

WINDHAM MTN BTH UPDATE ASHLAND "JUNK SALE" DEBATE

Section C

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A Magical Christmas Season in Windham



Traditional tree-lighting ceremonies were held at the Centre Church on Main Street in Windham, last Saturday evening, drawing hundreds of visitors and carolers who were led in song by Jolly Old St. Nick/ Photos by Francis X. Driscoll (except Luke Wagner). More photos on C7.

VFW Honors Our Heroes



American Legion faithful, family and friends gathered at the Prattsville Hotel, earlier this week, to honor the Legion's "Centennial" and enjoy their annual Christmas party.

Photo and story by Michael Ryan, continued on C8.

Community Spirit Hits a High Note at WAJ



Students received these 20th Anniversary hats from the Community of Windham Foundation, celebrating their hometown radio station and showed them off during the photo op. During the check presentation one member of the chorus offered an impromptu rendition of a WRIP jingle.

By Jonathan Ment

WINDHAM – Almost four months to the day following a Community of Windham Foundation organized celebration of WRIP Radio's 20th Anniversary, foundation members joined WRIP's Jay Fink, members of the staff and nearly 50 Windham-Ashland-Jewett Central School students to present a donation of funds raised to support music education.

The daylong celebration of WRIP and its dedicated personal was held Aug. 10, 2019 on the front lawn of the school with support of the separate Windham Foundation.

On Monday, Community of Windham Foundation's Anne Jakubowski presented Instrumental Music Director for grades 5-12 Leslie Beauregard, with a check for the WAJ Band and Chorus for \$625.00.

Students in attendance Monday, members of the Junior Chorus and Senior Band, also received WRIP 97.9 hats, which were obtained through Anita Buyers Broadway Marketing, according to the foundation's Denise Mee-

han.

"It's gratifying to see our school cultivate talent in the performing arts," said WRIP President and General Manager Jay Fink in an email following the presentation.

"Ms Beauregard and Ms Drewello have attracted a good number of engaged and talented students to the band and chorus programs. It was a natural choice for us to do our part in saluting the students in both programs," said Fink, who some credit with the original idea of donating proceeds from the sale of the WRIP hat and associated donations collected at the event.

"Jay has always been an amazing "cheerleader" for the program! I can't thank him enough for doing promos and shout-outs for EVERYTHING on our event calendars! He is wonderful!" said Beauregard in an email following the presentation.

Beauregard said the students who were able to attend the presentation, held were among the 84 enrolled in music from grades 7-12.

Continued on C4

A NOTICE TO OUR READERS

A reminder that the *Mountain Eagle* does not print the week of Christmas. We will not be running an edition the week of December 27th. We hope you enjoy your Christmas with your loved ones as we will be with ours!

to the Editor

efficient era of skiing. North Castle has owned the mountain for under a year, is working with folks all over town to make improvements, and has begun installing advanced tech that will help Windham endure and thrive even against the existential threat of climate change. Accomplishing the labor-intensive feat is easier in summer than winter, to be sure, but I'm long on Windham. I believe our patience will be rewarded.

To be clear, Anon did a service with his first letter. He reminded us

Windham is greater than the sum of its parts. But now it's time to put away his childish things, shut down his Tutanota account, and rejoin the community he cares so much about. Those 250 people in Seasons -- friends and fellow skiers, and their families and season pass holders not present -- are the mountain's most valuable asset. The faces in the crowd, and their concern for our town, reinforced why we bought our home here eight years ago.

We should all assemble like that at the start and end of every season, to

hear from Chip and Jay about what went right, what went wrong, and share our perspective. At our closing session, in April, when we've dried off from pond skinning, we can look ahead to the next summer of projects. In exchange for our free focus group, I'd welcome a gesture to let us drain the keg taps as we put away our skis until the guns come alive again in November. I'm not ashamed to sign my name to that idea, and many others.

Josh King
Windham

WAJ, Continued from C1



School Principal David Donner, in white, looks on as (L-R) WRIP President and General Manager Jay Fink; Community of Windham Foundation's Anne Jakubowski; Leslie Beauregard, Instrumental Music Instructor Grades 5-12; Denise Meehan, with the Community of Windham Foundation; Annie Drewello, Vocal Music Grades K-12; and WAJ Board of Education member Melissa Maldonado address members of the Junior Chorus and Senior Band



Left to right: Melissa Maldonado, with the WAJ Board of Education; Annie Drewello, Vocal Music Grades K-12; Denise Meehan, with the Community of Windham Foundation; Leslie Beauregard, Instrumental Music Instructor Grades 5-12; the Foundation's Annie Jakubowski; WRIP President and General Manager Jay Fink.

Beauregard said the donation would help fund a spring trip to Memphis, TN during which students will tour Beale Street and the Memphis Riverwalk, see the daily Peabody Hotel Duck Mark, perform and tour Graceland, tour Sun Studio, the Rock and Soul Museum and the National Civil Rights Museum and more.

"We work hard to provide unique programming to our students. They give a lot of their time to Instrumental and Vocal Music studies and, in turn we like them to have experiences that reach beyond the classroom -

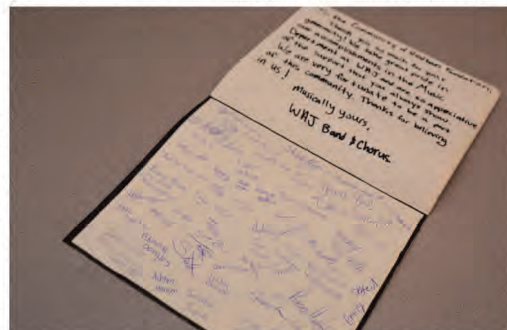
where a huge part of learning and life takes place!" she said following the presentation.

"Through fundraising, grants and generous donations from the community, all of this can now be accessed by our students! We are very fortunate to be part of a district that has such an enormous support system for the arts and understands how studying music truly benefits our students," said Beauregard, adding "We must not forget that none of this would be possible without our students! Their interest, hard work

and dedication to the program is what keeps it alive and I am so glad that their commitment shines through for others to see."

"My best wishes to you and all of the members of the band and chorus. Music education is an essential element of our student's total education experience," said Community of Windham Foundation Chairman John Quinn ahead of the presentation.

Quinn and foundation board members Jeri Miltenberger, and Lynn Verrengia were unable to attend Monday's event.



Students presented the Community of Windham Foundation with giant hand made and signed thank you card. Photos unless noted by Jonathan Ment.