to Phoenix was forced to make an emergency landing at Luke because of a fuel problem. The aircraft's fuel gauge read full in Fresno, but it was faulty, and the DC-9 only had less than five gallons of jet fuel or about 30 seconds of time in the air remaining when granted permission to land at our base.

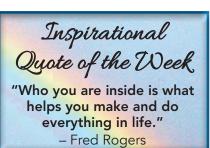
I notified the base commander of the incident, and he directed that the Officer's Club be made available for the passengers. He arranged for an Air Force bus to transport them to their awaiting families at Sky Harbor Airport in Phoenix. My job was to brief reporters about the incident at the base's front gate after I made sure the passengers knew what was happening and helped them contact their families to let them know they were safe.

During my time at Luke, I never got to see a Space Shuttle landing there, but one afternoon, I did watch as a "Super Guppy" aircraft landed to refuel in September 1984 while carrying the Space Shuttle Discovery across the U.S. on a trip back to Cape Canaveral in Florida. I also was able to see a SR-71 Blackbird aircraft when it landed for refueling on its way to Beale AFB in California.

Luke's mission changed while I was stationed there. The Air Force transitioned Luke's fleet of F-4s to the Air Guard and began training F-16 pilots there. A contingent of Saudi Arabian pilots and aircrews trained on the F-15 at the base as did Italian, British and German pilots on the Tornado aircraft.

On several occasions, I was offered an incentive flight as a passenger on an F-15 aircraft, but I turned those down. I had previously written articles for the base paper

> about incentive flight recipients and had always noticed a plastic trash can filled with water near where the F-15s landed. I asked what that was for and learned that the amount of G-forces recipients experience, and their lack of flight time result in severe vomiting afterward. The trash can is there to splash away what



incentive ride recipients throw up when landing. < ~ Ed Pierce



1989 - Nolan Ryan of the

Texas Rangers is the first Major

League Baseball pitcher to

strike out 5,000 batters.

1990 – U.S. President George

H.W. Bush signs an order for

calling reservists to assist



and therefore reserve the right to not publish certain types of content. For complete details about submissions and our letters policy, visit thewindhameagle.com/Information.pdf

What sport do you prefer watching on television?

"Hockey." - William D. Reiner

"Football." – Julie Mallett

"High school or college wrestling." – Tommy Matthews

> "NASCAR and golf." - Cheryl L. Page

"College Basketball and Major League Baseball." - Ed Pierce

"Golf, especially the Masters and Ryder Cup."

Rose Tirrell Haigis

"Football – you can actually see the game. However, hockey is horrible on television and much **better live."** – Rob Juergens

"All of them, except basketball." – Stephen Signor

"Baseball." – Ruthie Jackson

"Football!!" – Sumida Sferes

'Dog agility." – Penny Amundsen

"Soccer. It's the only sport I understand!"

- Denis Beauchene

"Tennis at Wimbledon." Anne Glotchshuk

"In order starting with ice hockey, college lacrosse, World Cup soccer and Olympic track and field events."

- Richard Heaney

"Motocross and Indy car racing." - Benjamin Lee

"Figure skating." - Jude Orestes-Sanchez

"WrestleMania and UFC." Mitchell B. Robinson

"Olympic swimming and **diving."** – Tawny Lamabe-Punto

"NBA basketball and NFL football." – Isabella Mongon

> "Red Sox baseball!" – Oscar F. Kellner

"Horse racing especially the

Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes and the Belmont Stakes which make up the annual Triple Crown race series every spring." - Deirdre Schulte

> "X Games, boxing and America's Cup sailing." – Dean A. Smalley

The Windham Eagle Page 3



New website promotes Windham's outdoor activities

By Dina Mendros

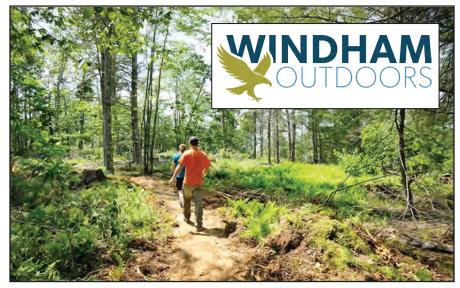
STAFF WRITER

For those searching for places to go to or things to do to explore the outdoors in Windham, look no further than the new website Windham Outdoors, at: windhamoutdoors.com

The website features town parks, such as Donnabeth Lipmann Park and Dundee Park, trails like those at the Black Brook Preserve Trail and the East Windham Conservation Area, information on things to do like the seasonal Windham Farmers' Market and the Monday Night Food Truck Nights, and local restaurants and lodging.

Residents and visitors to the area will likely be seeing more about the website which had a soft launch on June 10 and will be promoted more in the coming weeks over social media.

The website was created, said Windham Communications Director Roger Cropley, "to support Windham Outdoors and will be a guide to exploring the parks, trails, and natural beauty of Windham, Maine. The mission of this initiative is to connect residents and visitors with outdoor spaces that inspire healthy living, community engagement, and a deeper appreci-



Event organizers, entertainers from LOCASH, and Barbara Bush Children's Hospital representatives show off the check with the final amount raised throughout the two-day fundraising event at Erik's Church on Tuesday, March 4 and Wednesday, March 5. PHOTO BY MELISSA CARTER

ation of our town's resources."

The Windham Outdoors website "is designed to inform both residents and visitors of 'all things outdoors' happening in Windham – and for all seasons," he said. A \$163,750 Community Outdoor Recreation Assistance grant from the Maine Office of Outdoor Recreation paid for much of the initiative's development.

Even without much fanfare, the website is already gaining a following. "Currently the site, even without any promotion," Cropley said, "is receiving an average of 62 visits per day."

The website may already have paid off, he said. "It hasn't been operational long enough for us to determine its impact on visitation just yet though our total visitors in July were up 10.3 percent over June's numbers."

"Windham Outdoors is a collaborative effort between the Windham Parks and Recreation Department and the Windham Economic Development Corporation," Cropley said. The website aligns with the goals of both. The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is "to develop, operate, and maintain a park and recreation system that enriches the quality of life for residents and visitors, fosters a sense of community, and preserves and protects our open spaces," he said. "The vision of the Windham Economic Development Corporation is to create Windham as a business-friendly community that provides a high-quality of life, a vibrant economy, and a welcoming atmosphere, while protecting our town's rural characteristics and natural resources."

Windham wants to be a regional destination for outdoor recreation enthusiasts, he said, and Windham Outdoors has been envisioned as an approach to advancing that goal.

"As we continue to build the Windham Outdoors brand, we wish

see OUTDOORS Page 11



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We were so impressed, we decided to put in a Heat Pump hot water heater. Again, no money upfront. The savings after the finance payment and the power bill amounted to about \$97/mo (\$1164/yr). That was A TOTAL SAVINGS OF ABOUT \$2500 A YEAR FOR THE HEAT PUMPS TO HEAT AND COOL AS WELL AS THE HOT WATER HEATER. It was like getting paid \$2500 a year to install these. (P.S. - I verified the figures from the Efficiency Maine website)

I am recommending to everyone I know to contact DIRFY Generators and Heat Pumps so that they can increase their spending money. This company is awesome. No wonder they are number one in New England!" ~ R&L W.

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RISE Award nominations open to recognize outstanding school staff

The Maine Department of Education (DOE) invites students, friends, families, community members, educational organizations or associations, co-workers, and supervisors to nominate school employees for the Recognizing Inspirational School Employees (RISE) Award. Anyone can nominate and the deadline to submit a nomination is Oct. 15.

In collaboration with Maine Gov. Janet Mills and the U.S. Department of Education, Maine DOE is now accepting nominations for the prestigious RISE Award. This federal award, passed by Congress and overseen by the U.S. Department of Education, is intended to honor and promote classified school employees who provide exemplary service.

Through the RISE Award, they honor the often-unsung heroes whose work behind the scenes is essential. Publicly recognizing their service strengthens morale, boosts motivation, and reaffirms our commitment to valuing all roles within the education workforce.

A classified school employee is a staff member employed by a state, local education agency, or nonprofit entity who supports students in grades Pre-K through grade 12 in any of the following occupational specialties:

- Paraprofessionals / Ed Technicians
- Clerical and Administrative Services
- Transportation Services
- Food and Nutrition Services
- Custodial and Maintenance Services
- Security Services

- Health and Student Services
- Technical Services
- Skilled Trades

Examples include bus drivers, secretaries, cafeteria staff, school safety staff, health aides, technology staff, mechanics, crossing guards, and more.

August 22, 2025

Nominees must demonstrate excellence in the following five areas:

- (A) Work performance: Reflects the nominee's ability to fulfill their role with exceptional skill, dedication, and reliability
- (B) School and community involvement: How nominees contribute to the broader school community, including volunteer efforts, participation in school activities, or engagement with families and local groups.
- (C) Leadership and commitment: Emphasizes the nominee's ability to inspire others, take initiative, and demonstrate a strong dedication to their role and school mission.
- (D) Enhancement of classified school employees' image in the community and schools: Highlights efforts to positively influence public perception and understanding of classified employees' vital roles.

The Maine Department of Education will submit up to two finalists to the U.S. Department of Education. The U.S. Department of Education will select one finalist from across the U.S. to inspire excellence among classified school employees.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Oct. 15 and nominations are available at www.maine.gov/doe <

Dolby, Blais & Segee Funeral Chapel

Barbara C. Payne, 84



Barbara C. Payne, 84 of Raymond Maine, passed away peacefully on August 6th, 2025, surrounded by her loving family and friends.

Barbara was born on June 20th, 1941, in Portland, Maine to her father Durwood Douglass and mother Christina Douglass.

She was a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother.

Barbara dedicated over 25 years of her life as a compassionate caregiver at Country Village Assisted Living, in Casco, Maine where she provided comfort, dignity, and kindness to

countless residents and their families. Her gentle nature, patience, and unwavering commitment made her not only a trusted caretaker but also a source of warmth and light in the lives of those she cared for. She treated each person with deep respect and genuine love, embodying the true spirit of caregiving in every moment of her work.

Barbara also devoted many years volunteering with the Raymond Fire Department Auxiliary, where she took immense pride in preparing meals and coffee for the firefighters.

Barbara is survived by her loving husband Robert A. Payne Sr. of 64 years, her son Robert Payne Jr., daughter Deborah Chute, her four grandchildren Richard Chute, Daniel Chute, Jereck Blair, Robert Blair, along with three great-grandchildren Micah Chute, Jordyn Chute, and Jayden Watson.

Her burial took place on Monday August 11th, at the Woodlawn Cemetery located at 380 Stroudwater St. Westbrook, Maine at 10 am. A celebration of life was held afterwards at the Windham Veterans Center located at 35 Veterans Memorial Drive Windham, Maine.

To express condolences or to participate in Barbara's online tribute, please visit www.dolbyblaissegee.com

- You made the world a better place.

The Windham Eagle Page 5

Primo Cubano band to perform at Hawthorne House

Portland's Primo Cubano band will bring son, bolero, salsa, cha cha chá and other Cuban dance music to the Hawthorne House next week.

The public is invited to come and enjoy authentic Maine-made Cuban Music as presented by the popular Primo Cubano at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28.

Primo Cubano, which means Cuban cousins in Spanish, plays traditional Cuban dance music dating back to the turn of the 20th Century. The "Son" style of music is the most popular style to come out of Cuba and is the primary contributor to the blend of Latin styles today known as Salsa. It was first a music of the country people of Cuba and eventually migrated to Havana, where it was urbanized and began to draw a wider audience.

Cuban music is a collection of many cultures including Spanish, European, African, and from the indigenous people of Cuba such as the Arawak, Taíno, and the Ciboney. These unique influences helped to create various musical styles such as Son, Bolero, Danzón and Cha Cha Chá.

Danzón music originated in 1879 and became popular in Cuban dance halls. The style combines classical rondo form, an orchestra-like instrumentation known as Orquesta Típica, and the cinquillo rhythm to add an African element. Cha Cha Chá musical attributes feature simple melodies with an easy-to-remember chorus, simple and repetitive harmonic progressions, and repeated rhythm section parts.



The Primo Cubano band will perform son, bolero, salsa, cha cha chá and other Cuban dance music to Raymond during a concert at the Hawthorne House at 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 28. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Son music developed in eastern Cuba during the late 1800s and arrived in Havana in the early part of the 20th century as a sextet featuring voice, tres, bass, maracas, clave, and the bongo. Son groups traveled to New York City in the 1920s to perform and record and in the 1940s and 1950s, the smaller Son groups grew into Banda Gigantes (Big Bands) and Conjuntos, which eventually helped influence Salsa and Latin Jazz in America and beyond.

The Primo Cubano band has been practicing and performing tradition-

Their music is well-received wherever they play and earlier this year, they performed in Cuba at the 40th Annual 2025 Havana Jazz Festival. The experience performing at that prestigious event has inspired the group to keep learning and practicing this music they love and to share it with salsa dancers and those who appreciate Cuban dance music in New England, including at the Hawthorne House.

Admission to their Hawthorne House performance in Raymond is \$25. Reservation and payment are required prior to the event.

Space is limited for this concert, and tickets are non-refundable.

To order tickets, please go to www. hawthorneassoc.com and follow the links to Primo Cubano Concert. You may also send a check to Hawthorne Community Association, PO Box 185, South Casco, ME 04077.

For further details about the upcoming Primo Cubano concert, call Dan Grotto at 630-624-4121 or send an email to pagrotts@gmail.com. <







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PAGEANT Cont. from page 1

women and girls. As National United States Mrs. 2025, she said that she looks forward to traveling nationwide to speak, mentor, and collaborate with organizations committed to empowering women.

"This title means more than a crown and sash. To me, it's a platform to encourage women to embrace their full potential, trust their intuition, and step boldly into leadership," Winchenbach said. "I'm honored to represent the National United States Pageant system and to connect with women across the country who are ready to lead fearlessly."

She says that deciding to compete for the National United States Mrs. title gave her the opportunity to evaluate the impact I was making on my community and challenged her to find new ways to tap into my passion for supporting rising women leaders.

"As a result, I created a podcast titled Lead Fearlessly in which I invite women leaders from all over the world to share their stories, their struggles, and their tips," Winchenbach said. "My goal is to give women all over the world the leadership support that I once needed. This podcast has opened so many doors for me including giving me the opportunity to present my first TEDx talk on leadership and confidence next year and partnering with Supermodels Unlimited for New York Fashion Week and Miami Swim Week events and a clothing line titled Fearless by Katie Winchenbach."

Along with her husband Jared, she moved to Windham in 2021. She was born in Maine and grew up in the small

town of Milford, near the University of Maine Orono. She earned a Master of

Business Administration degree from the University of Maine, a Juris Doctorate law degree from Quinnipiac University

School of Law, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hofstra University.

According to Winchenbach, she is humbled to have the support of her family, friends, and community and she loves to stay busy, so she doesn't have a lot of downtime.

"When I do get down time, I love being out on the water on my paddle-board," she said. "My husband got me an inflatable one a couple of years ago and I love it. I try to get out on the Presumpscot River on the weekends, do paddle board yoga in Casco Bay, and every once and a while bring my rescue pup out for a ride. My family and friends have been incredibly supportive of my pageant journey."

By competing in pageants such as the National United States Mrs. 2025, Winchenbach is following the footsteps of her late mother.

"My mom competed in a Mrs. pageant when she and my dad were just married," she said. "She passed away from cancer in November 2022, so this is a really nice way for my family to be able to come together again. They cheered her on over 30 years ago and now they get to cheer me on."

Her husband has been so incredibly supportive, not just of her pageant participation, but of all the things that

have stemmed from that

"He was front row in Miami when

I launched my clothing line, he holds down the fort at home when I travel for appearances and events, and of course, he

was right there in the audience when I won this national title," she said. "I've poured a lot of time and effort into my podcast, my service work, and my pageant preparation. I wouldn't be able to do that without knowing he has my back."

Winchenbach is optimistic about the future and where it will take her.

"This is a really difficult question because if you asked me even 5 years ago if I thought I would be a national titleholder I would've said no. I just wasn't thinking boldly enough," she said. "I do know that I want to keep supporting inspiring women leaders. I was fortunate enough to be the keynote speaker for the Maine Department of Corrections Women's Summit and I'm looking forward to more speaking engagements and leading more workshops. I'm also excited to continue serving as President of Women Standing Together Maine and to grow our flagship event, the Leadership Intensive. My goal is to launch a second Leadership Intensive in the central Maine area and to expand the reach of Women Standing Together to all of New England and maybe even the whole United States. And I definitely plan to continue growing my podcast. I know there are so many inspirational women out there who want to share their story and even more women who will benefit from hearing those stories."

As far as what she's learned about herself by competing in pageants, Winchenbach says that she feels empowered.

"I didn't realize that I had put myself in a box. I think when you are in a male-dominated field like the legal profession it's easy to get caught up with trying to fit in and I definitely did that," she said. "It wasn't until I started competing in pageants that I realized I wasn't being my full, authentic self. I have always loved fashion, modeling, and design. I actually went to undergrad with the goal of becoming a fashion writer. When I joined the legal profession, I felt like I had to leave that part of me behind, but pageantry made me see that wasn't the case. I finally found the confidence to show up as who I was meant to be. Now I'm proud to be a successful attorney and a podcast host, model, designer, and advocate for women."

The National United States Mrs. Pageant celebrates women of all ages for their achievements, leadership, and contributions to their communities, providing a platform for personal growth and public service and Winchenbach said she admires the qualities that the pageant stands for.

"I am honored to hold the title of National United States Mrs. 2025, using my platform to advocate for women leaders, raise awareness of my podcast, and share the knowledge I have learned throughout my career," she said. "Every woman has the potential to achieve great things, and my mission is to help them unlock it." <

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f

The Windham Eagle Pa

Hike to benefit Windham youth battling cancer nears

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Windham school bus driver Wayne O'Brien has organized a fun way to get outdoors, stay in shape and to help out a community member and his family who are going through the worst of times.

"On Saturday, Sept. 6 we are going to have a hike at Douglas Mountain in Sebago about 25 minutes from Windham," O'Brien said. "All proceeds will go to the family of Austin Woodbury who was recently diagnosed with Stage 3 Lymphoma cancer."

Woodbury, 18, graduated from Windham High School in June and became ill not long thereafter. His parents, Josh and Rachael Woodbury, took him to a doctor and after a series of tests, he was diagnosed with Stage 3 Mature B-cell Lymphoma which was found extensively throughout his abdomen, pancreas, bowel wall, lower right lung, and femur.

Lymphoma is a type of blood cancer that develops in the lymphatic system, a part of the body's immune system. It's characterized by the uncontrolled growth of lymphocytes which are a type of white blood cell that help fight infection. Stage 3 Mature B-cell Lymphoma indicates that the cancer is present in lymph nodes on both sides of the diaphragm and possibly in his spleen.

This type of Stage 3 Mature B-cell Lymphoma is an advanced form of cancer, and treatment for Woodbury was started immediately involving



The 'Hike for Austin' on Douglas Mountain in Sebago is taking place on Saturday, Sept. 6. Proceeds from the hike will assist the Woodbury Family of Windham, whose son Austin, 18, is undergoing treatment for Stage 3 Mature B-cell Lymphoma. SUBMITTED PHOTO

chemotherapy. His oncologist may consider other treatments for Austin based upon his age, overall health, and the specific type and stage of his lymphoma.

Mature B-cell lymphomas are a type of non-Hodgkin lymphoma and account for about 85 percent of all lymphomas diagnosed in America.

Family members say that Woodbury is undergoing intensive treatment and chemotherapy in the hospital. Both of his parents have been by his side every step of the way in dealing with his illness and missed work, have mounting medical bills for their son's treatment, and have incurred the additional financial stress of trying to keep things afloat for their family at their home in Windham.

Reading about Woodbury's Stage 3 lymphoma diagnosis at such a young age in The Windham Eagle newspaper, O'Brien said he needed to find a way to help and came up with the idea of organizing a hike to benefit Woodbury's family.

He said the hike itself is of easy to moderate difficulty and that location was chosen because anyone who wished to participate could do so. The first 50 hikers/donors get a free T-shirt inscribed with "Summit for Austin."

According to O'Brien, the T-shirt's lime green color was selected because it is the official color of Lymphoma awareness.

"We want to thank Bob the Screenprinter in Windham for donating the T-shirts," he said. "We are also grateful to other donors including Tinker Automotive, Chutes Family Restaurant and the Windham Hannaford Supermarket."

The Douglas Mountain Loop runs 1.8 miles in length and takes about 1 hour and 5 minutes to complete. There is an old stone tower at the summit and hike participants will be able to take in gorgeous views of Sebago Lake, the Presidential Range, and Mount Washington on a clear day.

Same-day registration to participate in the hike will be 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 6 at the Douglas Mountain Trailhead in Sebago. Someone will also be there earlier than 7 a.m. to get ready for the event, O'Brien said.

"Snacks and water will be provided for hikers," he said. "You don't have to hike to make a donation."

To learn more about the "Hike for Austin" or to submit a donation to assist the Woodbury Family, call O'Brien at 207-615-2433 or send an email to wobrien 3006@gmail.com. <









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Tim Nangle: Investing in Maine's childcare workforce

► By Senator Tim Nangle SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

Earlier this month, alongside Senate President Mattie Daughtry, I joined Space to Thrive, a local non-profit providing early childhood education and school-age care in Windham and Raymond, for a beach day at Sebago Lake State Park. I listened to their staff talk about the challenges they face and the support they need to continue doing this critical work.

I walked away from that conversation deeply moved and deeply concerned. What I heard over and over is that while these jobs are essential, the people doing them are stretched thin, underpaid and too often underappreciated

I want to be clear. Childcare providers are not babysitters. They are

early education professionals. Every day, they help children learn how to share, solve problems and express their feelings in productive ways. They teach children healthy habits and how to socialize, which is no small task in a world that sometimes feels more disconnected than ever. Their work allows parents to go to their jobs knowing their children are safe and cared for.

That's why we must treat this workforce with the seriousness it deserves.

During my conversation, the providers told me about some of the tools that make a difference. One is the public-private partnership model that pairs school districts with local childcare providers. These partnerships give parents more choices, save districts and taxpayers money and

expand access to high-quality early education. In Windham, for example, partnerships like this are helping to fill critical gaps in pre-K and wraparound care.

Another essential tool is the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Scholarship Program, which helps childcare educators earn college degrees and professional credentials. The scholarship covers most tuition costs, provides stipends for books and expenses and includes paid time for coursework. This program makes higher education affordable for the workforce, reduces turnover and builds long-term career paths for the people who care for our "mini-Mainers".

But childcare providers are losing staff even with supportive programs like these because wages are too low to compete with other fields. Many who stay do so because they love the work but nonetheless struggle to make ends meet. As one childcare professional told me, "We can't keep asking people to do so much for so little."

That is why the Legislature acted during the last session to strengthen the system as a whole. We maintained critical funding for programs that keep child care centers open, including wage supplements for workers, support for families covering the cost of care and investments in Head Start (LD 210). We required the state to enter into contracts that expand child care slots, especially for rural families and children with disabilities (LD 1736). We also made it easier for small businesses to open child care fa-

cilities, increasing availability in more communities (LD 1428).

These actions matter. They keep centers open, support the workforce and expand access for families. But they are only a foundation. We know wages remain too low, staff turnover is too high, and too many families still cannot find or afford care.

When we invest in childcare, we are strengthening the foundation of our communities. Parents can work and support their households. Children are better prepared for school and life. Employers gain a more reliable workforce. And the entire state benefits from a healthier, more resilient economy.

Our conversation at Sebago Lake reminded me that this work is not optional. It is vital. Our childcare professionals deserve our thanks, respect and most importantly, continued action. I am committed to making sure the Legislature keeps listening and responding, because when we back the people who care for our kids, we're backing the strength of our whole community.

For the latest, follow me on Facebook at facebook.com/SenatorTim-Nangle, sign up for my e-newsletter at mainesenate.org, or contact me directly at Tim.Nangle@legislature. maine.gov. You can also call the Senate Majority Office at 207-287-1515.

The opinions in this column are those of the author. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of The Windham Eagle newspaper ownership or its staff. <



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The Windham Eagle Page

Windham council explores town meeting charter change

By Ed Pierce

STAFF WRITER

Members of the Windham Town Council are weighing a potential town charter amendment to pivot from holding an annual town meeting to approve the town budget on the second Saturday in June to one having residents casting ballots coinciding with RSU 14's annual budget validation voting in June.

In place since Windham adopted the town council form of government in 1975, recent years participation at the Windham Annual Town meeting has dwindled to less than 150 residents out of more than 12,000 registered voters. Councilors are looking at increasing public participation by moving away from an in-person meeting to a secret ballot referendum and making the process easier and more convenient for town residents.

During town council meetings this summer, legal aspects of making a charter change were discussed by councilors and the town attorney.

POPSICLES Cont. from page 1

have two full days of training with the organization this year.

Before the school year starts, students and their families will have a change to meet with Principal Rhoads and Assistant Principal Diana Jordan and other WPS staff at the "Popsicles on the Playground with Principals" from 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Aug. 25. The event will include school tours, directions for the Parent Square app, playing on the playground, and of course, popsicles.

Rhoads said he started the event when he first became principal of WPS in 2008. "I used this event as one of my first opportunities to get to know the families of students. The following summer staff and families shared that they hoped I would continue the event. I decided to continue it. When our new playgrounds were built, it also became an opportunity to celebrate and enjoy them, too."

"Popsicles with the Principal highlights many important parts of our school community," he said. "Most importantly, it provides a great chance for the students, staff and families to reconnect after summer and build new relationships while enjoying popsicles and our beautiful playgrounds! We are looking forward to this opportunity to meet with the students and their families. The event is an indicator that school is returning, and summer is winding down."

Later in the fall the annual WPS Fall Festival free school community event will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. on Oct. 25. Other family events for the year can be found at tinyurl.com/mw4a56x7. Those wishing to volunteer at WPS for the first time should contact the office at 207-892-1840 or attend the Volunteer Orientation scheduled for Sept. 17 in the school library from noon to 6 p.m. <

\$5.00 for Tattered United States Flag when purchasing new U.S. Flag 3'x5' or larger. MAINE FLAG & BANNER 824 Roosevelt Tr., Windham, 893-0339 To change the charter, councilors must determine that an amendment is needed and then is required under Maine law to propose an amendment through a formal process that includes public notice, public hearings, and ultimately a vote by town residents at a regular or special election. Or a charter commission of appointed or elected citizens researches the existing charter, potentially comparing it to those of other municipalities, and drafts a proposed amendment. Citizens can also propose a possible charter amendment through a petition.

Any potential charter amendment must comply with state law and require citizen participation, legal compliance, and a collaborative effort to ensure the town's governing charter effectively serves the needs of town residents.

Windham Town councilor Bill Reiner says there are guidelines in place on how a specific charter change can be proposed and brought up before the people.

"One is a revision in which a 'Charter Commission' would be re-



Members of the Windham Town Council are hoping to have a charter amendment referendum on the ballot in November 2026 to change from an Annual Town Meeting every June to approve the town budget to a public vote coinciding with the RSU 14 budget voting. PHOTO BY ED PIERCE

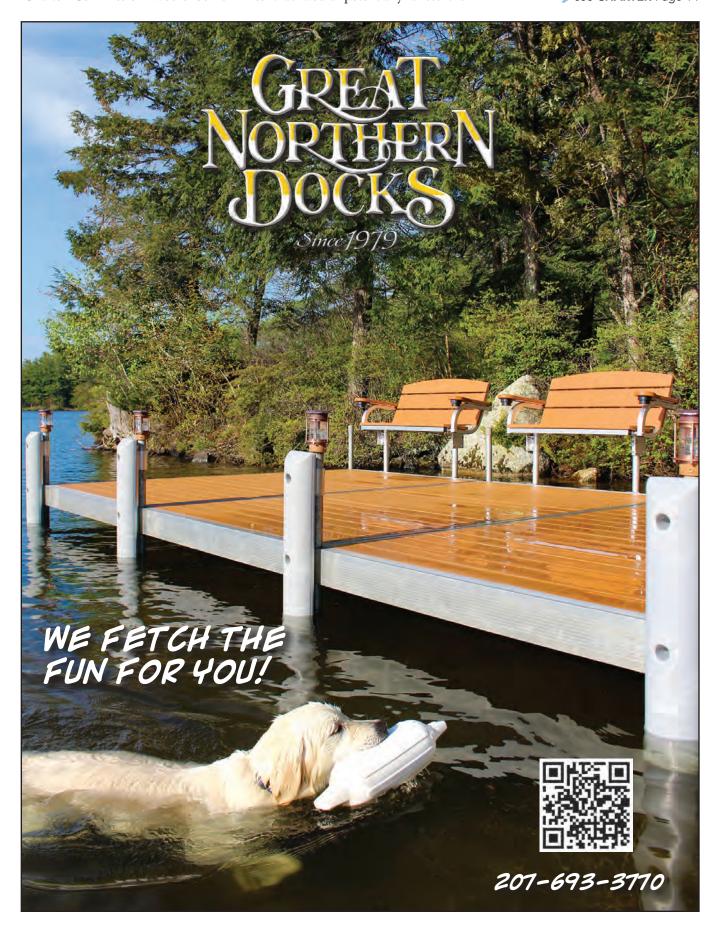
quired. Revisions make large changes that would potentially affect the

Charter in its entirety," Reiner said. "This is a long process and opens Pandora's box so to speak as anything in the Charter is up for discussion and potential modification. The second method is a 'Charter Amendment' which can be utilized when a specific existing section of the Charter is desired to be changed and the change proposed will not drastically affect the Charter in its entirety."

He said the council has discussed and preliminary proposed to change the date and method of municipal budget validation.

"It is proposed to be a 'secret ballot referendum vote' held at the time of June Primaries which conveniently coincides with the RSU 14 timeline," Reiner said. "Town legal council has approved this method to move forward as they feel it fits the scope of an 'Amendment' and not a 'Revision.' So that's a lot of technical jargon on how we get things rolling, and regardless of how we get things moving, all of this still comes up in front of all registered Windham voters to make the final de-

→ see CHARTER Page 14



WHS students continue learning through summer ELOs

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

Most students spend their summer vacation on the beach, but four students from Windham High School spent their summer vacation doing an Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO). This student-initiated learning allows students to earn credit while stepping into real-world learning experiences.

Lorraine Glowczak is the Director of Community Connections for the RSU 14 school district and is the ELO Coordinator at WHS. She acts as a facilitator in the student's learning and assisting them to meet their personal and academic goals and research ques-

"ELO at WHS began in earnest in the Spring of 2022 and are becoming a popular way to explore a career and/ or an interest while gaining academic credit," says Glowczak. "ELOs are offered year-round including the summer months."

Each ELO is designed around the student to make learning personal and meaningful. Whether it is exploring a career path, connecting classroom knowledge to everyday life, or discovering new passions, ELOs help bring learning to life in exciting ways.

"These opportunities blend academics with experience. Students might complete papers or presentations, but they'll also take part in project-based learning, internships, or job



WHS rising junior Morgan Willey, second from left, did an Exploration in Community Service by participating in an MS Bike Ride this summer in Biddeford. Willey's summer ELO explored Multiple Sclerosis. Willey helped with fundraising and promoting the MS Bike Ride. SUBMITTED PHOTO

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shadows which are experiences that can't always be found in a textbook," says Glowczak. "Most importantly, ELOs give students valuable skills and experiences that can open doors to future careers and college pathways."

ELOs require the support of local communities and are designed to highlight local expertise and to give students insight into new career options in their communities. Students interested in an ELO must first complete an ELO application and submit it to Glowczak. Once the application has been accepted, the student will meet with Glowczak to develop an essential question and goals. and then will continue to meet with Glowczak on a weekly basis.

Each student provides a final product that will capture all the hands-on research, reflections, and learning in one document, and will then get to showcase their work, reflect on their journey, and demonstrate the skills and knowledge that they have gained by presenting to a small team of ELO mentors and educators.

"ELOs meet Maine's Department of Education 21st Century Life and Career Ready Standards and students are graded on the Maine's Guiding Principles that each Maine student is expected to learn prior to high school graduation," says Glowczak.

This summer, four students participated in a summer ELO at WHS.

→ see **ELO** Page 12



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F.O.E. Lakes Region Eagles donation boosts food pantries

By Ed Pierce

Members of the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Lakes Region Chapter 4352 in Windham, are committed to serving the community and two generous gifts are evidence of that.

On Sunday, Aug. 10, the club presented checks for \$4,866 to representatives of both the Windham Food Pantry and the Standish Food Pantry.

The checks were given to the food pantries by Launnie Simpson, Lake Region Eagles 4352 Windham president, and Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles President Phil Thomas, from their special fundraising account.

She said Eagles members were able to raise \$9,732 through a variety of events earlier this year.

"We did monthly full meal deals, kind of like bingo and we did potluck dinners," Simpson said. "We made complete meals for Game Nights and Ladies Nights. So basically, our members donated through one of the many events."

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is an international non-profit organization uniting fraternally in the spirit of liberty, truth, justice, and equality, to make human life more desirable by lessening its ills and promoting peace, prosperity, and hope. Each year nationwide, the F.O.E. donates more than \$10 million to local communities, fundraisers, charities and more.

As part of its philosophy, the F.O.E. gives back 100 percent of monies raised in the form of grants. Fundraisers are conducted for eight major charities, including kid-

ney, heart, diabetes, cancer and spinal cord injury funds, a children's fund, memorial foundation and the Golden



From left, Colette Gagnon of the Windham Pantry and Ben Quarles of the Standish Food Pantry were each presented checks for \$4,866 by Phil Thomas, President of State of Maine Fraternal Order of Eagles during an event at the Windham Social Service Office on Aug. 10. The checks were donations to the food pantries made by F.O.E. Lakes Region Chapter 4352 in Windham. PHOTO BY LAUNNIE SIMPSON

Eagle Fund.

The Eagles were founded in February 1898 by six theatre owners

gathered in a Seattle shipyard to discuss a musician's strike. After addressing the matter, they agreed to "bury the hatchet" and form "The Order of Good Things." As membership numbers grew, participants selected the Bald Eagle as the official emblem and changed the name to "The Fraternal Order of Eagles."

The F.O.E.'s women's auxiliary can trace its roots to 1927. Nowadays the Fraternal Order of Eagles includes nearly 800,000 members and more than 1,500 sites across

the United States and Canada, including Windham, with a location at 756

→ see **PANTRY** Page 12



to make improvements to our outdoor facilities to enhance the visitor experience and assist us in gathering data that informs future decisions," Cropley said. "Included in our plans are digital kiosks and improved trail signage that enhances the experience for those visiting our facilities. We currently see many visitors from outside Windham traveling here to experience mountain biking at the East Windham Conservation Area, hiking or biking the Mountain Division Trail, kayaking on the Presumpscot River or boating and fishing in our local lakes." In addition, he said, the Maine Department of Transportation North Windham Moves project will add bicycle/pedestrian pathways throughout the North Windham business district.

Promoting outdoor recreation and attracting even more visitors to Windham makes financial sense. "Outdoor recreation made up 3.7 percent of Maine's economy, making Maine the sixth state in the country in the value outdoor recreation adds to a state's economy," said Cropley. Through its large supply of outdoor recreational assets, Windham already does and can increase the economic benefits by promoting these assets to locals and visitors alike.

When people visit the area to enjoy the town's varied outdoor experiences, the hope is that they will visit local businesses, such as restaurants, movie theaters, motels and more and pour money into the local economy. In addition, Cropley said, these businesses can provide incentives via Windham Outdoors that may encourage people to stay longer and spend more.

Windham Outdoors plans to collaborate with the Windham Economic Development Corporation, Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce, Presumpscot Regional Land Trust, Friends of the Mountain Division Trail, Friends of the Presumpscot, Windham businesses, Activity Maine, Maine Outdoor Brands, Maine Made, Manufacturer's Association of Maine and other groups that wish to join this initiative. <



PANTRY Cont. from page 11

Roosevelt Trail.

Meetings for the non-profit organization are conducted at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays of each month. The Lakes Region Chapter 4352 was founded 12 years ago and currently has 255 members.

Collette Gagnon, Windham Social Service Administrative Assistant, said that the donation will help more than 300 families in the community, and that the food pantry is grateful for the donation by the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Lakes Region Chapter 4352.

The Windham Food Pantry is open to Windham residents with proof of residency and residents are provided with food on a monthly basis.

Residents in need of food assistance are asked to call to schedule an appointment to visit the Windham Food Pantry. Food and non-food donations are accepted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and monetary donations are accepted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Windham Town Manager's Office at Windham Town Hall or by mail at 8 School Road, Windham.

"The Windham Food Pantry is always looking for Windham residents who would like to become members to benefit from the food pantry," Gagnon said. "We are also looking for donations both monetary and food and clothing items."

Windham's Food Pantry is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the Windham Social Services Office, 377 Gray Road in Windham.

Windham Social Services also operates a Clothes Closet for those in need from 10 a.m. to noon Monday through Thursday. Residents are asked to call 207-892-1931 to check if it is open ahead of their visit. <

more, did an ELO on Exploration in Ministry and Community. Julia Grondin, a rising senior, did an ELO on Exploration in Environmental Science. Morgan Willey, a rising junior, did an Exploration in Community Service (MS Bike Ride). Mahiro Hammond, a rising sophomore, did an ELO Exploration in Japanese Culture and Language.

Clayton Johnson, a rising sopho-

ELO Cont. from page 10

Willey's summer ELO explored Multiple Sclerosis, a disease that disorders the central nervous system, making one paralyzed. Willey decided to help by doing fundraising and spreading the word by participating in an MS bike ride.

"I decided to do my ELO on the National MS (Multiple Sclerosis) Society because I found it to be a great community service project through which I can spread the word about MS, through the project and the bike ride," Willey said.

For Johnson, this was his second ELO. During his first ELO in Religious Studies, Clayton launched a Bible Club at WHS. This summer, his ELO focused on Street Ministry, where Johnson would go out into highly populated areas and ask people their opinion of Christianity.

"I asked people questions regarding Christianity and would then tie in preaching on a personal level," says Johnson.

According to Glowczak, a popular question among WHS students is, "What subject can I study in an ELO?"

"The quick answer is if you are interested in learning more about something for career, hobby, interest, etc., then an ELO can be created for you,"

Group ELOs are also available. Last spring, 11 WHS students participated in a Civic Leadership Group ELO. As part of the project, they interviewed their peers about what works well and what doesn't - within the school community. They then collected and analyzed the data before presenting their findings to the MIT Media Lab in Cambridge, MA in May, WHS staff and administration, as well as RSU 14 Superintendent Christopher Howell and Assistant RSU 14 Superintendent Christine Frost-Bertinet. The Group ELO will be continuing their work for the next school year.

Other Group ELOs to be offered during the upcoming school year in-

"Roots to Ripples" - Exploring Agriculture and Aquaculture.

"Build Your Own Adventure" through United Way of Southern

"Time Travel Through Storytelling" - students will get the opportunity to interview people 60 and older to capture their stories, life lessons, etc. <







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CHARTER Cont. from page 9

cision, not only the seven councilors. We are doing the heavy work to get this out to a vote 'Of the people' which is the proper way to do it in my mind."

During discussions about converting from an annual town meeting to a public vote, councilors talked about the best way to educate voters to ensure they make informed decisions. They weighed simplifying warrant article questions without losing significant details and councilors also explored the possibility of presenting the entire annual town budget as a single up-or-down question as opposed to a list of multiple detailed warrant articles to be voted upon.

Councilors agreed to establish a committee made up of residents and town staff and charged with the task of formulating clear and concise ballots and launch an effective voter education campaign if the charter amendment is adopted.

Reiner says another technical aspect of approval is that if an election for this potential referendum is on the ballot, it must have at least votes cast that equals 30 percent of the previous gubernatorial election for it to pass by simple majority.

"I regret to say that the town unfortunately will not have the proposal and discussions completed in time for this November's election," Reiner said. "The council, staff and legal still has work to complete on language and guidelines. The next scheduled election for this charter amendment referendum would be the June Primaries in 2026."

He said while it may be placed on the June 2026 Primary ballot if complete,

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primaries tend to not have enough turnout to break the 30 percent line, and even if successfully passed at that election date, it could not be in effect timely enough to be used prior to the 2026 June Annual Town Meeting date.

"So, it is most likely to be presented as a referendum vote at the 2026 November election date and changes would be in effect the following year if successfully passed," Reiner said."

Windham Town Council Chair Jarrod Maxfield said he supports moving away from the Annual Town Meeting to a public vote.

"I support the change to a voter approved budget and have always felt the Town Meeting is an antiquated form of government that results in very few voices being heard," he said. "The change is a large one though and I support the town using the next year to study the change, get public input and then ultimately have it on the ballot for next year so the Windham voters have the ultimate decision if we change, which I believe they will."

What this means is that Windham residents, town staff and town councilors will need to prepare for at least one more Annual Town Meeting conducted under the current format.

"While I love the tradition of the Town Meeting, its method has outlived its usefulness," Reiner said. "Because of that I fully support the efforts being made by the council to enact the potential for change and the ability to bring this Charter Amendment before the people for their consideration and vote. Lastly, and equally important in my mind, is that this discussion and potential change was initiated by input from the public on how they want the town to operate." <

Veterans Association

This is the formal 30-Day notification of the Annual Membership meeting of the Windham Veterans Association to be held on Monday, Sept. 15 at the Windham Veterans Center at 6 p.m. At this meeting an election will be held for the Association Board of Directors. All members in good standing of the VFW Post 11643, Legion Post 148 and DAV chapter #3 are considered voting members and are requested to attend the meeting.

Singing For The Chapel

"Singing For The Chapel," a benefit concert to support the small, historic East Raymond Chapel in Raymond, will be held at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 24 at the Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ, 941 Meadow Road. This is a mostly vocal concert with a mix of musical theater songs, light classical, and other genres. Donations requested. FMI, call 207-627-4282.

Cancer Support

The Windham Cancer Support Group will hold its next monthly meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 26 at the Windham Public Library, 217 Windham Center Road. Anyone who has been or is affected by cancer is welcome to attend. FMI, send an email to coppjanet@yahoo.com.

Charity Ride

KSU4KIN (Kickstands Up for Kids in Need) will have its first charity ride hosted by We Clothe Kids, a STEADFAST RC charitable mission starting at noon on Saturday, Aug. 30 and leaving from 375 Riverside St. in Portland. This ride is for those who remember what it felt like to head to school without a proper jacket or had to wear the same shirt three days in a row. Every dollar raised goes toward brand-new clothing for Maine children in need. No used hand-medowns. No charity overhead. Just fresh gear for kids who deserve better and supported by many area businesses. FMI, visit steadfastrc.com

Historical Society

The Windham Historical Society continues to be available for inquiries and to visitors on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon while its 1833 historic brick building on Windham Center Road undergoes major restoration/ renovation. A banner on the lawn directs visitors to the parking lot between the superintendent's building and the brick building and a flag on the yellow building on the Village Green indicates where to find the volunteers. Upcoming events include the society's open house on Saturday, Sept. 6 in conjunction with other area historical societies and the annual "Harvest Festival on the Village Green" on Oct. 4. The festival features free events, entertainment, and activities to provide family fun for all members of the community. Watch for banners and advertising as the occasion draws near. FMI, call 207-892-1433.



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The Windham Eagle Page 15

PWD launches major water meter replacement initiative

Portland Water District (PWD) is embarking on a major infrastructure upgrade: replacing nearly all 55,000 water meters across its system with the latest technology in Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI).

This \$30 million investment will roll out over the next three years, beginning in October, and marks a significant step in enhancing customer service, improving efficiencies and strengthening leak detection and emergency response capabilities.

The current meter equipment is reaching the end of its planned service life with the last system-wide replacement taking place nearly two decades ago.

In 2023, PWD began evaluating the existing meters and meter reading system. The review revealed increased wear and aging of metering equipment, prompting a thorough needs assessment and technology evaluation in collaboration with an industry consultant. AMI emerged as the long-term solution, employing the latest technology in meter systems to support modern operations and evolving customer expectations.

To implement this upgrade, PWD has partnered with Core & Main to deliver a complete AMI solution, featuring Sensus (non-mechanical) water meters and VEPO Metering for professional installation services. The

installer will contact customers directly to schedule appointments, beginning soon and progressing throughout the PWD service area. There are no additional out-of-pocket costs for installation or meter equipment. The cost is factored into rates.

"This project impacts every customer since meters are lo-

cated inside homes and businesses," said Scott Firmin, General Manager at the Portland Water District. "We selected a contractor with a strong track record of customer service and safety." All installers will carry identification, wear uniforms, and drive clearly marked vehicles. Customers can request an electronic photo ID notification of the technician prior to the appointment."

The new AMI system will provide a secure and reliable method of collecting water consumption data via a FlexNet communication network. This technology will allow for streamlined billing, improved leak detection, operational efficiencies, and improved customer service.

In addition to operational im-



provements, customers will benefit from a new online portal that allows easy access to billing, usage data, alerts, and conservation programs thereby putting more information and control directly into the hands of the customer. The portal will be launched later in the project.

This project reflects PWD's on-

going commitment to investing in innovative, customer-focused infrastructure that meets the current and future needs of the Greater Portland region. Firmin said.

The Portland Water District maintains a 1,000-mile network of water mains ranging from 60 inches to 2 inches, pump stations, and reservoirs that bring water from Sebago Lake to homes and businesses in Maine. Large mains for transmission extend from PWD's treatment facility near Standish to Westbrook and Portland.

The district also operates four wastewater treatment plants, providing treatment and collection services to customers and keeps about 25 million gallons of water in storage to help maintain proper pressure and allow

for a water reserve in case of an emergency, like a fire or a flood. It serves about 200,000 people across 11 communities and because of that, PWD must ensure that Sebago Lake water quality is of utmost importance.

Sebago Lake itself is more than 300 feet in depth and contains nearly 1 trillion gallons of water which is considered of excellent quality. The source of water in Sebago Lake originates in the Sebago Lake Watershed, which is more than 50 miles long, stretching from Bethel to Standish and includes parts of 24 towns including the towns of Windham and Raymond. The excellent water quality of the Sebago Lake Watershed is attributed to surrounding forest lands that act as a natural filter for the watershed.

PWD is an independent quasi-municipality, serving nearly 200,000 people with more than 50,000 customers in 11 communities. PWD delivers water service to Falmouth, Raymond, Scarborough, South Portland, Standish, and Windham, and provide both water and wastewater service to Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland, Gorham, Portland and Westbrook.

For more information, visit the PWD website at www.pwd.org/AMI. There, you can find more details including a video outlining what customers can expect during a water meter appointment. <

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Bachelor's degree/90 college credit hours minimum required. Pay rate \$20.39-\$28.42 depending on experience

Generous benefit package for all F/T!

TO APPLY: Visit RSU14.org & click on 'job opportunities' in the 'District info tab', or scan here to apply





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Full time employees recieve Anthem Choice Plus single coverage at no cost, single coverage Dental at no cost, sick, & personal time.

TO APPLY: Pick up an application at the Central Office,
228 Windham Center Road or visit RSU14.org
& click on 'job opportunities' in the 'District info tab' &
then on Bus Driver, or SCAN HERE TO APPLY



For more info on schedules and job specifics, please contact the Transportation Dept. at 207-892-1809

CAMP WILLIAM HINDS SHOOTING EVENT Friday, Sept. 5th

Hosted by the Boy Scouts of America, Pine Tree Council #218. The event will take place at Camp Hinds on Plains Road from approximately 8:00am-5:00pm. The gunfire noise from this

event will be heard throughout Raymond. If you have any questions contact Leah Barry, District Executive at Leah.Barry@scouting.org.





Clinic

at Public Safety - 1443 Roosevelt Trl, Raymond

September 18th from 3pm-7pm

NO APPOINTMENT REQUIRED!



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Open Sun-Mon: CLOSED Tues-Thurs: 9am-6pm | Sat-Sun: 9am-2pm

Raymond Reads!

Join RVL for our 2nd community-wide reading series! We picked 3 new titles by Maine authors and will be giving out free copies...while supplies last. Stop by RVL today to pick up *The Summer* Guests by Tess Gerritsen! This is Book 2 in her Martini Club Series.

AUGUST 27 at 6PM

Tess will be on-site for book talk & signing! News about Book#3 coming soon!

Library Cardholder Passes

Raymond Village Library Card Holders have access to museums and attraction passes.

Visit our website for a list of available passes and call the library to reserve yours today!

Call the library for more information or to register for any of the events!





INFORMATION AND SAFETY REMINDERS

RSU #14 Windham/Raymond schools start the new school year on WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27th!

This will mean school buses, slowed commute times, and young drivers and pedestrians on the roads. Going back to school always brings traffic congestion with kids trying to get to school before the bell rings and harried parents trying to get to work. Be aware and alert when you are traveling in school zones. PREPARE YOURSELVES WITH THESE SAFETY TIPS:

- ✓ SLOW DOWN school zones have a 15mph speed limit
- ✓ STAY ALERT distracted driving is never ok and especially important around kids
- ✓ Familiarize yourself with the school's drop-off and pick-up procedures
- ✓ Don't double park during drop off or load/unload kids across the street from school
- ✓ Never pass a bus from either direction if it is stopped to load or unload children
- ✓ If "stop arm" is out on a bus & yellow or red lights are flashing, traffic MUST stop
- ✓ Kids can be unpredictable, stop far enough back to give them plenty of space
- ✓ Always stop for a crossing guard or school patrol officer directing traffic
- ✓ Do not block a crosswalk with your vehicle
- ✓ Teach your kids bus stop safety how to stand back on the curb and how to cross 10 feet in front of the bus so the driver can see them.
- ✓ If your child is walking or riding a bike to school review your family's safety rules. Make sure they know the route, how to safely cross a street, & how to ride or walk with traffic
- ✓ Practice driving in congested areas with new teen drivers
- ✓ Set good examples for your kids
- ✓ ALWAYS follow school zone speed limits



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A curb-to-curb, on-demand ride service connecting you to work, shopping, healthcare, and more.

Service Area:

Raymond, with connections to Windham, Standish, and the Lakes Region Explorer.



Located at: Raymond Village Community Church, 27 Main St

Tassel Top Park

Summer is winding down and so are the Tassel Top hours. Park hours effective 08/16 are going back to 9am-6pm daily. No entry after 5pm.

Adult Pick-up Sports

Enjoy the last few summer sessions of Adult pick up Kickball and Outdoor Pick-up Basketball.

KICKBALL IS WEDNESDAYS FROM 6-8PM BASKETBALL IS THURSDAYS FROM 6:30-8:30PM

Both leagues are played at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park. Must be registered through Raymond Rec Desk to play in any of the drop-in games. It's easy to create an account! Visit: raymond.recdesk.com to register, get more information, and to view fees and schedules.

Raymond After School Program

THERE ARE STILL A FEW SPOTS OPEN FOR THE **RAYMOND AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM!**

Camp Raymond After School has officially moved to the Raymond Village Community Church (RVCC), located at 27 Main Street in Raymond.

RSU 14 will provide transportation from Raymond Elementary School to our program. Please be aware of the following important transportation policies:

★ If your child does not attend the program every day, they must either be picked up at RVCC or at the school. They may not take the bus to an alternate stop.

NEW Hours of Operation:

From arrival at RVCC until 6:00 PM (including half-day Wednesdays)

The program fee is \$90 per week for the entire school year, based on a total annual cost of \$3,690, divided into weekly payments. This fee is required even during vacation weeks and must be paid in full regardless of attendance. This policy secures your child's place in the program.

Raymond Cross Country (Grades K-4)

Raymond Running Club will be holding a cross-country season! This will focus on long-distance running. COST: \$25 Meets will be on Saturdays with surrounding towns and will be released as we get closer to the season.

VISIT: RAYMOND.RECDESK.COM FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF ACTIVE PROGRAMS. All programming/events require registration through rec desk.

D ROADBUNNIER

D - AUGUST 2025 NEWSLETTER

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RTPRides.org/quickride

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Hame of the Walkins Blackswith Shap

UPCOMING EVENTS

Also check out our Facebook page & our website for all upcoming events. raymondcascohistoricalsociety.org

We have historical presentations as well as forging demos at Watkins Blacksmith shop!

WATKINS BLACKSMITH SHOP

Come watch traditional blacksmithing in action with forging demo's nearly every weekend with our smithy's. Watch Lucas, Thor, Ethan, Taffy, & James forge their own creations and bring life back to the shop!

Demo's at the shop from 12p-3p

08/16 - Lucas • 08/17 - Ethan 08/23 - Tony "Thor" • 08/30 - Tony "Thor" 09/06 - Lucas • 09/07 - Ethan

ROOSEVELT TRAIL MAINE HISTORY TOUR SEPTEMBER 6^{TH} from 10AM- 4PM

A self-guided auto or bike tour. Enjoy a leisurely day of rural history along the Roosevelt Trl (Rt. 302). Visit one, some, or all the museums and sites from Westbrook to Harrison.

Free admission at all locations from 10a-4p. Visit RCHS or the Town website for a trail map and profile of each participating museum.

CANAL BOATS WITH MIKE DAVIS PART 2 SEPTEMBER 15TH at 6:30PM

Pick up where we left off with Mike and the discussion of canal boats and transportation on Sebago Lake and Songo Locks.

Learn how this water route helped shape our towns.

Town Clerk's Office Notices

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Meetings are held at the Broadcast Studio
423 Webbs Mills Rd or via Zoom
September 10th at 7pm – Planning Board Meeting
September 16th at 5pm – Select Board Workshop – Ordinances
September 16th at 6pm – Select Board Meeting
September 17th at 6:30pm – Budget-Finance Committee Meeting

BUDGET-FINANCE VACANCY APPLICATIONS: DUE MONDAY 08/18!

Applications must be submitted via email to the Town Clerk by Monday 08/18. Application materials will be reviewed by the Budget-Finance Committee at their meeting on August 20th at 5:30pm. The Committee's recommendation will then be forwarded to the Select Board.

This vacancy is to be filled by Select Board appointment until June 2026, when that position will be up for election for the remaining one year of the term (June 2026 through June 2027).

Application & Town Clerk info can be found at raymondmaine.org



REGISTER NOW for the Raymond UCan 5K & Kids Fun Run!!

DATE: Saturday, September 6, 2025

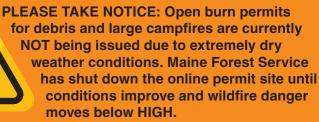
Join in this beloved community event!

This run is more than just a race. It's a chance to honor the legacy of Candace Woolston, rally together as a community, and raise support for incredible local causes. Whether you're a seasoned runner or just looking for a fun, meaningful day with friends and family — there's a place for YOU at the start line.

LET'S MAKE THIS COMEBACK ONE TO REMEMBER!

Register Online: raymond.recdesk.com

FIRE DANGER NOTICE:



This is NOT a burn ban and does not include those recreational campfires which do not require a permit under state law.
>>>Visit mainefireweather.org daily to check the fire weather status.



Raymond Property Revaluation

UPDATES

KRT Property Appraisal has ramped up their staff for Raymond. The Data Collectors are out in full force attempting to capture and correct any information that doesn't match the current Property Tax Record Card. There are no assessments given during this phase of the project. The representative is there to measure and make sure the information the Town has on file is accurate.

COMMON QUESTIONS:

1.) I want to make an appointment, why do they just show up? During this phase, KRT staff are trying to capture as much information as possible, as efficiently as possible. There are nearly 4,000 properties to inspect during this project and the first push is to hit as many homes as possible which is done by working of the tax maps and going street to street.

2.) Do I have to let KRT Appraisal staff into my home?

The short answer is...no. It is entirely up to the property owner who they wish to let into their home. The Town is requesting your full cooperation with this project to make it as accurate and fair as possible. KRT staff act as an agent for the Town of Raymond and are professionally trained to inspect property and note aspects of a properties construction and condition to be used later in the reval process.

3.) What happens if I refuse to let them in?

To ensure an accurate assessment of your property, it is to your advantage to allow the assessment personnel inside. Without this step of the process, KRT and the Town will be forced to estimate the unseen components of the property. By denying access for an inspection, you may jeopardize your ability to appeal your assessment later.

4.) What happens if I am not home?

KRT staff will walk around the property to capture outside measurements of houses, garages, decks, sheds, etc. In the Spring of 2026 residents will be mailed a letter with the proposed new assessment. At that time, KRT will request property owners to contact them if there are questions on the new assessment. An "Informal Hearing" meeting will be scheduled to discuss your valuation prior to the finalization of assessments.

DHHS alerts EBT cardholders of multi-state benefit theft

AUGUSTA – The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is alerting EBT cardholders of the reported theft of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. So far, this has impacted about 300 Maine households, stealing nearly \$76,000. This incident is still unfolding, and the number of households affected may increase.

DHHS' Office for Family Independence (OFI) has identified benefits being stolen by fraudulent point of sale devices registered in New York, California, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey, though as the situation evolves other fraudulent terminals may be identified in other locations. OFI is aware that other states are also being impacted by this mass theft of benefits.

Upon learning of the theft from af-

fected clients, OFI immediately contacted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service (USDA FNS) to block impacted terminals at the known locations while conducting an investigation. Maine's EBT vendor, Fidelity Information Services (FIS), has also engaged its fraud investigation team.

"This incident appears to be the result of large-scale theft involving stolen card numbers and PINs -- sometimes referred to as 'cloning' - rather than a localized skimming device," said Ian Yaffe, DHHS OFI Director. «While this type of fraud and theft have occurred in other states, this is the first time we have seen it at this scale in Maine. We are working with the federal government and our EBT vendor, Fidelity Information Services, to do all we can to prevent



further theft of benefits from Maine people who rely on SNAP to supplement their monthly food budget. We urge all Maine SNAP recipients to change their EBT card PIN and go to the Pinetree Card website or the ebt-EDGE app to enable personal protections on their cards."

Impact upon clients

SNAP benefits help low-income individuals and families afford food by supplementing their monthly grocery budget. The monthly assistance supports a household's food budget, reducing hunger and food insecurity. In July 2025, around \$29 million in SNAP benefits were provided to nearly 173,000 Mainers.

The impacted households had recently received their August SNAP benefits and now face having no food assistance until September. Under federal rules, stolen SNAP benefits may not be replaced.

How to Protect EBT Benefits

OFI is proactively contacting affected clients where possible and

working to order new EBT cards for these households. EBT cardholders are encouraged to take steps to protect their accounts, including:

- Use the Lock/Unlock Feature in the ebtEDGE app or online to temporarily block access to benefits when not in use.
- Block Out-of-State or Online Transactions if these are not regularly needed.
- Regularly Review Account Activity to spot suspicious transactions quickly.
- Change the PIN Now and Regularly: PINs can be updated at any time, including right before issuance. Frequent PIN updates can help protect accounts. Updating a PIN can be done through FISs automated system by calling 1-800-477-7428.
- Choose a Strong PIN: Avoid simple PINs that are easy to guess like 0000,1234, or birthdates.

These actions must be initiated by clients themselves. For security reasons, OFI cannot make these changes on a cardholder's behalf, whether in person or by phone.

DHHS will continue to work closely with FNS, law enforcement, and its EBT vendor to stop the theft and protect Maine families.

If you need support using ebt-EDGE cardholder portal website or mobile application, you can call FIS at 1-800-477-7428. <



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TOWN OF WINDHAM, MAINE PLANNING BOARD NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Monday, August 25, 2025 • 6:00PM Town Hall, Council Chambers, 8 School Road

- #25-21 Land Use Ordinance Amendments to Article 1 General, Article 8 Site Plan Review and Article 9 Subdivision Review - Planning Board Application Review Timeline and Submission Requirements
- #25-01 Dolley Farm Subdivision
 Tax Map: 5; Lot: 25 River Road
 Major subdivision and site plan for a 42-unit residential condominium development.
- #25-15 Land Use Ordinance Amendments to Article 12
 Impact Fees Sidewalk Impact Fee

FMI go to windhamweb.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx or contact (207) 894-5960 ex. 2. Written comment may be submitted to the Board at PlanningBoard@windhammaine.us.

Please notify us if you need accessibility accommodations.

The Windham Eagle Page 19

Maine Insurance Bureau requests comments about medical payments amendment, deadline Aug. 29

Maine Superintendent of Insurance Bob Carey is asking state residents to share their thoughts about L.D.899, "An Act to Strengthen the Requirements for Medical Payments Coverage," (P.L. Ch. 102), which

amends the process for the assignment of Medical Payments Coverage under 24-A M.R.S. § 2910-A(4).

amend-The ment adds the requirement that the agreement to assign this coverage must be "written" and "on a form prescribed or approved by the superintendent."

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The Maine Insurance Bureau proposed a change to 24-A M.R.S. § 2910-A(4) after receiving complaints from consumers who had assigned their medical payments benefit to a provider and had later been billed by the provider for cost sharing due under their health insurance, even though the medical payments coverage paid to the provider was greater than the cost sharing due under the consumer's health insurance.

> One intent of the form is to allow an option for insureds with the applicable commercial health insurance coverage (not Medicare, Mainecare, etc.), to direct the casualty insurer to pay a provider after the health insurer has paid its contracted

regarding requirements for an acceptable form.

The law's effective date is Sept. 24, 2025. However, the Maine Insurance Bureau will not enforce this provision prior to Dec. 1, 2025, to allow insurers adequate time to develop the necessary forms and procedures.

In the interim, insurers are encouraged to use a form that is substantially similar to the proposed form. The form should include an option for insureds with appropriate commercial health insurance to request medical payments to providers upon receipt of a bill from the medical provider indicating the amount owed by the insured after the health insurer pays its contracted amount (option 3 in the attached draft form). An electronic form will be acceptable. The form need not be filed with the Bureau at the current time.

Please submit comments on or before Aug. 29, 2025 to InsuranceComment.PFR@maine.gov. <







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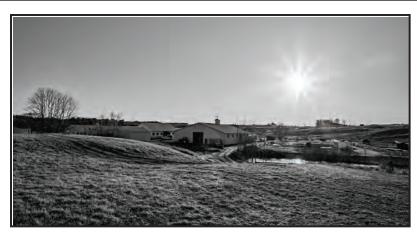
PR - Annual Percentage Rate. This offer is only valid to refinance auto loans from a lender that is not Maine State Credit Union. Loan as can be as low as 4.25% APR, after applying an up to 2% rate discount. The loan is subject to approval and the rate is determined standard lending policies. Additional terms and conditions apply. Rate and offer are subject to change at any time. Maine State util Union is insured by NCUA.



More than 200 people attended the 2025 Eagle Choice Awards on Thursday, Aug. 14 at Erik's Church in Windham and walked away knowing that the public appreciates what they do for the community. More than 10,000 ballots were cast across 94 categories resulting in over 191,000 votes. Winners in the first and second place were recognized at the event and were announced in a special insert which was published in the Aug. 15 edition. A check was presented to the first place winner in the nonprofit category, Camp Sunshine, in the amount of \$1,060 which was raised as part of an advertising initiative put on during the voting process back in July. The event also held a 50/50 raffle to benefit the second place winner in the nonprofit category, Windham Veterans Association, which resulted in a donation of more than \$200. The special section is a valued resource throughout the year to find area businesses that are trusted for and voted by the people of the community. PHOTO BY KELLY MANK

Reference the winners information year round at: www.TheWindhamEagle.com/Choice.pdf or scan here





FOCUS ON THE FARM

at the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals

Sunday, September 14th, 4 pm

Featuring the work of 30 photographers available through silent auction

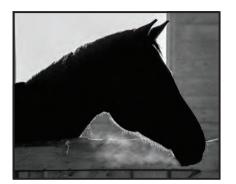
Tickets are \$50 pp, on sale now at https://www.msspa.org/focus-on-the-farm/



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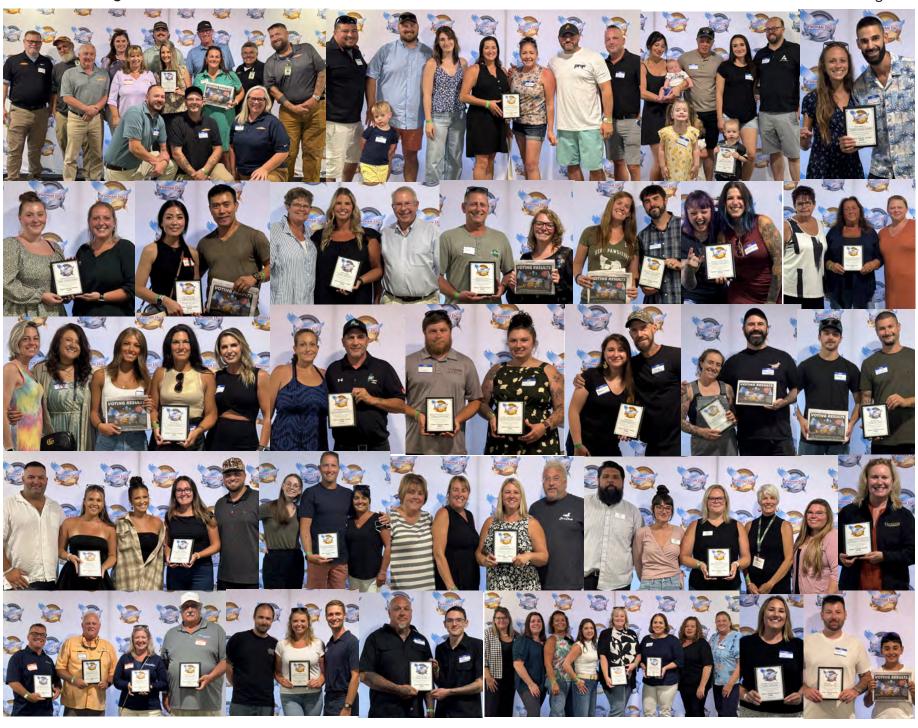


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Eagle Strong Construction of the Construction

Fifth grade girls' travel soccer team prepares for season

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham Youth Soccer Association's fifth grade girls' team will begin their season on Labor Day Weekend with a tournament in Cumberland. Until then, they've been practicing hard and are looking good. They held a practice at Gambo Field in Windham on Monday, Aug. 18 showing that they are communicating well and coming together as a team.

"I like running and I like playing defense," said Windham fifth grader Charlotte Brown, who's in her second year of playing soccer. "It's fun playing defense and trying to score goals even though I don't like offense that much. (I'd like) to get more into offense this season. I'd like to play in high school and still like the game as much (as I do now). I'm looking forward to the new season. It's fun practicing with all my friends."

This season will be a little more challenging as on-field players will increase to nine players-on-nine players where previously games were seven players-on-seven players. This season will also include new field formations and new rules, like offsides.

WYSA's fifth grade girls' coach, Geoff Sparrow is now in his fourth year of coaching the team. When he first began coaching, he had a few years of soccer experience but really dug into being a good coach and the research and studying necessary to make sure the kids have good, productive practice sessions.

"It's so much fun, just seeing the kids develop over the course of the season," said Sparrow. "To set up an environment where they are learning, building their personal relationships







(L to R) Windham Youth Soccer Association fifth graders Dorothy "Dottie" Sparrow, left, and Charlotte Brown go after the ball during a practice at Gambo Field in Windham on Monday, Aug. 18. Fifth grader Addesyn Salazar, left, maneuvers by a teammate. Fifth grader Lauren Clukey practices a drill. PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

and developing their soccer skills in the game is pretty rewarding. My goal is to coach them to compete well but also make sure they are developing that love for the game and building their bonding relationships with their teammates."

It is important to keep the game at a fast pace. Sparrow said If the players are idle for 15 seconds, you risk losing their attention. One theory of good coaching for kids is maximizing touches on the ball and not standing in line, doing drills, it's also important to make sure everyone is involved.

Ridley Fulton, a Windham fifth grader, said she's been playing soccer since she was very little. She wanted to learn the game so she could improve her skills. Fulton really likes scoring and playing scrimmages. Her goal for the season is to get faster and score more goals; she'd also like to improve

her footwork. Fulton says that she likes her teammates and she's played with a lot of them for a while.

Dorothy "Dottie" Sparrow, a Windham fifth grader, said she has been playing soccer since she was 3. Her sister played, and it seemed like it would be really fun, so she wanted to try it. Sparrow has learned how to pass better and play new positions she's never tried. She is the team's goalie and her aim this season is to improve her skills as goalie. Sparrow is looking forward to the season and her long-term goal is to play on the varsity team one day.

The Windham Youth Soccer program is a great way for kids who are into the game to develop more than they might otherwise with a recreation soccer program; there's a higher level of coaching that comes with it and it's a great opportunity for the kids, with not as much travel as people think. For the fifth grade girls' team, the farthest they travel is 45 minutes away, with most games in neighboring towns.

After the practice Coach Geoff Sparrow gets feedback from his players on what they thought went well, or didn't go well. He asks them what they learned and uses that feedback to improve future practices. <



Fifth grader Heidi Townsend keeps the ball in play.

· VUITHAUR OF THEIR WARRED



Ridley Fulton

Age: 10

Team: Windham Youth Soccer Association Fifth Grade travel team

Coach: Geoff Sparrow

Parents' names: Lindsey and Peter Fulton

Reason for selection: Ridley is a great player; she's got a ton of energy and was challenging at first, but

coaches have found a way to channel her energy, and soccer has been a great outlet for her. She is certainly the most improved over the last couple years. She's a ton of positive energy – she's very coachable; good at listening and in a game situation, coaches can remind her of something she did at practice or something we talked about, and she'll go, "oh yeah" and go off and do exactly what her coaches talked about.

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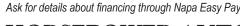
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The Windham Eagle — Page 23

Soccer remains a passion that provides opportunities for Windham High School graduate Abbey Thornton

By Matt Pascarella

Windham High School graduate Abbey Thornton truly loves the game of soccer and has continued to excel on the pitch at the University of Maine in Orono while earning her degree in nursing. Now a junior in college, Thornton is succeeding on and off the field, maintaining a 4.0 GPA her freshman year and made Dean's List during her sophomore year.

"It is a huge adjustment from playing high school soccer to playing Division I soccer," said Thornton. "I remember freshman year everyone felt so much bigger, stronger, and faster than myself. I was no longer playing against teenage girls, but adults. This adjustment required me to build mental toughness and belief in myself. It required me to always work hard and to earn everything."

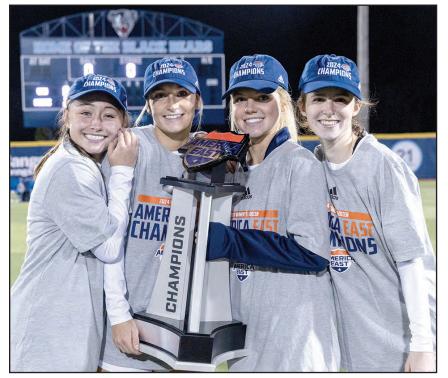
When she was 3 years old, her parents enrolled her in Windham Youth Soccer. Thornton grew up with an older brother and an active family and soccer has been an escape for her and has opened so many doors. She's made lifelong friends and has traveled across the country to play.

"Windham High Soccer really taught me what soccer was all about," said Thornton. "On long days, after school, when I was stressed and had a million little things to be doing, I was able to put that on hold. Instead, I got to kick around a ball with some of my best friends, do something I love and have fun. Soccer really is an escape for me and a place I can focus my energy."

In her two seasons so far at UMaine, Thornton helped the Black Bears to win its first America's East Conference Championship in 2023 and then repeat that title in 2024.

For Thornton, this felt like a movie. She said the team had set out to win the Conference Championship in 2023 and followed through. The 2023 game was a nailbiter that went into overtime. That win made the long days and early mornings worth it. The team set out to be back-to-back champions in 2024 and accomplished that goal, too.

"(Abbey's) constant commitment





(L to R) Windham graduate and University of Maine Orono junior Abbey Thornton, third from left, with some of her teammates after winning the America's East Conference Women's Soccer Championship for the second consecutive year at the University of Maine Orono on Nov. 10, 2024. PHOTO BY SETH POPLASKI Abbey Thornton's teammates hug her after she scores a goal in a semifinal game against the University of Massachusetts Lowell at the University of Maine Orono on Nov. 7, 2024. PHOTO BY MADELYN LUSSIER

to give it her all pushes the people around her to match her energy and go one step further," said UMO junior teammate Grace Johnson. "Vocally Abbey is constantly providing positive reinforcements to her sounding teammates who are on and off the pitch because Abbey's support is not dependent on minutes but solely stems from her true compassion for others. Abbey is the teammate who is always reaching out to all the first years after their first game, and the teammate who shows up every day ready to contribute as a player, as a teammate, but most importantly as a friend. You can see the joy radiating off her, that exact energy is something that can't be taught but a true gift to our program."

Her advice to athletes who may be interested in continuing to play sports after high school is that hard work beats talent; even if you're not the most skilled on the field, you can always be the most hardworking. College sports take discipline and sacrifice but are also beyond rewarding, she says.

Being a UMaine Black Bear has al-

lowed Thornton to build relationships that will last a lifetime.

"Abbey leads by example (and) is

extremely self-disciplined; her work habits are extraordinary," said UMO women's soccer coach Scott Atherley. "Abbey epitomizes the true meaning of student-athlete as she excels at the highest levels academically and athletically. Integrity is a word immediately comes to mind when I think of Abbey. She is one of our most creative and technical players. In our system, we rely on skillful players who can problem solve and make decisions under presan important on-field role this season and will continue to have a massive presence in our locker room." <



sure. Abbey has great vision and composure. She will assume

Abbey Thornton concentrates during a game at the University of Maine Orono against Stone-hill College on Sept. 8, 2024. PHOTO BY SETH POPLASKI





Randomly thinking random thoughts

By Andy Young

STAFF COLUMNIST

I wish I had discovered the value of walking years ago. Non-competitive physical activity, I've found, doesn't just encourage the free flow of ideas; it enhances it. Often, I find myself wondering about everyday things whenever I have the opportunity to stroll down some country lanes, or hike through nearby peaceful forests. Thankfully I was able to remember a

few of the thoughts that occurred to me during this morning's nature walk. For example:

Who buys shoes or clothing on the Internet? I can't imagine purchasing any article of apparel without first trying it on to see if it fits. It'd be like buying a car without at least test-driving it or buying a house sight unseen. I just don't get it.

After eating with some friends at a restaurant recently we had to split the

check. Up until then I thought cash was still king but apparently, it's been dethroned. What the heck is Venmo? When I heard that word, I thought they were talking about some defenseman on the Finnish national hockey team. And who (or what) is Crypto? If I had to guess, I'd say he's a fictional supervillain who's out to destroy Gotham City, and ruin Batman in the process. I bet he lives inside a luxurious, tricked-out mausoleum, and only comes out at night.

If Venmo really is a thing, it won't be long before someone launches Vedgmo, a system of paying for things with fresh produce. I'm just worried that someone's going to create Vengemo, a diabolical method of gaining retribution for real or imagined past slights. Maybe it wouldn't be all bad, though, since it would take all the idle hit men off the unemployment line.

Litterers are lazy, selfish, and disrespectful. I know I've said that before, but that doesn't make it any less true.

Here's a joke I heard (or to be accurate, re-heard) recently.

What's Ludwig van Beethoven doing these days?

Answer: decomposing.

You know who must have lived a frustrating life? Whoever it was that bought the exclusive rights to manufacture 49-star flags. They probably thought they'd make millions when Alaska became the 49th United State on Jan. 3, 1959, rendering every previously-existing 48-star American flag obsolete. But imagine their chagrin when, just 230 days later, Hawaii

joined the union! Owning all those 49-star flags turned out to be like owning Blockbuster Video stock in 2014.

These days 49-star flags are probably lining landfills that are rapidly filling up with fax machines, overhead projectors, manual typewriters, paper road maps that never fold back to their original shape, telephone books, boomboxes, Walkmans, slide rules, mimeograph machines, and shoes that need tying. When 29th century archeologists get around to digging up relics from our era, they're going to wonder why 20th- and 21st century people needed so much tangible stuff. Alas, by then all the 49-star flags and paper road maps will probably have disintegrated.

I've been buying "Forever" stamps for so long now that I'd forgotten what their actual price is. Did you know it currently costs 78 cents to mail a letter within the U.S., and 61 cents to mail a postcard?

I've figured out how to get my money's worth from the post office, though. Instead of sending letters to friends, I write out two postcards, then stick them inside an envelope and mail it. Every time I do that, I save 44 cents!

Another random thought: "Random" is a pretty random word. Why not use "haphazard," "desultory," "slapdash," "arbitrary," or any other unpremeditated synonym instead?

And finally, do scientists know how long it takes for a boombox to decompose? <



Editor,

I truly appreciate the space provided by your publication to cast light on the citizen's initiative that the great state of Maine will be considering at the ballot box in November.

The Voter ID For Me ballot question is about strengthening our elections and ensuring that they stay free, fair, and secure. This simple, common-sense safeguard is not a partisan issue. People on both sides of the aisle support it, and 36 states already include it in their voting process.

Requests for photo identification are already prevalent in Maine, and this proposal, when passed, will provide free IDs for anyone who needs one. No eligible voter will be left out.

In conclusion, the voter ID requirement is a common-sense initiative that would strengthen our elections and our democratic voting process, as well as protect every voter and ensure that every vote counts. That is why I will vote yes on Voter ID For ME on Nov. 4, 2025.

~ Donna Johnston Windham







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The Windham Eagle — Page 25

Eagle Property Come

Remodeling is green building

By Warren O'Shea
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



In most cases, renovating an existing house can be considered more environmentally friendly than building a new "green" house, even when that

— Warren O'Shea
Owner, O'Shea Builders
onew construction incorporates sustainable elements.

I was once fortunate enough to be privy to a conversation between a crusty remodeler and a "Green Products" vendor at a trade show. The vendor was advertising all the benefits to the environment (and humanity) that their products provide. Save the planet, think of the children, healthy lifestyle, save money etc. We all know the buzz words, and it sounds great - who doesn't want those things? And who wants the guilt of feeling personally responsible for the demise of our beautiful blue marble? I'm all in!

Enter Mr. Crusty.

Like standing next to a bullet train of words, he unleashed his rebuttal. All I could do was stand in amazement as this unassuming and aged man opened the institutional sized, #10 can of whoopass and fed it to the vendor by the shovel full. I could begin to quote the exchange, but only in fear of being banned from this wonderful newspaper.

With the help of AI wizardry and some Google searches the following is what he was effectively trying to portray to the vendor.

• Embodied Energy: Existing buildings already represent a significant investment of embodied energy, which is the energy used in the extraction, manufacture, transportation, and construc-

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tion of all the materials that went into building it. Tearing down an existing structure to build new essentially throws away this embodied energy and requires using even more energy and resources for new materials and construction.

- Reduced Waste: New construction generates significant waste: Demolition of existing structures and the construction process itself produce considerable amounts of waste that often end up in landfills.
- Repurposing Structures: Renovating allows for the reuse and repurposing of existing structures and materials, significantly reducing waste. For instance, one calculation suggests revamping an older house instead of building new saves the carbon equivalent of 93 cars driving for a full year.
- Material Conservation: Renovations often involve reusing materials like bricks, timber, and steel, which conserves natural resources that would otherwise be used to create new materials. This aligns with a circular economy, promoting continuous reuse and recycling of materials.
- Time to Offset: While new green homes are designed for efficiency, it can take years even decades for the energy savings of a new energy-efficient building to offset the high upfront environmental impact of its construction. Studies have shown that it can take 10 to 80 years for a new energy-efficient building to catch up with an older, energy-retrofitted building in terms of climate impacts.
- Resource conservation: New construction depletes natural resources: Building new requires extracting and processing raw materials like timber, metals, and minerals, which can lead

to deforestation, habitat destruction, and resource depletion. Renovation, on the other hand, conserves resources: By repurposing existing materials, renovations reduce the demand for virgin resources and the associated environmental impact.

• Faster project completion and cost savings: Renovations are often faster and potentially more affordable: Adaptive reuse projects can be completed quicker and potentially at a lower cost than building new, particularly if the existing structure is sound and reusable.

In essence, the "greenest" building is often the one that already exists, especially when renovation efforts focus on energy efficiency, waste reduction, and the use of sustainable materials. Ultimately, the most environmentally sound choice depends on various factors, including the condition of the existing structure, the scope of the project, and the commitment to sustainable practices during both renovation and potential new construction. As eco-consciousness continues to rise in popularity with

consumers, the building industry has birthed a slew of sustainable vendors – and some that just aren't.

Let the buyer beware: The green living magazine "New Life Journal" suggests that home renovators do some investigating before jumping at a green price tag. A lot of products marketed as green due to their energy efficiency ratings may use less electricity than some of their counterparts on the market but may also be constructed out of wholly unsustainable materials or made in environmentally harmful ways. What may appear green might not be green at all. This is a marketing ploy known as "Greenwashing." I don't know if Mr. Crusty had heard of the term before but he sure knows what it is.

This article was brought to you by Warren O'Shea, owner of O'Shea Builders LLC, Maine's most award-winning remodeling contractor. He has 35-plus years of residential remodeling experience. Warren has, and continues to, co-author articles for nationally distributed trade magazines. <







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SCHOOL YEAR WORD SEARCH K K G C В Υ 0 U Ε U C R X 0 Τ В 0 Ε S Ρ Ε Α Т G W X Т Ε Ε Ε G Н S 0 В 0 S R В 0 N Ι R S D Н 0 0 S R R Α D Ε N C D 0 0 0 н R N T Н 0 Ι C Ε S Ι W G Н Н Ε В Α 0 Υ Ι C Ε S Н D U

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

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C Ε Ι Ε S

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Answers: A. blindness B.

eyes

C. vision D.

glasses

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\mathbb{C} Ω

Solve the code to discover words related to low vision. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 5 = S)

6 **20 26 20** 25 5 A. 19

Clue: Not being able to see

3 В. **25** 25 5

Clue: Enable sight

2 6 **5** 6

Clue: State of being able to see

D. 19 8 5 5 25 5

Clue: Help with sight

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Α	В	N				М	0	м				R	н	0
D	R	Е	G		N	Α	N	Α	s		В	Α	Α	L
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	s	Ν	0	Т	Т	Υ		s	1	G	Z	Е	Т	
			L	Α	М				Е	Е	G			
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D	Α	В		Е	G	Α	L	ı	Т	Α	R	1	Α	N
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Α	Υ	Е	s		O	Е	D	Е	s		Р	Е	G	s
D	Α	R				w	Α	D				N	1	В



15 17 18 20 23 29 38 39 42 46 49 50 51 55 64 68 69 **CLUES ACROSS** 1. Google certification 39. Give off

- 4. Cloths spread over coffins
- 9. Disorderly
- 14. "Star Wars" hero Solo
- 15. Toward the rear
- 16. The order of frogs 17. Alternative pain
- treatment (abbr.)
- 18. "Wolf of Wall Street" star 20. Evoke
- 22. Units of metrical time
- 23. Helps to predict eclipses
- 24. Some say they attract
- 28. Pitching statistic
- 29. Baseball box score (abbr.)
- 30. Force unit
- 31. Repaired shoe 33. English theologian
- 37. Commercial
- 38. Exchange money for goods or services

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Clarified butters
- 2. Primitive Himalayan people
- 3. Completely
- 6. Language spoken in Laos
- 7. Type of screen

- 9. Volcanic craters
- 10. Still outstanding
- 11. Takes responsibility for another 53. Boxing's GOAT
- 12. California think tank
- 13. Former Rocket Ming
- 19. A pigeon noise
- 21. Central part of
- 24. Academy Award statue
- 26. Relative on the female side of the family
- 27. Passover feast and ceremony

- 41. One from Utah
- 42. Computer department
- 43. Begets
- 44. English navigator
- 46. C C C
- 49. Of I
- 50. Pouch 51. Add notes to
- 55. A way to fall into ruin
- 58. Cunning intelligence 59. Blood disorder
- 60. Disgraced CBS newsman
- 64. Tax collector
- 65. Type of grass common to
- the Orient 66. Cosmic intelligence
- 67. No (Scottish)
- 68. People who rely on things
- 69. Stairs have them
- 70. Mathematical term (abbr.)

- 4. Steep cliffs along the **Hudson River**
- 5. Assist
- 8. An attempt to economize

- 25. Distinct unit of sound

- 31. The brightest star in Virgo
- 32. Made with oats
- 34. Subjects to laser light 35. Beloved Hollywood alien
- 36. Neatly brief
- 40. The Great Lakes State (abbr.)
- 41. Soon to be released 45. Swiss river
- 47. Become involved in
- 48. More dour
- 52. They're on floors
- 54. Swarms with
- 56. Quantum mechanics pioneer
- 57. Facilitated
- 59. As fast as can be done (abbr.)
- 60. Regional French wine Grand
- 61. Owns
- 62. Tell on
- 63. Precedes 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.

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

5	3	9	4	2	7	6	4	8
7	2	6	3	4	8	5	and a	9
deen	4	8	9	6	5	7	3	2
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9	Acces	5	2	8	6	4	7	3
2	6	7	4	5	3	8	9	door
3	8	4	7	9	1	2	6	5



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Using only the top roofing materials with quality installation, Wallace Home Improvement has a full range of roofing services ranging from traditional asphalt shingles to standing seam metal roofs. It can upgrade you to a metal roof for great longevity, performance and benefits. For traditional asphalt shingle roofs, Wallace offers a wide variety of styles and colors to choose from, helping to ensure a long lasting and stunning look.

"Established in 1991, we're a family-owned company dedicated to using our knowledge and hands-on knowhow to help you get the most out of your home. From siding contractors to roofers to gutter contractors, our team



is here to offer competitive pricing and skilled craftsmanship," Wallace said. "At Wallace Home Improvement, our goal is to ensure you get the great products and quality workmanship you deserve."

Wallace Home Improvement's siding installers can assist in converting a home's drab and faded appearance to look newly restored through exterior low-maintenance vinyl siding. If your old gutters have finally given out or you're installing them for the first time, Wallace's expert installers have the experience and hands-on knowledge to efficiently and effectively install a new gutter system while using quality seamless gutter products to provide excellent performance.

Known for its fast quality residential roofing, Wallace Home Improvement offers free estimates and delivers peace of mind, quality roofing service and top-notch installation.

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Wallace has been in the home remodeling business for more than 36 years and started doing seamless gutters that turned into one of Maine's largest residential roofing companies.

Reviews posted online are simply outstanding.

"Exceptional work! I don't think there are enough complimentary words in the dictionary to convey the quality of Wallace Home Improvement. In addition to using great materials, they have an amazing crew that are not only knowledgeable but professional and courteous. Our roof was old and involved more than was expected, but it was no challenge for the Wallace Team. They did a fantastic job!" ~ Christine M.

"I was confident when I signed the contract with Dave and his wife that I had made a good decision, after looking at several options for roofers/siders. They were able to answer all my questions and put together a great plan and solutions that I didn't know how to solve. But when the crew showed up, to say I was blown away would be an un-

derstatement! They stripped my house, siding and roofing in a matter of several hours. By the end of the day, they started laying new stuff on. The crew worked efficiently and did high quality work until it was complete. Work ethic of days gone by. I am so happy and grateful that I chose Wallace Home Improvement." ~ Artemis B.

"I am completely amazed at the job Wallace Roofing has accomplished with a work crew that did not stop. In one day laying ice and water shield for the entire house and garage, laying 30 squares and they were done! The fact that I don't have a dent in my relatively new seamless gutters and you can't find a spot of debris or a nail in my hedges, flower garden or anyplace around my home. It's like someone waved a magic wand, and in one day, I have a new roof. His crew moved everything that needed moving and it was placed back in the same location when they left. I can't thank Dave and Dana and his crew enough. They put me on a priority list because of some leaks I had with all this Maine rain, and I will be good for many, many years! Thanks again and I highly recommend Wallace Roofing for those in need." ~ George C.

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