

## Outpouring of community support at annual Veterans Day celebration

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

The Windham Veterans Center was practically standing room only as at least 200 people from the community were in attendance to support and pay their respects to those who served or are serving their country at the 2025 Veterans Day observance hosted by VFW Post 10643 on Tuesday, Nov. 11.

This event brought community members of all ages. The Windham Chamber Singers were there to continue their tradition of uniting the crowd in song and Boy Scouts of America Troop 805 were present to help out during this occasion that celebrated the men and women who fought for the freedom of the people of the United States of America.

VFW Post 10643 new Commander Jeffrey Cook was the master of ceremonies; former Post 10643 Commander Willie Goodman will be Cook's Senior Vice Commander. Goodman was presented with a certificate and a gift. The keynote speaker was Honor Flight Maine representative Elizabeth Cormier. The essay winners for the Patriot's Pen for

grades 6 to 8 and Voice of Democracy for grades 9 to 12 were also announced.

"Being the new commander means a lot to me," said Cook. "Mostly because what it means to the other veterans and the older veterans, having a younger guy come in ... being here to support them. I do a lot of things during the week and the month that they can't get out and do, and that's the most important. This is my first Veterans Day event and I didn't expect it to be this big. I didn't expect it to be this well attended by the community and other veterans; it really shows what we have in the community."

Windham senior and member of the Chamber Singers Rowan Cummings said the tradition and legacy of the group is to put the community first. Singing at the event every year is wholeheartedly an experience that means a lot to them. For her to see the community and veterans come together through their music is really touching.

This was the final year that Dr. Richard Nickerson will be with Windham Chamber Singers, he will

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Jerry Black, right, cuts the cake with Post 10643 Commander Jeffrey Cook at the Veterans Day observance which was held at the Windham Veterans Center on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Out of the 200 attendees at the event, Black was the oldest veteran in attendance at age 97. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA

## Community comes together to support families in need during the holidays and beyond

By Lorraine Glowczak  
STAFF WRITER

As the holiday season approaches, the Windham and Raymond communities once again prove that generosity and compassion are at the heart of small-town life. From gift drives for children to care packages for older adults, local volunteers and organizations are working tirelessly to ensure that no family or individual goes without the warmth and joy of the upcoming season.

### Christmas Angels

One of the most heartfelt examples of this spirit is the Christmas Angels program, which began at Windham Middle School (WMS) just five years ago with a few families helping four local households, seven children in total. What started as a small effort at the school because of a phone call asking if there was help for families in need, has grown into a town-wide movement that last year supported 32 families and 37 children.

"It began with just a few families asking if the schools could help," said organizer Debbie Hall, who coordinates the program through WMS. "Now we have over 100 'angels', people and neighborhoods all across town, who have stepped up to make sure local kids experience a joyful Christmas."



It Takes A Village 207 Christmas Program was founded by Journey (the Grinch) and her daughter Becky Jackson. From left, Jeremy Jackson, Becky Jackson, Gracie Jackson, and Journey. Together this family team spends countless hours organizing the Christmas Program which helps area kids ages 0-17 for the holidays. SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Christmas Angels initiative works closely with the Windham Primary, Manchester, and the Windham High Schools to identify families who

could use a little extra support. Each participating child provides a wish list of needs and wants, such as clothing, toys, and personal items. Vol-

unteers then coordinate donations so that each student receives at least two or three gifts, along with a new blanket for every child, a small but meaningful gesture that has become a tradition.

"This community amazes me every year," Hall said. "It has truly warmed my heart how many people want to help."

The group's work doesn't stop when the holidays end. Christmas Angels operates year-round, stepping in when families lose belongings to fires or other emergencies. "We've helped families throughout the year, not just at Christmas," Hall added. "That's what makes this community so special, the willingness to show up when it matters most."

Anyone interested in becoming an "angel" can contact Hall at [dhall@rsu14.org](mailto:dhall@rsu14.org) to be included in this year's gift drive. Donations are accepted through December 12, with drop-offs coordinated at each of the participating schools as follows:

Windham Primary School: Diana Jordan, [djordan@rsu14.org](mailto:djordan@rsu14.org)

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# INSIGHT

## Giving back isn't just about charity

As our managing editor, Ed Pierce, has been called away to tend to a family emergency, I've been asked to fill in for this week's Insight. I must admit, stepping into Ed's shoes is a bit intimidating. His weekly reflections are rich with experience, journalistic grace, and heartfelt wisdom. I can only hope he'll be gentle with his critique when he returns. (Ed, if you're reading this...please, no red pen marks!)

It's that time of year again, the season when we hear phrases like "giving back," "helping those in need," and "the spirit of the holidays." They're lovely words, and they're true. But as I grow older and have gained more life experience, I've come to realize something deeper: giving back isn't just about charity. It's about building a supportive, thriving community where everyone has the opportunity to succeed and feel valued.

And if there's any place that embodies that idea, it's right here in Windham and Raymond.

When we hear the word charity, we often think of donations such as food drives, clothing bins, or fundraising campaigns. All of these are essential and make a difference. But charity, in the traditional sense, tends to be one-directional: someone gives, and someone receives. It's often a quick, compassionate response to an immediate need, a short-term fix for a problem that might resurface again and again.

Giving back, however, is more than that. It's about connection. It's about seeing yourself as part of a larger whole and recognizing that what strengthens one person strengthens us all. It's about relationships, understanding, and the belief that we each play a role in shaping the kind of community we want to live in.

When we give back, we're not doing it out of pity or obligation. We do it because we understand that everyone's well-being is intertwined. Helping others helps us, too. It reminds us of our shared humanity and restores our faith that good still exists in the world.

In my work in education, I wear many hats, and one of them includes coordinating Capstone Projects for high school seniors. Part of that work requires students to engage in meaningful community service, projects that require them to give of themselves.

At first, some students approach the requirement like it's just another box to check before graduation. But then something happens. They volunteer at an animal shelter, mentor at the other schools in the district, provide volunteer efforts with the community per community requests, or find a volunteer request that is meaningful in their lives. Slowly, they begin to understand as they write their second reflection paper what giving back really means. More often than not, some are surprised to find that they gain something too, a sense of purpose, connection, and belonging.

Recently, one student wrote in one of his ELO reflections about giving back. "When you help others, your brain can give out chemicals that can boost your mood and emotional well-being. Small acts can make a difference. This means that no matter how big or small the act can be, the impact can still be a huge difference. While helping others, you can connect to yourself in plenty ways, like finding something new about yourself through your actions." (Liam Moxey, Sophomore.)

I see examples of Windham and Raymond residents lifting each other up, while also lifting themselves. There are the volunteers who organize the Christmas Angels program, helping ensure local children have gifts and warm clothing during the holidays. There are those who quietly drop off groceries for a struggling neighbor or shovel an elderly friend's driveway after a storm. There are teachers who spend extra hours helping students succeed and business owners who sponsor youth sports or donate to local causes. And sometimes, those who were once in need come back to give, when their lives begin to shine brighter.

As we head into the holiday season, we'll hear many calls to give, to donate food, coats, toys, or money. And while all of that is important, I hope we also think about why we give. Do we continue that inspiration throughout the year?

Or, do we check a box, or to make ourselves feel good for a moment? Or do we give because we truly believe in the power of community, that each act of kindness, each hour of service, each dollar shared contributes to something larger than ourselves?

Giving back, at its heart, is not about charity, it's about being connected and community bonds. It's a way of saying, "We're in this together."

That's what makes this community so special. Windham and Raymond is a network of people who show up, for neighbors, for families, for students, for one another.

So while I may never match Ed Pierce's eloquence as his Insights, I think he would agree with this: the real heart of our community beats strongest when we give, not just out of charity, but out of genuine care. < ~ Lorraine Glowczak

### Today in HISTORY



**NOVEMBER 14**

1680 – German astronomer Gottfried Kirch discovers the Great Comet of 1680, the first comet to be discovered by telescope.

1832 – The first streetcar goes into operation in New York City. The vehicle was horse-drawn and had room for 30 people.

1851 – Herman Melville's novel "Moby Dick" is first published in the United States.

1959 – The song "Mr. Blue" by The Fleetwoods reaches the Number One position on the Billboard Popular American Music charts.

1960 – Ruby Bridges becomes the first black student to attend an all-white elementary school in Louisiana.

1968 – Yale University announces it is becoming co-educational and admitting women.

1969 – NASA launches Apollo 12, the second manned mission to land on the surface of the moon.

1972 – The Dow Jones Industrial Average closes above the 1,000 (1,003.16) level for the first time.

# ON THE SPOT

In your opinion, what would be the best food to win a lifetime supply of?

- "Beef." – William D. Reiner
- "Why Maine lobster of course." – Bill Keller
- "Good chocolate all the way!!" – Miki Mayberry
- "Definitely chocolate." – Stephen Signor
- "Doritos." – Brian Butler
- "Fried chicken." – Ed Pierce
- "Ribeye steaks." – Francesco Paredon
- "Skippy All-Natural Peanut Butter!" – David Brickel
- "Mashed potatoes." – Christine Nardeau Coughlin
- "Steak." – Megan Elizabeth
- "Bananas." – Brian McCarthy
- "Roast beef tenderloin." – Julie Mallett
- "Lobster!" – Sharon Taylor
- "Citrus, probably clementines." – Rob Juegens
- "Ribeye." – Matthew M. Sherburne
- "Cheese." – Morgan Peters
- "White Wine." – Krista Kisch
- "Chocolate." – Janet Copp
- "Chili cheese dogs." – Darrell Janoushek
- "Nonpareils, the dark chocolate ones that are good for you." – Nancy Pierce
- "T-Bone Steaks." – Melissa Carter
- "Does beer count?" – Rob Day

### Inspirational Quote of the Week

"It's easier to take than to give. It's nobler to give than to take. The thrill of taking lasts a day. The thrill of giving lasts a lifetime." – Joan Marques



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# Eagle NEWS



## Erik's Church Fall Golf Tournament raises funds for RSU 14 Backpack Program; January Event Planned

By Melissa Carter  
STAFF WRITER

Community support for local families was on full display this fall when Erik's Church hosted its annual golf tournament, raising \$7,000 for the RSU 14 Backpack Program. This contribution builds on more than \$20,000 raised at a winter event earlier this year and reinforces the restaurant and entertainment venue's growing role as a committed partner in supporting students and nonprofit organizations locally.

The RSU 14 Backpack Program began during the 2011-2012 school year to address gaps in food availability for students over weekends and school breaks. While meals are available during the school day, many children leave school on Friday with uncertain access to nutritious food until they return on Monday. The program discreetly provides weekend food bags filled with kid-friendly, shelf-stable items that students can prepare independently. Bags are packed weekly by volunteers at Windham Middle School and distributed by school personnel to maintain privacy. The program was launched serving about 50



Kenny Cianchette, owner of Erik's Church, is presented with a plaque of appreciation for his ongoing support of the RSU 14 Backpack Program by founder and organizer of the program, Marge Giovini and volunteer Franny Etheridge. SUBMITTED PHOTO

children and now supports more than 150 students districtwide, reflecting increased need as many families face rising food and grocery costs.

Each bag costs roughly \$10 to assemble, and while that seems modest, the program estimates that supporting one student for the full school year can cost around \$300. It is filled

with kid-friendly, nutritious foods that are lightweight enough to carry home in their backpacks. Because the Backpack Program does not receive funding through the district budget, it depends entirely on contributions from individuals, community groups, and area businesses. Volunteers, rather than paid staff, handle all planning,

purchasing, and packing, ensuring that donations are spent directly on food for students. Organizers say this makes the program particularly impactful, because every contribution goes directly toward providing consistent nourishment to local children.

Erik's Church owner Kenny Cianchette said he supports the Backpack Program because it meets a visible need and does so with remarkable efficiency. He noted that the all-volunteer structure allows the program to serve children without administrative costs typically associated with nonprofit organizations. "I support the Backpack Program because the need for the program is, unfortunately, there and the dollars given to the team who run it are 100% used for the purpose," Cianchette said. "There is no waste by the organization since it is volunteer-run and financially backed by contributions. Many organizations have overhead to make their missions a reality, but this program is entirely operated professionally, based on my experience, by amazing volunteers."

Cianchette added that the ability to organize events that bring the com-

→ see **BACKPACKS** Page 10

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**VETERANS** *Cont. from page 1*  
 retire in June 2026.

“There’s no performance that we feel more honored to be a part of,” said Dr. Nickerson. “And in my final time here, I want to thank you for allowing us not just to perform, but to be present in this ceremony. It means a great deal to us to be here.”

Keynote speaker Cormier said all veterans should apply to take their Honor Flight trip. No matter how big or little their service, all veterans are worthy of it. For Cormier, each trip reminds us gratitude should never have an expiration date. It’s a journey that truly touches hearts. VFW Post 10643 later presented Cormier with a donation of \$1,000 to Honor Flight Maine.

The theme for both essays this year was ‘how are you showing patriotism

and support of your country?’ The Patriot’s Pen winner was Windham Christian Academy eighth grader Elsa Pearson; second place was Annaelle Kawayia. The Voices of Democracy winner was Windham sophomore Shea Carey.

Pearson spoke of the importance of volunteering and how when she was in fifth and sixth grade, she volunteered at the local food pantry setting up Thanksgiving baskets. She said helping our community is one step closer to making our country better. She and her class have also traveled across southern Maine to perform juggling acts for nursing homes and spread the gospel, while visiting with the residents of these homes.

Carey’s essay was about the many ways to display patriotism. Whether that be standing to attention during the pledge of allegiance or stand-



(L to R) Patriot's Pen essay winner and Windham Christian Academy eighth grader Elsa Pearson with Post 10643 Commander Jeffrey Cook at the Veterans Day observance at the Windham Veterans Center on Tuesday, Nov. 11. Voices of Democracy essay winner and sophomore Shea Carey reads her essay on the topic of 'how are you showing patriotism and support for your country?' PHOTOS BY MATT PASCARELLA

ing up for those who can’t stand for themselves. Carey said each action she makes is done with intention, passion and regard for others. Her version of patriotism involves the simplest acts of kindness and integrity. She values being a kind person and hopes those who heard her essay take those words and strive to make a difference where they can.

“My whole family, father, grandfather, great-grandfather were all veterans, and I totally support what they do,” said Windham resident Tom Tyler. “I think the turnout here is absolutely awesome for the patriotism of this country.”

97-year-old Jerry Black was the oldest veteran at the observance. Black served in the Navy during the Korean War.

“It means more to me (to see everyone here) because my cousin, a military man is not with me,” said Black.

“Whenever I can come to something I try to represent him as well as myself. Just to be here and be active with all these people and the young people; I want to be here. The town has been good to me, and I hope I can be good to them sometime.”

Black described his cousin like a brother; they grew up together and he is proud to represent him at these events. At 97, Black said he’d like to make it to 100 but takes it day-by-day. He feels good, he still drives, he walks and emphasized it’s important to keep moving. He enjoys coming to the Windham Veterans Center to just have a cup of coffee with the guys.

“Probably someone here either is a veteran, knows a veteran or has a veteran in their family. Today we honor every veteran,” said Cook. “Let us also remember the families and the loved ones of those who still carry the burden of the true cost of freedom.” <

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# End-of-life options to be discussed at Windham Library

By Erin Rose

STAFF WRITER

The Windham Public Library will be hosting a discussion of end-of-life options for residents from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. on Friday, November 14.

Allison Osgood, Hospice Liaison with Beacon Hospice, will provide more details about hospice care and how it can help patients live out their lives comfortably, and Bob McCown, a volunteer with Maine Death with Dignity, will present information about Maine's Death with Dignity law and how terminally ill Mainers can choose to end their lives through aid in dying medicine.

The hospice program overall is misunderstood, Osgood said, adding that many patients don't take advantage until their illnesses are advanced, to where they're no longer able to enjoy the time they have left with their families and loved ones.

"I want to change the stigma around hospice care," she noted, saying that many people do not think to take advantage of the six months of benefits that are available to patients. "We can keep you home where you can do what really matters to you."

A patient is eligible for hospice care once they receive an order from their doctor that states if their disease follows the normal course, the person will likely pass away in 6 months or less. Once the hospice provider completes an evaluation to ensure the patient meets the Medicare guidelines, a team of people are engaged to provide care for the patient and their families.

A nurse and aide will each separately visit the home several times a week to check on the patient's wellbeing, ensuring their comfort.

"One patient just wanted to play cribbage with their aide, so they set a date every week," Osgood said. "It made his day. He looked forward to it every single week."

Hospice also helps beyond just patient care, as being a caregiver and managing a patient's medical care can be difficult and overwhelming. The team from hospice can help alleviate those worries and concerns to allow families and friends to enjoy whatever time they have left with their loved ones.

"We're there to walk you through the process so we can tell you what is happening and what to expect and be that communication liaison between the families and doctors, so everyone is on the same page" Osgood said. "Sometimes we get these families on, and you can just see the wave of pure calm come over them. We're taking those little things away so that they can be family members instead of just caregivers."

Hospice does not preclude a patient from seeking aid in dying medicine. Frequently, patients are on hospice at the time they choose to take the medication, and the hospice care team can be present to help at the end, as they would for an unexpected death. While the hospice personnel cannot be present in the home when the patient is taking the medication, after it's taken, they will provide the patient

with any care they need in their final moments.

"As soon as meds are taken, they can go in and provide support, including to the family sitting vigil and make sure that the patient is comfortable while waiting for the medication to take effect," Osgood explained. "It's incredible. I think it gives a sense of control back to these people."

"When you're losing your independence, going through serious illness, you lose a part of yourself, so having that option of Death with Dignity gives them a measure of control," she added.

Aid in dying medicine is "an

emerging field of palliative medicine," noted Reverend Valerie Lovelace, Executive Director of Maine Death with Dignity, a nonprofit organization that provides services, education and advocacy for patients. "It's just one more tool in the end-of-life toolbox for patients and physicians, if those patients are seeking that kind of support."

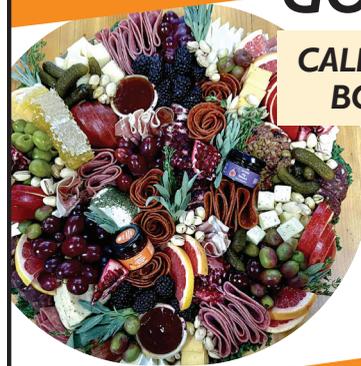
Lovelace explained that in Oregon, one of the states with the oldest aid in dying laws, 90% of patients were on hospice at the time they chose to take the medications. Patients find comfort in having the medication and

→ see HOSPICE Page 6

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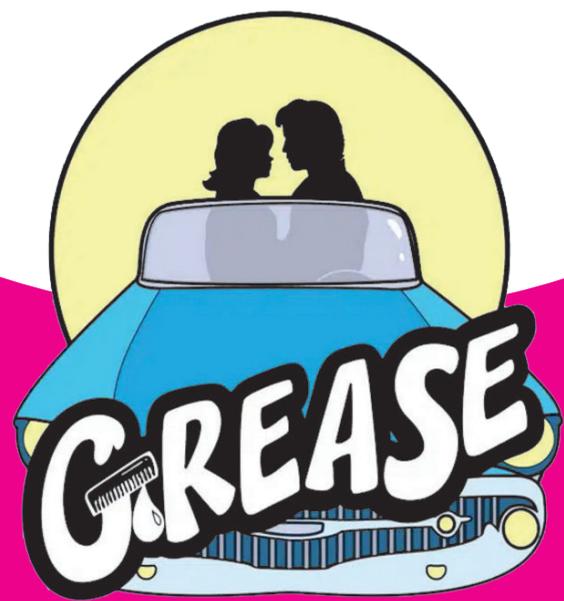
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**HOSPICE** *Cont. from page 5*

having a sense of control when their disease has dramatically reduced the control patients have over their lives.

“Not everyone dies well. There’s this idea out there that end-of-life care is sufficient and that it meets everyone’s needs. And the truth is, it doesn’t,” she said. “You only have to work in hospice for a short time to see the other side of things. And so, this meets the needs of people who want to have some control, some say in how long it takes for them to die. There are some patients who say it is palliative just having it. Even if they don’t use it, it’s plan B.”

She added that “a number of patients here in Maine have felt so relieved once they are through the qualification process and they know they can use the medication if they need it. It brings so much relief.”

Maine’s Death with Dignity Act was adopted into law in 2019. It allows terminally ill patients, in conjunction with their physician and a consulting physician, to request medication that would end their life. There are considerations and requirements in the Act, ensuring that patients are appropriately screened so that the decision is being made while the patient is of sound mind and capable of considering the grave consequences.

To qualify for the medication, terminally ill patients whose condition will likely be fatal within six months must make two oral requests to their physician for the life-ending medication, separated by a 15-day waiting period, during which the patient must also submit a separate written request, appropriately witnessed by two others. Some patients may be required to undergo psychological examination as well, to ensure their competence and

ability to make a rational decision.

The Maine Death with Dignity Act Statistical Report, an annual report required by the law, reported that while 66 state residents applied to the program in 2024, 48 of those residents died by “patient choice”. Thirteen of the applicants passed away due to their illness before receiving the medications. Applicants represented all 14 Maine counties and were aged from 53 years old to 101 years old. Most of the applications were from patients diagnosed with cancer, while others suffered from ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease), heart disease, and COPD.

*About Maine Death With Dignity:*

Founded in January 2014, It’s My Death (IMD) is a 501(c)(3) with the mission of breaking societal taboos and stigma around death and dying to support people having sincere, detailed, honest discussions regarding every aspect of their end of life wish-

es and care. Do it before you need to. Revisit the topic often. After all, talking about death is not the thing that’s going to kill you. IMD educates in Maine on assisted dying laws (how they work and who they are for) and other end-of-life topics.

It’s My Death completed a name transition to [doing-business-as] Maine Death with Dignity in September 2019. A major part of the programming is providing fact-based information regarding death with dignity laws, or medical aid in dying, and Maine’s law. The goal as Maine Death with Dignity is to continue the mission of engaging the public to increase awareness of any topic related to death and dying, including using the words “death” and “dying” and avoiding euphemisms like “passed” or “passing.”

For more info about Maine’s Death with Dignity Act, visit [www.mainedeathwithdignity.org](http://www.mainedeathwithdignity.org) <

## Youbell Youella Court Jackson, 94



Pulaski, VA- Youbell Youella Court Jackson, 94, formerly of Windham, ME was called home to be with the Lord on November 2, 2025. She was born in Dover, NH on February 11, 1931, the daughter of Marie Aurora Lemay and Edward Jerome Court. She was raised by her paternal great grandmother, Mary Amelia Burt Jerome, after losing her mother at the age of 7. She spent a lot of time living on the farm, learning how to sew, make home cooked meals, gardening, preserving, and taking care of the animals. She had fond memories of her time on the farm. She shared many stories and sayings from her time there.

Youbell was very active in her community. She was a member of Standish Baptist Church where she taught Blue Berets and made uniforms for the students with her daughter, Dian. She had previously taught Sunday School at Steep Falls Baptist Church. When her son Bruce and Dian were younger, she was always active in PTA, Band Boosters, Portland Symphony Orchestra Organizer, and was a youth director at Word of Life Camp. She also sold Avon to most of the residents of Steep Falls and neighboring towns, walking the whole town gathering and delivering orders. She helped her first husband, T. Russell Smith, at Smith’s Texaco Station in Steep Falls, pumping gas and creating things to sell to customers for extra money.

As her children grew, she started working outside the home as a production manager for Hanold’s Co. in Standish for over 15 years. When she remarried, she ran Sebago Lake Store & Lunch alongside her husband, John “Jack” Fulton. They had a daughter, Mary, and named Mary Beth Gift Shoppe after her that ran alongside the store. As Mary got older, Youbell then went to work for New Balance in Norridgewock, ME as plant manager in the cut and sew division. Here she met many people, travelled around the U.S., and created a lot of patterns for New Balance. When she decided to move back to Windham, she opened Youbell’s Sewing Shoppe along with her daughter, Dian. They sewed, repaired, and manufactured items for individuals, regional police departments, and companies like L.L. Bean and Levinsky’s.

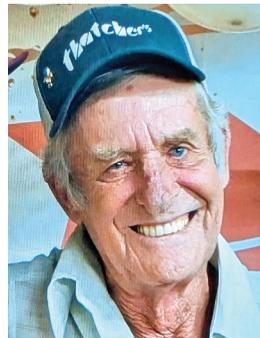
Youbell loved her family and enjoyed spending time with everyone. She was “Nana” to many people not just family members. She briefly owned a camp in Greenville, ME that she adored and had fond memories of renovating it with her son, Bruce. She wrote two children’s books: one about her cat Troubles, and one about her childhood dog, Buddy. She also loved to travel and over her many years she visited places like Alaska, California, Hawaii, Kentucky, Florida, South Carolina, and her most favorite place in the world, Prince Edward Island. She also loved making hats, mittens, baby items, and blankets and selling them at craft fairs. She was also well known for her wonderful cooking and baking abilities. Christmastime was always her favorite time, decorating, baking, listening to Christmas music, and hosting family and friends. These were the things she loved most.

She is survived by her daughters, Dian Glantz of Windham, ME and Mary Wimmer and her husband Tim, of Dublin, VA, a daughter in law, Sheila Hawkins Smith of Waterboro, two sisters, Paula Andrews and her husband Haven, of Kennebunk, ME and Barbara Hanning, of Limington, ME, 9 grandchildren, 18 great grandchildren, 7 great, great grandchildren, and many special nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents, her sister Katherine Court Guthrie, her husband, Albert Jackson, her brother-in-law Howard C. Hanning, her son Bruce A. Smith, and son-in-law James A. Glantz.

**THE FUNERAL DATE IS SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13TH AT 10 A.M. AT STANDISH BAPTIST CHURCH.**

*In lieu of flowers, donations in her honor can be made to Standish Baptist Academy, 181 Ossipee Trail W., Standish, ME, 04084.*

## MAYNARD J. MARIN, 73



Maynard J. Marin, 73, of New Gloucester, ME., passed away peacefully on November 2, 2025. Maynard was born on October 21, 1952, in Presque Isle, ME. The oldest son of Leonard and Cecile (Pelletier) Marin, Maynard is survived by son, Chad Marin, his wife Lauren, and granddaughters Ava and Olivia of San Rafael, CA., daughter Melissa Marin, and grandchildren Marcus, Faith, and Kentin of Plymouth, daughter Valeri (Marin) Thew, her husband Robert, and grandchildren Madison, Felicia, Katelin, Bella, Trenton, and Paisley of Hampden, step daughters Rhonda, Denise, and their families. Maynard is also survived by his seven siblings, their spouses, and many nieces and nephews.

*A celebration of life will be held at a later date.*

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# Raymond Lions Club dedicates park benches in memory of club founder at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park

By Ed Pierce  
STAFF WRITER

Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park in Raymond has become more comfortable this fall, thanks to a generous gift from the Raymond Lions Club.

On Wednesday Oct. 29, Raymond Lions Club members dedicated four new benches to the Town of Raymond for use at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park. The benches are located at the park's new Pickleball and Tennis courts, as well as at the Basketball court.

Construction of the Pickleball and Tennis Courts was recently finished and dedicated to the memory of the late Brenda Olsen.

"The Lions coordinated with Joe Crocker, who at the time was the town's Parks and Recreation Director," said Laurie Wallace, president of the Raymond Lions Club. "He then arranged with Nathan White, Raymond Public Works Director, to build and place the benches. Their support was greatly appreciated. It was a great partnership, and the Town of Raymond needs some unity right now."

Each bench includes a plaque acknowledging the bench donations by the Raymond Lions Club, but Wallace says that one of the plaques holds even greater value.

"It reads 'In Memory of Bob Jones, Founder of Raymond Lions Club,'" Wallace said.

The Raymond Lions Club was first chartered in September 1995, sponsored by the Windham Lions Club, and Bob Jones of Raymond coordinated activities associated with chartering the new club. Jones was also active in several other Lions Clubs over the years before his death in May 2024.

His widow, Elaine Jones, daughters Wendy Jones and Kathi Anderson and her husband Jamie Anderson were on hand to witness the dedication and try out the new benches at Sheri Gagnon Memorial Park. Kathi and Jamie Anderson were also members of the Raymond Lions Club.

Current Lions Club members Laurie Wallace, Bob Wallace, Dale Gilman, Caryl Gilman, Barbara Brown and Gil Brown also attended the dedication event.

Lions Club International's mission is to empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives locally and globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

Members of the Lions Clubs across the world believe in changing lives by serving the needs of local communities. In all, more than 1.4 million Lions Club members internationally are responding to difficult local and global challenges with kindness and caring.

The Raymond Lions Club was formed in 1995 and is an active group of service minded men and women who want to make Raymond a better place to live by serving the community in a variety of ways. It is a part of the world's largest, and most active service club organization, Lions Club International.

Along with other Lions Club members worldwide, the Raymond Lions Club works with their fellow Lions in



more than 170 countries and geographical areas to seek out and help the needy in their own communities, their country, and the world.

Ongoing club projects include collection of used eyeglasses to re-use for people in Third World countries. There is a club collection box in the Raymond Village Library and at the Raymond Town Office. The primary fundraising activity for the Raymond Lions Club is its continuing bottle drive. They have two bottle collection sites, at the

Raymond Town Hall parking lot at 401 Webbs Mills Road, and at the Jordan Bay Animal Hospital driveway at 1242 Roosevelt Trail.

Half of the proceeds from the bottle drive fund the Raymond Lions Club Scholarships and the other half goes to multiple Raymond-based organizations such as the Raymond Food Pantry, Raymond Village Library, Veterans Memorial Park, Raymond Fire & Rescue, as well as many other regional non-profit groups.

The club meets monthly in Raymond and is active in many worthwhile community service projects in the Raymond and Casco areas. For further details about the Raymond Lions Club, please contact Wallace at 207-415-3901. <

On Wednesday, Oct. 29, Raymond Lions Club members dedicated one of four benches in memory of founding member Bob Jones. His family attended the dedication, from left, Elaine Jones, daughter Wendy Jones, son-in-law Jamie Anderson, and daughter Kathi Anderson. COURTESY PHOTO

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# Hundreds turn out to celebrate 'The Magic of RTT'

► **By Kelly Johnson**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE

On Saturday, Oct. 18, more than 325 people attended the 17th Annual Triple B ~ Boots, Band & BBQ and raised a record-breaking amount, over \$280,000, to benefit the clients, horses and programs of Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) in Windham.

This year's event paid homage to all who make up "The Magic of RTT" – RTT's clients, horses, volunteers, long-time supporters, staff, and the evening's guests and sponsors. Eric

Schildroth of Schilly's Catering created another delicious and abundant barbeque to the hungry crowd, The record-breaking mission-based auction was led by auctioneer Elizabeth Holmstrom, and the evening was capped by live music and dancing to the popular local band, Under The Covers.

Phil Smith of Abracadabra Productions added some table magic for the guests and the event emcee, Nancy Marshall of Marshall Communications, kept the program running on schedule.

The true MVPs, of course, are the

courageous clients and the horses they team up with at the center. RTT client, Jack Murdoch and his mother, Rianna Keegan, teamed up to share their story and what their time at RTT means to them.

As Rianna put it, "While RTT is here to serve its riders, I cannot tell you how special this place has been to our entire family. There's something about coming here after a stressful day that brings such peace – being at a beautiful stable with such amazing volunteers and staff, where there is a quiet and often unspoken comradery

between the riders."

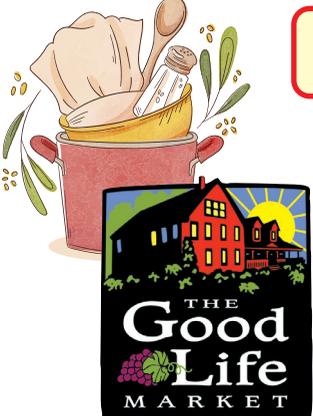
Jack felt the same, saying, "We love every last bit of all of the horses. Some people might say one horse makes RTT what it is. But they couldn't be more wrong. Every last horse, rider, volunteer (and annoying fly that sits on every horse's face and never dies) makes RTT exactly what it is."

As the event's auction bidding got underway, Art Girard, of Delta Realty stepped forward with a special matching challenge of \$25,000 for both the Ridership and Horse Funds, which helped to get the bidding off to a great start. An anonymous donor then added an additional \$25,000 challenge to the Horse Fund, making for even more excitement in the crowd.

Sarah Bronson, RTT Executive Director, said the Triple B has become an amazing community event.

"Year after year, we bring new people to the farm to learn about the power of equine assisted services offered by RTT," Bronson said. "And every → see RTT Page 12

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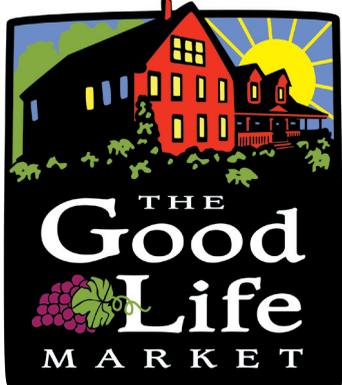
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# WHS student wins pie contest at Fryeburg Fair

By Masha Yurkevich

STAFF WRITER

It is now officially sweater weather, which means that it is also officially pie season, and Windham High School (WHS) sophomore student Ava Blanchard took pie season very seriously this year. The Katahdin Program at WHS, which Blanchard is a part of, has been participating in pie contests at the Fryeburg Fair, and this year, Blanchard entered and won the junior division of the Two Crusted Apple Pie contest.

Blanchard is part of Christine Fredette's class, who is the STEM teacher at the Katahdin Program, as well as the WHS Alpine Coach and WHS cooking club co-advisor. The Katahdin Program provides alternative education programming for students grades 9-12 enrolled in the RSU14 school district. It is a small, community-focused school dedicated to addressing the social emotional and academic needs of all students, integrating outdoor adventures, service-learning, and restorative practices to meet the social, emotional, and academic needs of students. The program is designed to help students build critical thinking skills and a sense of community by customizing their path to graduation.

"Years ago, we helped students enter the Whoopie Pie contest at the Fryeburg fair and won a few times," says Fredette. "The apple pie contest is the one the students chose to do this year."

Fredette says that having students bake pies not only teaches them a new skill, but also gives them a chance to risk entering the Fryeburg fair contest.

"I do not know any other teenagers who would take a risk and try to win," she says. "By giving them the resources and time to do this at school, it lowers the risks, but the benefits are still great!"

In preparation for the pie contest, students baked for the two weeks leading up to the fair.

"The students had to find a pie recipe and write it out to submit it with their pie," says Fredette. "We arrived at the fair and brought our pies to the exhibition center and entered them into the Two Crusted Apple Pie contest. Judging started at 1 PM, results were in by 2PM, and Ava had her blue ribbon by 2:30PM.

The pies were judged on appearance, taste, and ease of preparation (recipe write up). The Katahdin program entered five pies in the junior division. For several students, this was their first time baking an apple pie.

WHS sophomore Ava Blanchard comes from a very big line of bakers and cooks in her family.

"I thought to myself that I would not get this opportunity again, and I have never made an apple pie before, so I thought I would just go for it," says Blanchard. "We were working and talking about pie making for about two weeks before the contest and I decided that I wanted to make a test pie myself a couple days before the fair."



WHS sophomore Ava Blanchard with her award-winning Two Crusted Apple Pie at the Fryeburg Fair. SUBMITTED PHOTO

Out of about 20 other pies that competed in the Two Crusted Apple Pie contest, the pie that Blanchard made was the winner.

"I was very shocked and mind blown," said Blanchard. "I was not at all expecting to win; I was really just competing for the fun of it."

As a prize, Blanchard received \$75

and a Blue Ribbon.

The Katahdin program is now baking pies for an Age Friendly Event that will happen on November 17th at Windham Town Hall, where Age Friendly Windham and Windham Parks and Recreation will be holding a Thanksgiving Community meal for residents 55+. <

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**→ BACKPACKS** *Cont. from page 3*  
 munity together is the most effective way Erik's Church can contribute. He explained that while some businesses donate services or professional expertise, his team's strength lies in creating experiences that people enjoy while supporting a meaningful cause. "Worthy causes need both labor and money to be successful," he said. "Our team is particularly good at creating enjoyable events, and so the best use of our time is to create enjoyable events that can help half of that equation. Much like a lawyer could donate their legal services to an organization, or a newspaper donate ads or columns to raise

awareness, Erik's Church donates our ability to put on enjoyable, and profitable, events."  
 The September golf tournament drew support from many local businesses and residents who participated not only for a fun day on the course, but also to help ensure students in their own community have what they need to return to school prepared each week. Organizers with the Backpack Program say that participation from local businesses, civic groups, and individuals is responsible for the program's growth. They emphasize that volunteers are vital; groups gather every Tuesday to pack bags that are then distributed to schools for pickup

and delivery. The quiet reliability of the program means students facing food insecurity over the weekend and during school breaks can receive support without feeling singled out.  
 Erik's Church will continue its fundraising efforts this winter with the second annual Duel to Fight Hunger event, scheduled for Wednesday, January 14. The evening, held at Erik's Church, will feature a dueling piano show, along with an all-inclusive night of food and beverages. Tickets go on sale next Friday and will be available on Erik's Church website and Facebook page. Individual tickets and corporate tables will be offered, and more information may be requested by

emailing ken@erikschurch.com  
 Those wishing to volunteer for the Backpack Program can contact Michelle Jordan at: enmjordan@yahoo.com. The program accepts only monetary donations to ensure nutritional items and menus are similarly based and meet the needs of each child. Online donations can also be made at <https://www.androgov.com/org/index.php?structureid=88> - Select "all other student activities," fill in your information, for a specific school, select "School Nutrition." For \*Payment Description\* write "Backpack Program." For additional information visit [www.rsu14.org](http://www.rsu14.org) or send an email to Ryan Roderick at: rroderick@rsu14.org <

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# Windham High School student shares story of adversity to resilience on the TEDx Talk stage

By Lorraine Glowczak  
STAFF WRITER

Being invited to speak at a TEDx Talk is a rare honor, especially at just 17 years old. For Windham High School (WHS) senior Kendra Eubanks, that honor became reality on Saturday afternoon, November 8 at the TEDxDirigo event on the UNE Portland campus, speaking openly about overcoming adversity, embracing resilience, and discovering the strength that comes from self-advocacy and community.

Eubanks' story began at a Portland middle school, when bullying left her anxious and isolated. "As a biracial person from white and black back-

grounds, I wasn't Black enough for the Black students," she told the audience. "Their resentment grew into intimidation." The harassment became so severe that school administrators asked her to eat lunch in the teachers' lounge for her safety, away from peers in the cafeteria.

Although the bullying often left her in tears, Eubanks still considered the Portland middle school her community. She had attended there since kindergarten, surrounded by familiar teachers and classmates. But one afternoon, everything changed.

"I was in woodshop class when I got called to the principal's office," she said. "That wasn't unusual be-

cause I was often called to the office regarding the harassment, but when they told me to bring all my belongings, my heart started racing. When I walked in, not only was the principal there, but my parents were too."

The principal explained that the

school could no longer protect her and it was recommended that she attend another school. Fearing for their child's safety, her parents agreed and removed Kendra from the school.

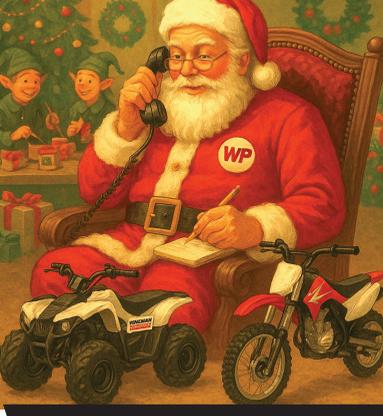
When it came time to choose a  
→ see TEDx Page 15

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→ RTT *Cont. from page 8*

year, our community steps up to support our work, ensuring that financial aid is available to all who need it and that our horses receive the highest quality care so that they can be our partners in this work. We are so very

grateful to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's event—our sponsors, table hosts, generous guests, volunteers, and RTT's Board and staff, they all truly embody the Magic of RTT."

This year IDEXX, UNUM, Bangor Savings, Martin's Point Healthcare



**This year Riding To The Top's annual Triple B event in Windham featured speakers Rianna Keegan, Jack Murdoch and Dave Murdoch.**  
PHOTO BY HANNAH CORMIER, RIPTIDE PHOTOGRAPHY

and Stone Coast Fund Services employees joined with RTT volunteers to help with set up and then again with post event "take-down." During the event, the Saint Joseph's College baseball team members returned to help with food service, the auction and recycling efforts. In total, over 100 volunteers contributed over 700 hours during various stages of the event including pre-event planning, set up, night of and cleanup days following the event.

The Triple B event is RTT's largest and most important fundraiser of the year, funding nearly a third of the organization's annual expenses. Since its inception, this event has raised over \$2.5 million dollars, while introducing the healing power of horses to thousands of community members.

This year's event was supported

by many local business partners led by Grand Champion Sponsors, Portland Volvo and UNUM, and Reserve Champion Sponsors, Norway Savings Bank and Headlight Audio Visual.

Riding To The Top Therapeutic Riding Center (RTT) was founded in 1993. RTT's mission is to enhance health and wellness through equine assisted services. It is the state's only PATH International (Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International) Premier Accredited Center solely dedicated to equine-assisted services. RTT is a community-based nonprofit, receives no federal or state funding and provides scholarships to over 60 percent of its clients. For further information about RTT's client services, volunteering, or making a gift, please visit [www.ridingtothetop.org](http://www.ridingtothetop.org) or call 207-892-2813. <



## Amelia Brey



**Grade:** 5 **School:** Manchester School  
**Teachers:** Jennifer Breton and Julie Young  
**Favorite subject(s) in school:** Math  
**Parents' names:** Krista and Shane  
**Reason for selection:** Amelia Brey has been chosen as student of the week for numerous reasons. She brings so much joy to the classroom each time she enters. She strives to be kind to everyone and wants all to feel welcome. She is one of the first to help anyone in need and has an amazing sense of self. Amelia also strives to do her best every day. She asks clarifying questions to increase her understanding, as she wants to be successful and loves to learn. She encourages those around her and has a sunny disposition that draws her peers to her. Amelia deserves this recognition for her generosity and willingness to help others. She adds the glitter to our classroom, and we appreciate her! She exudes positive energy, and it's for all these reasons that she has been chosen as Student of the Week!



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Kimberly Leighton, MS, CCLS, RYT of Play Warriors, Windham served as the keynote speaker at the New England Child Life Professionals Conference in Ashford, Connecticut last month. During her presentation, she shared her journey of founding Maine's first child life private practice, Play Warriors, and her passion for inspiring the next generation of child life specialists. Kimberly highlighted that only one child life specialist has been certified in Maine over the past five years, emphasizing the growing need to expand awareness and training opportunities in the field. Through her practice, she offers a highly sought-after 600-hour internship that attracts students from across the country. Looking ahead, she hopes to collaborate with local colleges to develop introductory courses that will open more doors to this vital profession. To connect with Kimberly or for more information on her programs please visit [www.playwarriorsinc.com](http://www.playwarriorsinc.com). SUBMITTED PHOTO



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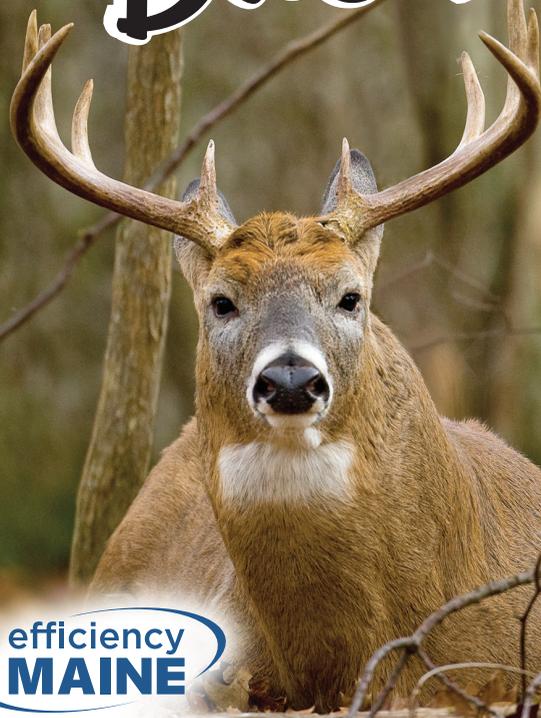


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## PUT YOUR HEAD ON MY SHOULDER SEASON

► **By Michelle Cote**  
SPECIAL TO THE WINDHAM EAGLE



— Michelle Cote, Columnist

Once upon a time, November signaled pure adrenaline and deadline pandemonium in my life.

I was in my newspaper advertising era pre-kids, back when the lead-up to Black Friday promotions was a totally serious business prior to this National Sales-Flyer-and-Tryptophan-Recovery Day becoming a free-for-all with no real rules in place – Why wait until late November when merchants can push discount coffee makers and giant TVs fresh on the heels of back-to-school shopping-palooza?

But I digress. Take my CMYK-printed word for it; Black Friday in its heyday of Kohl's flyer pallets under lock and key in every daily newspaper's mailroom was once totally serious business for sure.

Today, November is just as frenzied for different reasons – pande-Momium, if you will.

Along with October, it's a curious peak-shoulder season, a medley of all times of year compounded with alternating hot and blustery days, as blazing foliage drifts about and garden beds attempt to spring to life just for kicks, far past their bedtime.

It's a final Cliff's Notes weather summary before we end out on a December note with a Fa-la-la.

My family and I work diligently to better our seasonal shift-navigational skills each year, in an attempt to spend more time intentionally living in the moments as the summer closes up shop, sports run amok, and autumn monster-mashes in and back.

There's much ado about buttoning up the season before snow flies and we hunker on down.

In October of last year, we ventured to a pumpkin patch on a sprawling, local farm to pick our future jack-o-lanterns.

In theory, the stage was set for a memorable adventure.

The day was bright and intentions were tremendous.

Yet near-meltdowns were had – as it turns out, the kiddos were the ones sprawling – and a Great Pumpkin-sized fortune was spent on what truly had become more of a time-sucking, tiring chore, Charlie Brown.

This year, we turned pumpkin-picking on its head and took a more practical approach.

My husband and I packed up our four boys, drove to much-nearer Walmart, and everyone picked out their prize pumpkin from the vast array in a giant box smack dab in Produce. Pumpkins were \$3.97 each, everyone was happy, and we spent the difference from what we'd paid the year prior on apple cider, bacon, and egg nog.

A lot of it.

The elated moods were priceless, no

one cried, and – did I mention there was egg nog?

Lessons indeed had been learned, for the win.

And like the frugal sextet we are, we made the most of those gourds by carving up creepy-funny hybrid designs, scraping every last scoop of goopy guts – the technical term, no doubt – into fabulous puree for delicious chocolate chip pumpkin cookies.

We roasted up lightly seasoned seeds for healthy, tasty snacks at home and school – All made possible by \$3.97 pumpkins.

Oh my gourd.

Our traditions ebb and flow and evolve each year, but we try our best – albeit imperfectly – to cut unneces-

sary cost when we can.

And there's no better time to reflect on this than a little shoulder season we call November, a month best known for a holiday rich with loved ones, hot food, and heapings of gratitude.

Can-shaped cranberry sauce is the icing on the cake.

And no matter the weather, as fall neatly closes to make way for winter's persistent chill, you can bet on eggnog all month long.

*Columnist Michelle Cote lives in southern Maine with her husband and four sons, and enjoys camping, distance running, biking, gardening, road trips to new regions, arts and crafts, soccer, and singing to musical showtunes – often several or more at the same time! <*

### 8 COMMON THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS

1. **Cooking (and eating!) the Thanksgiving feast** – Family dinners are the centerpiece of the holiday.
2. **Baking pies together** – Pumpkin, apple, and pecan pies are staples, and baking them often becomes a family affair.
3. **Sharing what you're thankful for** – Before eating, many families go around the table to express gratitude for their blessings.
4. **Watching the parade, dog show, and football** – These have all become a Thanksgiving staple for millions of families.
5. **Volunteering or donating** – Many families give back by serving meals at shelters or donating to local food drives.
6. **Taking a walk or hike after dinner** – A refreshing family stroll helps with digestion and gives everyone time to chat.
7. **Playing games or watching movies together** – These are all fun ways to relax after the meal.
8. **Planning or participating in Black Friday shopping** – For some, the holiday fun continues with early shopping trips or online deals.

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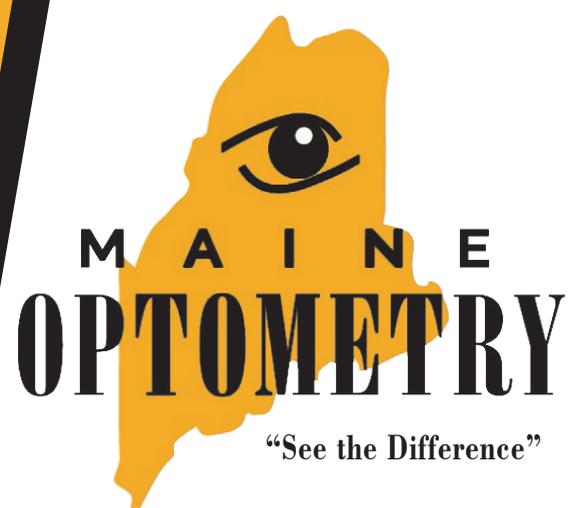
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**TEDx** Cont. from page 11

new environment, Eubanks, who felt discouraged that she didn't get a choice to stay at the Portland school, wanted her voice to be part of the next decision. "I wanted to advocate for myself," she said. Since one of her parents lived in Windham, she chose Windham Middle School.

At first, adjusting wasn't easy. "I wasn't white enough for the white community," she said. But unlike her previous experience, her "Blackness was appreciated". She found support from teachers, administrators and a growing sense of belonging among other students of color.

This acceptance boosted her confidence to become more involved. During her freshman year at WHS, Eubanks co-founded the Black Student Union (BSU), which has since grown into a space for students of color to share experiences, build connections, and foster inclusivity.

Her leadership has expanded beyond BSU, by joining the JMG (Jobs for Maine Graduates) Leadership Team and participating in volleyball and track and field. As Eubanks' passion for change grew, she was inspired to speak at the annual New England Youth Identity Summit, hosted by Waynflete in Portland. At last year's summit, during her second appearance, a TEDxDirigo organizer who attended her session was moved by her story and invited her to bring her message to a larger audience.

Eubanks accepted this opportunity because she wanted people to hear her story. "I don't want people to feel bad for me but to see how I overcame

my challenges and how much good came out of everything."

WHS staff were not surprised by her invitation to speak.

"When I first heard that Kendra was giving a Ted Talk, I was incredibly excited for her," JMG Specialist and Teacher, Jen Dumont said. "But, hon-



WHS senior Kendra Eubanks spoke at TEDx on Saturday, Nov. 8 at UNE in Portland. SUBMITTED PHOTO

estly, I wasn't all too surprised. Kendra has an effervescent personality combined with an earnest passion for justice and equity. Her willingness to step outside of her comfort zone has afforded her so many wonderful opportunities to develop her leadership skills and make an impact on our community

and beyond. Kendra is a bright light in our school community. Beyond her leadership skills and compassion for the underrepresented, Kendra is a constant source of kindness, inspiration, and hope. As her teacher and advisor, I couldn't be more proud of her."

Beyond her leadership at WHS, Eubanks has continued to be involved in youth events, including Seeds of Peace and other leadership summits, experiences that have shaped her as both a student and a changemaker.

As she looks ahead to college, Eubanks is considering several offers but remains focused on her long-term goal: pursuing a degree in political science and continuing to make a positive difference in the world. <

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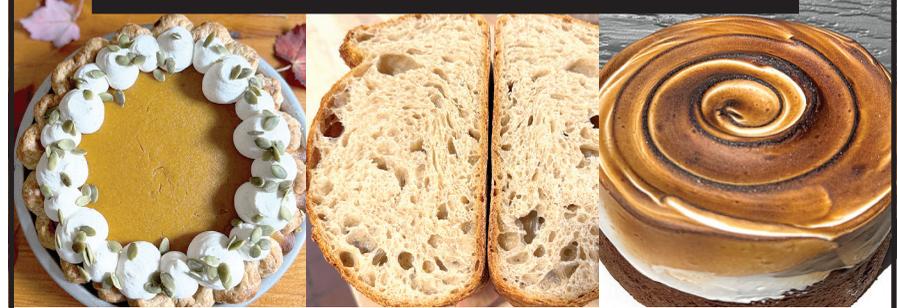
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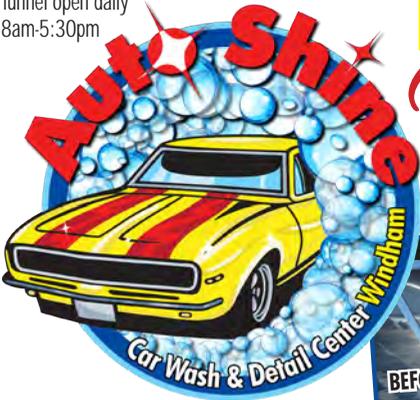
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## Advertising for a cause



The Windham Eagle newspaper's Advertising Manager Melissa Carter presented a check to Abby Milewski, Development Associate for Through These Doors in the amount of \$775 on Wednesday, Nov. 12. Funds were raised through local advertising pages which ran in the October 10 edition of The Windham Eagle to create awareness around Domestic Violence during National Domestic Violence Awareness month. The contribution would not be possible without the generous support from area businesses. Through These Doors is the domestic violence resource center serving victims and survivors of domestic abuse, dating violence, and stalking in Cumberland County. Their goal is to create a world where all people are safe, respected, and supported in their relationships and communities. For more info visit [www.throughthesedoors.org](http://www.throughthesedoors.org) SUBMITTED PHOTO



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**GIVING** *Cont. from page 1*

Manchester School: Jessica Weatherbee, [jweatherbee@rsu14.org](mailto:jweatherbee@rsu14.org)

Windham High School: Doug Daigle, [ddaigle@rsu14.org](mailto:ddaigle@rsu14.org)

Raymond Elementary (RES) and Jordan Small Middle Schools (JSMS) are also helping their students and community too by working together with the Raymond Parks and Recreation. "Sponsors are helping provide Thanksgiving bags for RES and JSMS families," RES Principal Beth Peavey said. "Yet there are families in our Raymond community who may not attend our schools, and we're joining the Gather and Give community food drive to support them this Thanksgiving."

Students will also be decorating boxes for the Thanksgiving box distribution to help make the deliveries extra special.

If you'd like to donate, please reach out to Peavey ([bpeavey@rsu14.org](mailto:bpeavey@rsu14.org)) or JSMS Principal, Michelle Brann ([mbrann@rsu14.org](mailto:mbrann@rsu14.org)). RES will have a drop-off box in our lobby. Donations are due by November 18th.

**Supporting Seniors Through Holiday Wish Bags**

While children eagerly await Christmas morning, Windham hasn't forgotten about its older residents. In partnership with the Windham Food Pantry, community members Mel Oldakowski and Deb McPhail organize an annual Senior Holiday Wish Bag drive.

"I have volunteered at the food pantry for years. A few years ago I started Christmas bags for the seniors. It's so sad to see so many of them in need. It broke my heart, thus senior bags began," said McPhail. "Various com-

panies will donate the bags with their logo on it, and we also get monetary donations from companies and individuals. With the money we shop for the 10 most requested items. A survey goes out a couple weeks before to see their needs. They are so grateful."

Last year, volunteers prepared and distributed bags for 67 seniors. This year, that number has grown significantly, with 91 seniors already signed up to receive a bit of holiday cheer.

"When seniors apply for the bags through the food pantry, they fill out a short wish list," Oldakowski explained. "We then collect donations from businesses and community members and purchase whatever is left with donated funds."

The most requested items are simple but deeply appreciated, such as warm hats, gloves, mittens, socks, dish soap, tissues, toilet paper, blankets, and even decks of playing cards. Gift cards are also welcome, providing flexibility for seniors to purchase groceries or other essentials.

Donations will be accepted anytime at Fielding's Oil located at 639 Roosevelt Trail in Windham through December 1, and volunteers will gather at Pat's Pizza in Windham, which donates space each year, to fill the bags before handing them out at the food pantry on December 17.

To arrange for pick-ups or monetary donations please contact Mel at 207-205-0121.

**It Takes a Village 207 Christmas Program**

Another organization is making an impact and that is It Takes A Village 207 with their Christmas Program. Based in nearby Limington, they serve families across York and Cumberland Counties, including Windham.

Founded in 2020 by Becky Jackson and her mother Journey. This family-led effort began during the pandemic when Journey saw neighbors struggling to put food on the table. What started small by just them in their home has grown into a well-known regional program that connects donors with local children and families through a sponsorship model.

Individuals, families, and businesses can 'adopt' a child or household and purchase items directly from personalized wish lists. "We make tags for each child that list their specific needs and wants," Becky Jackson shared. "People can pick a tag from a local business, buy the gift, and drop it off unwrapped."

They also accept donations of new, unwrapped toys that are not specific to a child. Every little bit helps to give area children and teens an unforgettable Christmas morning. Drop-off trees and boxes are already up at Cormier's Dog House, Fire & Ice Maine, Hailey's Kitchen, Paul's Boutique of Maine, Better Fit Fitness Center, The Kitchen in Limington, and The Windham Eagle office. Donations are accepted until December 13, with all gifts distributed locally.

"It's amazing to see how our community pulls together," Jackson said. "Even a small gift can mean the world to a child who might not have much to look forward to this time of year."

For those wishing to participate or host a donation tree, the easiest way to connect is through the group's Facebook page, It Takes a Village 207. The organization is still in need of sponsorships. The need this year is

greater than ever and they are hoping to not have to turn anyone away. They post wish lists on their Facebook page to help navigate the most requested items and to help buy for specific kids. It doesn't matter if people prefer to sponsor a child directly, grab a tag off a giving tree, or simply shop for various items to donate to the boxes around town, it all adds up into giving children a magical Christmas.

Windham's compassion doesn't fade once the decorations come down. Throughout the year, area churches offer free community meals every Thursday from 5 to 6 p.m., welcoming anyone in need of a hot meal and friendly conversation. For more information, contact one of the following churches: St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Windham Hill United Church of Christ, and Faith Lutheran Church - all of Windham.

In a world that often feels fast-paced and divided, community spirit stands as a reminder of what truly matters. Whether it's a middle schooler picking out a gift for another child, a volunteer wrapping a blanket for a senior, or a business hanging donation tags on a tree, each act of generosity reflects the same shared belief: that no one should feel forgotten during the holidays.

As one volunteer put it best, "The success stories are what keep us going, especially from those who have received from our efforts and have given back to the community when life brought a brighter future for them. Every time we hear from a family or see the joy in a child's eyes, we're reminded that kindness still shines bright in our communities." <



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# Eagle SPORTS



## Youth Cheerleading program ends season with showcase

By Matt Pascarella  
STAFF WRITER

Windham Youth Cheerleading program has been a sideline program for kindergarten through eighth grade for the last 10 years. They cheer for the Windham Youth Football program from flag to tackle. The 10-week program has grown exponentially over the last three years, totaling over 100 athletes. At the end of the WYC season, the teams put on a showcase to highlight all their hard work. The showcase is not scored and is about providing encouragement, celebration and having fun.

“I think that our program has grown so much in the last several years because there has never been a robust sideline cheering program for young athletes,” said assistant sixth grade to eighth grade coach Stacy Davis. “In years past, some athletes were only exposed to cheer once they entered high school. Many believe that they need to commit to competition cheer ... our program allows for a different form of cheer that may suit other families. We also try very hard to make this program financially accessible. We have the ability to provide financial scholarship to athletes should this be needed, as we never want the financial burden to affect participation.”

The program is considered a feeder program for the high school, so the job of coaches at WYC is to make sure the girls are aware of any new cheers the high school is using. WYC works closely with the high school cheering squad that serves as a role model to



(L to R) Windham Youth Cheerleading flyers Ava Laney, left, Morgan Bell, Valentina Grazoc, Harper Daigle and Charlee Prokey from the sixth to eighth grade team at WYC’s showcase at Windham High School on Wednesday, Nov. 5. Isabelle Korthy, left, and Bella Brooks from the kindergarten to first grade team perform a cheer. PHOTOS BY GIANNA LANE

the younger group. The coaches start the younger groups out with the basics and progress up to more complex skills for the older kids.

This year’s showcase featured five teams, all grouped by grade, and they show friends and family their routines which include cheers, jumps, stunts and tumbling.

Participants of WYC begin cheering on the field in kindergarten. It’s fun for individuals to cheer on friends and classmates.

Eighth grader Rosie Dumont has been participating in WYC since she was in first grade. She was a dancer

and loved uniforms, pompoms and the sass of cheerleading. She always loved being on stage, doing routines.

“Having great coaches that push me to try things that are hard for me or that I don’t have confidence in yet (have made me a better cheerleader),” said Dumont. “This program builds strength and confidence and gives you happiness after you complete a routine. It teaches you that you have to work hard to achieve your goals; cheering is a very competitive and difficult sport. Having good teammates and coaches makes a huge difference. If an athlete wants to do cheerleading, they should because it’s a rewarding sport.”

Dumont loves participating in the showcase every year. She said it went really well this year. Her stunt groups hit every stunt nicely. Dumont said performing in the showcase is awesome because you see all of the different age levels perform, and you get to reflect on your own progress. Dumont plans to cheer in high school

and wants to see how far her potential can go.

Third grader Bristol Grondin started cheerleading through WYC when she was in kindergarten but took a couple years off because she felt she wasn’t ready. She really wanted to join WYC because she saw her sister, who is also involved in the program in a cheer competition last year; seeing her sister in the competition made Grondin want to join back up and be just like one of them.

“I was happy with what we did,” said Grondin about this year’s showcase. “I think my team did an awesome job cheering for the other teams and showcase. I was excited to see how good we did. I also enjoyed to see all our families there to cheer us on. My favorite thing about Windham Youth Cheerleading is I really like the stunts, dances, and I like to show off what I have learned. I ended up learning my front walk over. I’m very proud of myself and my team.” <

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



#### Haley Irish

**Age:** 11  
**Team:** Raymond Parks and Recreation Fifth and Sixth grade girls’ soccer  
**Coach:** Gabriel Redlon  
**Parents’ names:** Alisha Timmons, Eric Irish  
**Reason for selection:** Haley is a leader because she leads by example. She always plays hard during the games, listens and is very attentive at practice. She is an asset to the team because she is a positive influence on her teammates and creates a lot of opportunities for herself and her teammates to succeed. She has improved over the season by becoming more confident in her dribbling skills and taking people on in the open field. She is really difficult to defend with the ball at her feet. Haley’s a great teammate because she gets along with everyone and goes about things the right way. She’s really easy and fun to coach and her teammates love being around her.

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# Windham's Fothergill gives back to a sport he loves

By Matt Pascarella

STAFF WRITER

Windham resident, former Trail Blazer hockey player and 2022 Bonny Eagle graduate Bobby Fothergill has stayed involved with hockey through coaching. He currently is an assistant coach for the under-14 Maine Evolution hockey team. He has also entered the workforce in a family-run company in the electrical trade. He's going to Maine Electrical Institute to become a certified electrician.

"My last year of 18U Hockey I took the time to really understand everything about the game as much as I could," said Fothergill. "After that season I wasn't sure what I wanted to do as I had opportunities to play at other places, but I was lucky enough to be asked to help coach the program I grew up playing for and that made my decision clear as I wanted to help and stay closer to home and be involved in the game of hockey."

The electrical trade was something that had piqued Fothergill's interest more than college. Fothergill wanted to be able to learn how to grow a business while learning more about leadership and becoming someone that people can look up to. His dad offered him a job and Fothergill felt something his family was based around was what he wanted to do.

By the time Fothergill was nearing the end of his under-18 hockey season, he felt like he had coaching capabilities because he was a good listener, open and wanted to learn more about the game as he got older. He still plays in men's leagues and tournaments



(L to R) Windham resident, Bonny Eagle graduate and under-14 Maine Evolution Hockey assistant coach Bobby Fothergill cheering on his team during a game against the Midcoast Polar Bears at the Colisee in Lewiston on Saturday, Nov. 8. PHOTO BY MATT PASCARELLA Fothergill playing for the under-18 Maine Evolution hockey team in the fall of 2023. PHOTO BY SARAH FOTHERGILL

here and there.

"He's been great, and it's been huge for the kids having someone that they know and can look up to," said Maine Evolution under-14 head coach Dave Grant, who used to coach Fothergill in the under-18 league. "Bobby hops right in the drills with them, skates with them, competes with them hard. It's great to have him because he's obviously got knowledge from a player's perspective, but it's awesome for the kids to have him around the bench. It's a coach's dream to have a kid that you coached ... to now be on the bench with you. It's one of the better things that I've experienced; it's a highlight to see the next generation of coaches coming up."

Grant said Fothergill is still a very good player and challenges his play-

ers; he was where they were five or six years ago. Fothergill brings great energy to the practices, and he can tell he is having fun.

In addition to coaching, every season the team teaches kids how to skate, and Fothergill attends those to encourage them by teaching the basics of the game.

"He's taught me where I need to be in my certain position and what I need to be to stop the puck from entering the zone," said Maine Evolution Windham freshman Cooper Fournelle. "He's good as a coach, I feel like I've improved and we've chatted a couple times about what I should do with the puck. Overall, I think he's helped me a lot."

When Fothergill reflects on his athletic career, hockey has played a major

part in teaching him how to become a leader and a better all-around person. He's been able to use the knowledge given to him throughout his time as a player to teach others what it takes to become not only a good hockey player but a good person.

When playing for the Trail Blazers he learned to work hard, have fun and not to let anyone push you out of the saddle. The team also taught him how to strive to maximize his potential on and off the ice.

His advice for any current players who want to consider coaching after high school is opportunities come from so many places that there is no right or wrong choice. Being involved in sports at any age brings community and togetherness as well as being a great place to learn, teach and have fun. <

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# BRIEFS

## Grease

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check only.

## Village Holiday Fair

The Casco Village Church, United Church of Christ, 941 Meadow Road in Casco, is hosting its annual “Christmas in the Village Holiday Fair” from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 15 and the public is invited. This year’s event will feature Christmas Crafters/Vendors, lots of Christmas decor, a Raffle table, a Bake table, and a Soup, Chili, Chowder, and Sandwich Luncheon for only \$6! Feel free to wear your best “Ugly Christmas Sweater” as they will be awarding a prize for this! FMI, call 207-627-4282.

## Line Dancing

Line dancing at the Windham Town Hall gymnasium on Sunday, Nov. 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. There will be a few brief lessons. All are welcome to

come dance or observe! In lieu of admission please bring a dry or canned good to benefit the Windham Food Pantry.

## Blood Drive

American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 will conduct a Red Cross Blood Drive from noon to 5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. Donors are asked to call 1-800-RED CROSS or visit the RED CROSS App to register to give blood at the event.

## Bean Supper

The final bean supper of the year hosted by Windham’s American Legion Field-Allen Post 148 starts at 5 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 22 at the Windham Veterans Center, 35 Veterans Memorial Drive in Windham. The meal will include a variety of beans, hot dogs, side dishes, and desserts. The cost is \$10 at the door, kids un-

der 12 eat for free. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. FMI, call 207-892-1306.

## Suicide Support Group

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

## Veterans Service Officer

Maine Bureau of Veteran Service Officer James Burbridge has resumed office hours and appointments in Windham at the Veterans Center from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. starting on the second Wednesday of each month. To make an appointment, call 207 255-3306 or send an email to mobliesouth.mbvsv@maine.gov.

Have a nonprofit event? Email it to: [editor@thewindhameagle.com](mailto:editor@thewindhameagle.com)

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**NOTICE OF MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING**

**Monday, November 17, 2025 • 7:00 PM**

**Broadcast Studio - 423 Webbs Mills Road and Via ZOOM**

You are hereby notified that the Raymond Planning Board will hold a Meeting and Public Hearing at the Raymond Broadcast Studio and via Zoom on Monday, November 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm on the following matters:

**PUBLIC HEARING ON THE PROPOSED SHORT TERM RENTAL ORDINANCE**

**Discussion of requirements for Banquet Halls**

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

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# Eagle REAL ESTATE & Home

## Changing weather patterns and their impact on homeowners insurance in the Sebago Lakes Region

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



— Tricia Zwirner, State Farm

Over the past decade, residents of the Sebago Lakes region have witnessed noticeable shifts in local weather patterns. From increasingly intense storms and unpredictable precipitation to fluctuating temperatures and extended droughts, these changes are reshaping the way we live and protect our homes. For homeowners, understanding how changing weather patterns affect insurance coverage is more important than ever.

### The New Normal

Maine's climate has traditionally been characterized by cold winters, mild summers, and moderate rainfall. However, recent years have brought a series of weather extremes:

- **Increased Rainfall and Flooding:** Intense rainstorms have become more frequent, raising the risk of flooding even in areas not historically considered flood-prone.
- **More Severe Winter Storms:** Winters now often bring heavy snowfalls, ice storms, and rapid temperature swings that stress homes and infrastructure.
- **Extended Dry Periods and Heat**



**Waves:** Summers have seen longer dry spells and occasional heat waves, increasing wildfire risks in forested areas.

- **Unpredictable Seasonal Changes:** The timing of seasonal weather events has shifted, complicating traditional home maintenance and preparedness routines.

### The Rural Landscape and Volunteer Fire Departments

The Sebago Lakes region is known for its rural charm, with many homes situated on large wooded lots, lake-front properties, or in small, close-knit communities. While this setting offers peace and natural beauty, it also presents unique challenges. Many towns in the region rely on volunteer fire departments rather than full-time professional services. This

can affect response times during emergencies such as fires or storm damage.

Because of these factors, it's especially important for homeowners to take preventive measures and maintain adequate insurance coverage that accounts for the realities of living in a rural area. Limited access and longer emergency response times can lead to greater property damage, making comprehensive insurance protection vital.

### How Weather Changes Affect Homeowners Insurance

Insurance policies are designed to protect homeowners against specif-

ic risks, but as those risks evolve, so must coverage. Below are a few examples:

#### 1. Rising Claims from Water Damage and Flooding

Water-related damage is among the most common and costly types of homeowner claims. With more frequent heavy rains, properties near lakes, rivers, and low-lying areas are increasingly vulnerable to flooding and stormwater runoff.

Standard homeowners insurance typically covers water damage from burst pipes or rain entering through a damaged roof but excludes flood damage caused by rising water from external sources like lakes or heavy storms. This means many homeowners may face unexpected out-of-pocket expenses after a flood unless they have separate flood insurance

→ see REAL ESTATE Page 28

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# BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Confident Med Spa, recently re-branded to Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness has officially opened their doors in Windham, ME, merging with the former NuLife Wellness & Aesthetics. Confident Med Spa was named New Hampshire's #1 fastest growing women-led business in 2025 and is now accepting new patients at 759 Roosevelt Trail, Windham, ME. The merge introduces Windham to a business known for combining advanced aesthetic treatments with personalized wellness support. To welcome new patients, Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness is offering complimentary consultations to help individuals explore treatment options tailored to their goals.

Founded on the belief that confidence begins within, Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness focuses on supporting clients at every stage of life. Whether someone wants to soften fine lines, refresh skin tone, balance hormones, or find support with weight management, the team aims to create customized plans that help people look and feel their best. The approach blends scientific expertise with individualized care, emphasizing results that feel natural, sustainable, and empowering.

The Windham location offers a wide range of medical aesthetic services, including popular injectables such as Botox®, dermal fillers, and Sculptra®, used to smooth wrinkles, restore volume, and enhance facial contours. Skin health and rejuvenation are major components of the practice,



with treatments including CO2 laser resurfacing, microneedling, chemical peels, and Hydrafacial® procedures designed to improve texture, brightness, and clarity. Patients seeking a long-term solution for unwanted hair can consider laser hair removal, while PDO threads offer subtle lifting and tightening without surgery.

Beyond cosmetic services, the practice integrates wellness treatments that address health from the inside out. Offerings include hormone replacement therapy, peptide therapy, functional wellness consultations, and weight-loss programs. This comprehensive approach acknowledges that how people feel internally often influences external appearance. By addressing underlying factors such as hormone imbalance or metabolic concerns, Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness aims to support outcomes that are both visible and long lasting. To complement in-office care, medical-grade skincare lines, including ZO® Skin Health, are available to help maintain results at home.

Personalization is central to the company's philosophy. Providers take time to understand each patient's concerns, goals, and lifestyle before build-

ing a treatment plan. Education is woven into every appointment, so patients understand the benefits, potential risks, and expected results of any service. The goal is to ensure individuals make confident decisions about their care and walk away with a plan designed specifically for them.

The clinic's commitment to training is another hallmark of its practice. Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness invests in ongoing professional development, ensuring its providers remain familiar with the latest aesthetic advancements, products, and technologies in the field. This emphasis on continuous learning helps reinforce the company's reputation for safe, skillful, and precise care.

Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness has steadily expanded over the past three years, growing from a single New Hampshire office into a six-location regional brand. Clinics now operate in Rochester, Seabrook, Epping, Amherst, and Bedford, New Hampshire, along with the new Windham office. The company describes the Maine expansion as a natural step in its mission to broaden access to aesthetic and wellness care while maintaining

a highly personalized patient experience. Leaders view the growth as proof that clients are seeking a thoughtful, holistic approach that values relationships along with results.

Though the brand has expanded, its focus remains consistent. The practice prioritizes treatments that enhance natural beauty rather than dramatically alter appearance. Patients seeking targeted care or broader transformation are supported by a team dedicated to creating a welcoming, informative, and empowering environment. Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness strives to ensure every person leaves feeling strengthened and more self-assured, whether they came for an injectable treatment or a more comprehensive wellness plan.

The Windham clinic welcomes both new and returning patients to explore expanded offerings and learn more about the benefits of combining aesthetics with wellness services. Complimentary consultations are available to help individuals determine which treatments best support their needs, comfort level, and long-term goals. Appointments can be made online at [confidentmedspa.com](http://confidentmedspa.com) or by calling (207) 893-8918.

Confident Medical Aesthetics + Wellness believes confidence grows through care, insight, and an individualized experience. By bringing its services to Windham, the brand hopes to help more people feel their best—inside and out—and move through life with greater clarity and purpose. <

  
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➔ REAL ESTATE Cont. from page 25

through the National Flood Insurance Program or private insurers.

2. Increased Risk of Wind and Storm Damage

Stronger storms bring higher winds that can damage roofs, siding, windows, and trees on your property. Homeowners may see higher rates or stricter policy terms if their property is in an area prone to wind damage.

3. Winter Weather and Freeze-Related Claims

More variable winter conditions—such as rapid temperature fluctuations and heavier snow loads—contribute to an uptick in claims for frozen or burst pipes, ice dam dam-

age, and roof collapses. Insurers may require homeowners to demonstrate proactive maintenance and winterization to qualify for full coverage.

4. Wildfire Exposure

While wildfires are less common in Maine than in western states, prolonged dry spells and heat waves have increased wildfire risk in forested areas surrounding Sebago Lakes. Some insurers are beginning to consider wildfire risk in their coverage decisions and premiums.

What Homeowners Can Do to Adapt

• Review and Update Your Insurance Policy: Ensure your dwelling and contents coverage reflect current replacement costs and include ap-

propriate protections such as flood insurance or increased windstorm coverage.

• Invest in Home Resilience: Regularly maintain roofs, gutters, pipes, and heating systems. Consider storm shutters, sump pumps, or backup generators to reduce damage risk.

• Document and Prepare: Keep an up-to-date inventory of your belongings and important documents. Develop a family emergency plan for severe weather events.

• Understand Your Local Emergency Services: Know the capabilities and limitations of your local volunteer fire department and plan accordingly for emergencies.

• Consult a Local Insurance

Agent: Work with an agent familiar with the Sebago Lakes region's unique weather risks and rural characteristics to tailor coverage that fits your needs.

Changing weather patterns are a fact of life, especially here in Maine's scenic and rural Sebago Lakes region. By understanding how weather impacts your homeowners insurance and taking steps to adapt, you can protect your home, your belongings, and your peace of mind for years to come.

This article was brought to you by Tricia Zwirner, a Windham State Farm agent celebrating her 22nd year. She and her team can be reached via phone and text at 207-892-2864 or via email at: tricia@triciawirner.com <

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