



Weare in the World

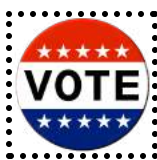
For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents

January 10, 2024

Do You Have an Opinion?

By Sharon Czarnecki

Here is a chance to express it and make a difference. If you are a registered voter, you can vote in the upcoming N.H. Presidential Primary on **Tuesday, Jan. 23.**



If you are not registered, **there is still time.** Residents can register at the Weare Town Clerk's Office until Monday, Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m. You can also register right at the polls on Election Day itself.

Be aware that even if you are registered as "Undeclared ie., Independent" you can still vote in the primary. You just have to choose a party. Once you have finished voting, you can change back to Independent the same day right at the polls, if you so desire.

If you are already registered but not sure of your party affiliation, you can check that with our Town Clerk Maureen Billodeau. For contact information, see the town website at: <https://www.weare.nh.gov/town-clerk>

Important Dates: Local Elections

Jan. 10 7 p.m.	Public Hearing on WSD Budget	WMS Cafeteria
Jan. 11 7 p.m.	Public Hearing on Zoning Amendments	Town Offices
Jan. 12 7 p.m.	Public Hearing on JSRHS Budget	JSRHS Cafeteria
Jan. 15 7 p.m.	Public Hearing on Town Budget and Warrant	Town Offices
Feb. 3 9 a.m.	Town Deliberative Session	WMS Cafeteria
Feb. 7 7 p.m.	Weare School District Deliberative Session	WMS Cafeteria
Feb. 9 7 p.m.	JSRHS Deliberative Session	JSRHS Cafeteria

VOTING DAY MARCH 12 WMS Gym

Town and School Filing Periods

By Tom Clow

The filing period for town and school district offices opens on Jan. 24 and closes on Feb. 2 at 5 p.m. Those wishing to file for town offices may do so at the office of the Weare Town Clerk. According to the SAU 24 website, anyone wishing to file for positions in the Weare School District or John Stark School District should contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools at (603) 428-8863.

The following positions are open:

Town of Weare	
Board of Selectmen	Two three-year terms One one-year term
Moderator	One two-year term
Supervisor of Checklist	One six-year term
Library Trustee	One three-year term
Trustee of Trust Funds	One three-year term
Ethics Committee	One three-year term
Weare School District	
School Board Member	Two three-year terms
John Stark School District	
School Board Member (At Large)	One three-year term
School District Moderator	One one-year term



"Talk" To Us
Favorite Winter Breakfast
Deadline: Jan. 19
 Weareintheworldnews@gmail.com



School News



JSRHS seniors **Ella Smith** and **Kayleigh Megowen** and junior **Emmerson Brown** will be representing John Stark and



New Hampshire at the New England Music Festival Association's March 2024 concert festival. Megowen and Brown will be playing with the band and Smith will be performing with the chorus. Brown was also chosen for the Classical All-State festival and Smith was chosen for both Jazz and Classical All-State. *Courtesy photo L to R: Smith, Megowen and Brown.*

Congratulations to WMS eighth graders **Nick Tetro**



(left) and **Miles Green** (right) on their acceptance to the New Hampshire Band Directors Association Middle Level Honors Band in April. They are the first students in



WMS history to be accepted into this honors band. Tetro will be on the euphonium and Green will be on flute.

The **JSRHS DECA** chapter was among 645 chapters that achieved Thrive Level recognition during the 2023-2024 school year and will be commended at DECA's International Career Development Conference (ICDC) to be held April 27-30 in Anaheim, California. John Stark's chapter was recognized for its community outreach and service performed over the course of last year. This recognition earned the chapter two spots to the ICDC conference.

JSRHS DECA members who contributed to the Thrive recognition were Eva Grolljahn, Bella Mann, Evan Payeur, Rylan Grolljahn, Chase Lansford, Owen Hammond and Kaeden Vanasse, with the assistance of their advisors, Mandy Hibbert and Aaron Thompson.

These DECA students work tirelessly throughout the year to promote DECA within the school and communities and to help gain interest and boost their membership, including participating in several events

throughout Henniker and Weare. This past year, they organized a holiday food drive at JSRHS and volunteered at the annual Weare Fall Fest, facilitating games and activities. They volunteer annually at the Weare Historical

Society's Children's Holiday Party and, new this year, they took on concession sales at John Stark basketball games.



"It is so wonderful to see this hard-working, dedicated group of students be recognized for their constant efforts," said JSRHS DECA co-advisor Mandy Hibbert. "I am looking forward to continuing my journey of advising them and seeing how we can grow our chapter next year."

Photo above front row: Chase Lansford, Owen Hammond, Rylan Grolljahn. Back row: Kaeden Vanasse, Eva Grolljahn, Bella Mann, Evan Payeur (courtesy photo).

Matt Shapiro, the owner of **MDS Welding** in Weare, recently came to welding classes along with three of his staff for two days of demonstrations for JSRHS students. In addition to running stick and MIG stations for students, Shapiro talked with them about his career in welding and how he progressed from his start as a



one-man shop to a business where he employs 13 people. MDS Welding provides quality metal fabricated products and components

and specializes in stainless steel with an emphasis on heavy equipment repairs, lathe work, portable welding, line boring, CNC machine work, pipe welding and aluminum welding. MDS Welding projects have spanned the U.S. from Canada to Florida as well as Hawaii. *Above courtesy photo: JSRHS Tech Ed Teacher Joab Owen with his Intro to Welding class stand by an MDS Welding truck.*

Students in Mrs. LaBrie's **Creative Cooking** class at JSRHS baked cat and dog treats to be donated to the



making dog and cat treats.

Hearts and Tails Animal Alliance. They wish the animals the best for the year ahead and hope they get a "furrever" happy home. *Courtesy photo above: Elsa Winther and Adrian Rico*

Just before holiday break, sixth and seventh grade **WMS French students** learned about the cultural tradition of making Bûche de Noël cakes in France and then decorated their own cakes. *Courtesy photo right: Sixth grade French student Brianna Dupuis.*



Fun and games in **WMS science!** In December, eighth graders created board games with questions based on what they have learned so far this year in science. Of course, then they played the games! *Courtesy photo left: Izabel Powers, Autumn Meyers, Davien Wooten.*



UPCOMING DATES

There will be **NO SCHOOL** in SAU 24 on **Jan. 15** (Civil Rights Day) or **Jan. 23** (New Hampshire Primary Election).

Weare School District:

Jan. 10: Weare School District board meeting, 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. will be the 2024-25 budget public hearing. Meetings at WMS or live-streamed.

John Stark School District:

Jan. 12: John Stark School District board meeting, 6 p.m. At 7 p.m. will be the 2024-25 budget public hearing. Meetings in Room 144 at JSRHS or live-streamed.

Jan. 15: "John Stark Idol," 6:30 p.m., cafe. (Snow date Jan. 26.)

Weare School District
WE ARE Hiring

- **Center Woods Elementary** (PreK-3rd)
 - Classroom Paraeducator
 - Substitutes
- **Weare Middle School** (4th-8th)
 - Multiple Paraeducator Positions
 - Grade 7 Math
 - Grade 7 STEM
 - Registered Behavior Technician
 - Substitutes

APPLY NOW

Apply Today:
SAU24.org ---> Employment
Further Inquiry? Give us a call!
CWES 529-4500
WMS 529-7555

*Para positions require a H.S. diploma or equivalent. Training and certification opportunities available.



At the Dec. 18 meeting of the Weare Board of Selectmen, Officer Andrew Vollaro was promoted to the rank of Police Supervisor 1 – Corporal. Vollaro is shown here receiving his corporal badge from his wife Jacquelyne (Tom Clow photo).



Weare Pink Ladies Group January Potluck

By Lorraine Westfahl

Our next get together will be a potluck on Tuesday, Jan. 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Kathy's house. RSVP for directions or in general to Lily at lily4liberty@comcast.net.

Let us know what you plan to bring, but if you don't feel like cooking, just bring yourself.

Weare Business News



Micro Mama's of Weare Wins Washington D.C. Grant

By Diane Padilla

Washington D.C. came to Weare on Tuesday, Dec. 19. With sunshine bright and beautiful, it was a perfect day for the installation of solar panels at Micro Mama's and the presentation of a government grant.

With growing concerns about climate change and its impact on the economy, many businesses, especially small ones, are looking to reduce their carbon footprint along with their costs.

"Living. Loving. Local." This three-word motto is the foundation that guides Micro Mama's since its founding in 2012, and the roots of this family-operated company run strong and deep.

Micro Mama's grows organic vegetables and makes high-quality probiotic fermented foods, including sauerkrauts, pickled vegetables and kimchis, a traditional Korean dish made with salted and fermented vegetables.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded Micro Mama's a Rural Energy for America Program (REAP) grant. REAP grants help support small farmers and local agricultural businesses. According to an information document provided by a USDA representative, the REAP grant is "... particularly focused on the local food system, and the value chain that can be built with value-added processors, and how important it is to small towns and communities." The document also states that the grant money "will be used to replace 93% of the energy that Micro Mama's consumes each year by installing solar panels on the roofs of the operation's buildings." This will help lower energy costs.

The presentation ceremony took place inside the facility. Framed by a banner with the words, "Together, America Prospers," Xochitl Torres Small, USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, presented a check for \$52,846 to Stephanie Zydenbos, the owner and chief executive officer of Micro Mama's.

The grant, which was awarded to Micro Mama's in November 2023, will help pay for the installation of the solar panels, which are being installed by Granite State Solar of Goffstown.

After the presentation of the grant check, Secretary Torres Small stressed the importance of government support for the development of rural communities and small businesses, with "rural folks needing capital and support."

Zydenbos also addressed the audience; she stated that "food preservation is human preservation."

The grant application process took 14 months, according to Zydenbos. Others attending the presentation included representatives from the offices of U.S. Senators Jeanne Shaheen and Maggie Hassan, along with other members of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including Sarah Waring, USDA Rural Development State Director.

Attendees included farmers from other communities interested in learning about government programs available to them to help their businesses. Weare resident David Trumble, a certified organic farmer for 36 years and owner of Good Earth Farms, attended the presentation.

The information document stated that the "USDA is making sure as many people as possible can access historic funding to make clean energy improvements at their farms, ranches and businesses."

Additionally, the focus is on how this benefits the larger community: "These innovations will help them increase their income, grow their businesses, address climate change and lower energy costs for American families". And the government grant awarded to Micro Mama's will help.



L to R: USDA Deputy Secretary Xochitl Torres Small; Stephanie Zydenbos, Micro Mama's owner; Sarah Waring, USDA Rural Development State Director (courtesy

photo).

Weare Public Library News

UPCOMING EVENTS

For kids:

PokeMondays: Mondays, 2-4:30 p.m. Meet, trade, and play with other Pokemon card game enthusiasts and win prizes.

Baby & Toddler Playgroup. Tuesdays, 10:30 to noon. An informal gathering. Books, puzzles, early literacy toys and music. Get out of the house; meet new friends!

Scholastic Chess. Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m. All kids are invited to jump in, learn logic and planning skills while they play.

Pre-K Storytimes. Wednesdays (starting Jan. 17), 10:30 a.m. Join Ms. Karen for stories and songs.

Afterschool Gaming. Wednesdays, 2-4:30 p.m. Challenge your friends on the Nintendo Switch and other game systems. (Recommended for ages 6+).

Read with the Ruff Readers. Wednesdays (starting Jan. 17), 5-6 p.m.: Read with friendly dogs! Call us at 603-529-2044 to register.

For adults:

Pinochle & Cribbage. Tuesdays at 2 p.m. Meet and play with other card game enthusiasts.

Craft Group. Thursdays at 1 p.m. Learn a new craft. Space is limited. Call us at 603-529-2044 to register.

Book Group. Jan. 31 at 7 p.m. We're reading "The Bear" by Andrew Krivak. Call us at 603-529-2044 to reserve your copy.

Tax Help. Feb. 12, 15 and 16. Free from the AARP. Schedule your appointment by calling Jim Luckern at 603-765-0558.

To register for any program, 603-529-2044.
Closed on January 15 for Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Scout News



Troop 529 in Weare is very proud of its Eagle Scouts and that now includes Benjamin LaBier. Benjamin is the son of Darin and HeatherAnn LaBier of Deering.

Inspired by the passing of Hillsboro Police K9 Fanto in 2019, Ben took it upon himself to conceive and construct this dignified memorial, pictured above. It proudly showcases the names of every former and current K9 that has served within the Hillsboro Police Department. Ben is shown on the left with Officer Gallant and his K9 partner, Dice. On the right, is Sgt. Hodgdon and his K9 partner, Gibbs, of the HPD and his K9 Memorial statue.

Benjamin LaBier earned his EAGLE Scout rank on Dec. 6 at the Massabesic District Eagle Board of Review night. Eagle requirements include earning each of the six previous ranks (Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life). Along the way, a youth needs to complete a minimum of 18 service hours (most do way more), camp outside and learn outdoor skills, and participate in community and civic activities. They need a minimum of 21 merit badges, including 14 required ones. Ben earned 37 Merit Badges.

Anyone (boy or girl 11-18) interested can reach out to troop529wearenh@gmail.com or can join our Facebook page and reach out there. Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/189958702113051>

Also, our website is a great resource:
<https://sites.google.com/view/troop529wearenh/home>



Check out past issues of *Weare in the World*, our Business Issue (listing more than 75 local vendors!) and more at www.weareintheworldnews.com

Hand in Hand
**SENIOR CENTER
 & THRIFT SHOP**

The Hand in Hand Senior Center is a gathering place for seniors to socialize and get involved in group activities.

33 North Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281

Wed - Fri, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sat: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

603-529-4263 / facebook.com/hihsc.org

Now that we've turned the corner from 2023 to 2024, it's time to both reflect and look ahead. At Hand in Hand Senior Center and Thrift Shop, we have so many acts of generosity and kindness to look back on. We hope that people, businesses and organizations know how appreciative the senior community is for your support of both the thrift shop and the center activities. It's exciting to find people from all walks of life enjoying time together, making a healthy emotional and social environment.

Gifts from Birch Hill Technology Group in Weare and some anonymous donors have given us a sound start to the new year. These donations will help us to develop a greater variety of activities. In turn, we hope that more seniors will take advantage of them, and our circle will continue to grow.

Take a look at what is happening at the Center in January...Often at the end of Wednesday lunches, we invite someone from the community to tell us about themselves or their business. This month we have Vikki Babbins (Jan. 10), a café volunteer who will lead a Zentangle session, and Maxwell Post (Jan. 24), a new physical therapist in Lanctot's Plaza.

Mark your calendar for **Monday, Jan. 15 at 10:30 a.m.** We have a special program "Strength at Any Age" provided by Granite VNA (see box to the right). We encourage anyone who is interested in staying strong to come to the Center and participate. **Chair Yoga** is now offered twice a week (Mondays and Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.). Donna McCarren **crafts of any kind**, providing help and conversation, continues Mondays from 12-2 p.m. **Make a terrarium** with Jade is scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 20 at 1 p.m. Sign up at the center, as a limited number can be accommodated. Don't forget **movie afternoon**. We will show "A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood" with Tom Hanks on Jan. 25 at 4 p.m. Come and join the center for any or all these activities.

If you have ideas or suggestions for programs or activities that would interest those 60+ please stop by or call 603-529-4263 and let's chat. Happy New Year and thanks to all who continue to make our years brighter.

**WHAT'S FOR
 LUNCH?**



Wednesdays 11- 1. Dine in, take out or free delivery.

Jan. 10: Chicken a la king with biscuits, garden salad

Jan. 17: Chicken and potatoes with rosemary, feta, herb and edamame succotash

Jan. 24: Breakfast potatoes, pancakes, ham slices, scrambled eggs.

Coffee, tea, and various desserts are also available.

**WHAT'S IN
 THE SHOP?**



SALE

-\$1 off boots and shoes,

leggings, men's and women's pants

-50% off all Christmas items and picture frames



See up-to-date information on our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/hihsc.org and like us while you're there.



Strength at any Age

Being offered by at:



Hand in Hand Senior Center

33 N. Stark Hwy., Weare

Monday, Jan.15, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Don't let age stop you from gaining what you deserve.

Learn simple steps to stay strong.

This program is FREE and registration is not required.

Masks are optional at this time.

Capital Area Memory Café

By Marge Burke

The Memory Café, returning after a COVID-19 shutdown, is a joyful and creative social experience

Capital Area Memory Cafe
Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2-4 p.m.
Granite Ledges, 151 Langley Parkway, Concord

for people with memory loss and their caregivers to gather with others in a positive and engaging environment. It is held at Granite Ledges of Concord, 151 Langley Parkway, and sponsored by Granite VNA, Concord Hospital, and Granite Ledges. Refreshments are offered along with programs for both care recipient, and caregiver.

I speak from personal experience of the value of this program, having attended for several years with my husband, Donald. The café provides socialization for those suffering from memory loss, and programs and support for their caregivers, who gain valuable information to help them navigate this journey. It has been at least five years since I was an active participant in the café and still remain in contact with friends I made.

There is no charge for this program and registration is not required, just come. If the Concord Schools are closed due to inclement weather, there will be no café.

nextdoor Nextdoor N.H.

By Sharon Czarnecki

Recently, someone at the Hand in Hand Senior Center brought this website to my attention. I was skeptical that if I signed on, all of the participants would be from city areas and those would be far away. I was surprised to see that there is already an active network of people from Weare using this website for a variety of needs and helping each other out. (*Wish I had known about them in the summer when I made a disastrous attempt at painting my front door. LOL.*) I found the following printed on their website and have included it here for any of you who may find it helpful:

“Do you need help shoveling, or are you willing to lend a hand? Please go to our website at <https://nextdoor.com/helpmap>.

“Last year, I responded to a neighbor who asked for help shoveling her driveway and accessible ramp since she could neither physically do it herself nor afford to pay someone to do it for her. I was happy to help! The experience reminded me that neighbors who can't physically shovel or live on fixed incomes often have no option but to wait for the snow to melt. Without help, they can't get to work, the grocery store, the pharmacy, or doctor appointments. Since we are all connected here on

Nextdoor, the good news is that we can help each other! -Joseph Porcelli, Nextdoor staff

How to find someone to help shovel or how to offer help shoveling:

1. Go to the Help Map on the website: <https://nextdoor.com/helpma>.
2. See who nearby has asked for or offered help; click on pins for details and to interact.
3. To get/give help, click “Ask for help”/“Offer help.
4. Add details about what needs shoveling/what you can shovel. Be specific!
5. Add a location: If the location needs to be corrected, use the "Search" field, then click the "Use this location" button.
6. Click "Next" then "Post."
7. Keep an eye on the comments to coordinate and provide update.s
8. Once shoveled, comment to let other neighbors know To see or edit your post, visit your profile.

Managing Snow Safely

By Maxwell Post, PT, DPT, CLT

Any Path Physical Therapy

When a big Nor'easter hits Weare, school's canceled, work's canceled and everyone is excited for skiing, snowboarding and snowmobiling. BUT FIRST – you've got to get out of your driveway. Far too often on a cold day with a lot of snow, emergency rooms are full of patients with cardiac events,



back injuries and slipping injuries. I hope to help make the local community aware of these perils and to avoid them with some tips and tricks.

The dangers can be a cardiac event, low back injury, slip and fall or even getting hit by a vehicle while shoveling near the edge of the road.

The difference between shoveling dirt in the summer and snow in the winter is colder temperatures causing your coronary blood vessels to get smaller. This combines with the urgency of getting the job done to get out of your driveway. Shoveling and snow blowing too much heavy snow too quickly increases the risk for heart attack or cardiac events. The impact is the hardest on those with underlying heart/vascular issues. It also impacts those who are out of shape, those who smoke, have high cholesterol, or high blood pressure, and those with diabetes. If you're worried about your heart this shoveling

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SHOVELING, continued from page 7

season, it is a good idea to check in with a cardiologist.

If you suspect you're having a cardiac event such as chest pain or pressure, lightheadedness, heart palpitations, or irregular heartbeat - STOP the activity right away, and **call 911**. If you see someone collapse while shoveling snow, call for help *first* and then start CPR if they are unresponsive with no pulse.

Some strategies for avoiding injury when removing snow include hiring a professional to plow and shovel your walkways. This is especially important for those with bypass surgery or coronary angioplasty because they should NOT be doing any shoveling of snow. Get your own plow for your truck or SUV, use an ATV with a plow, use a self-propelled snowblower, use an ergonomic shovel, use a push shovel, take turns with family members. Shovel for 15 minutes or until you feel yourself start working too hard and switch with someone else. Or even more fun, you can all work together and each take a section.

To protect your back when shoveling, the key is body mechanics. Ideally, you can push the snow forward instead of having to lift and throw it. This uses your antigravity muscles such as calves, quads, glutes and core. If you must lift the snow, try not to scoop so much into one shovel load. Instead, remove several layers in smaller more manageable shovel loads. When lifting, use those same antigravity muscles to lift and throw. Be sure your core is activated before you start the movement of lifting with the legs. Avoid torso twisting with heavy shovel loads. If you're shoveling and throwing the snow, it's better to throw it forward using your legs to propel it instead of twisting and throwing it to the side. Your vertebral discs are more susceptible to injury in rotational motions and with that big snowstorm it just multiplies it. For either shoveling or snow blowing, try to remove snow more often in a big storm so you don't lift or push large amounts at once. Instead, clean up the snow more often instead of when it fully accumulates.

Slipping is always a risk when you venture outside in New Hampshire winters. Wearing good footwear is always an important starting point. Using traction devices on your shoes helps. Although, be careful walking inside. Some flooring such as tile or linoleum can cause you to slip wearing outdoor traction devices. If it is slick outside, try putting down rock salt or snowmelt letting it do its chemical reaction before venturing out on it. When walking outside and it's slippery, take smaller steps, walk with your feet a little bit wider apart, and turn your toes slightly out. This will increase your base of support and keep your upper body from going outside of that base of support (which is when the slip starts). Another way to widen your base of support is to use ski poles or a walking stick. Keep your phone with you in case you have slipped and fallen and can't get up. Call 911 for help.

Shovels: try an ergonomic shovel (bent handle) so you don't have to lean over as far when lifting and throwing snow, and even better would be a push shovel you don't ever have to lift at all.

Snowblower: Especially the bigger snowblowers cause a lot of strain on your body when pushing through heavy snow and turning in heavy snow. On snowblowers with a self-propelling motor, be sure you let that motor do the pushing for you - as well as the turning. And whatever you do, DO NOT put your hand into the snowblower blades, or even the chute as this results in debilitating hand injuries.

I hope **not** to see any Weare residents for shoveling and snow blowing injuries now that you're aware of the risks and have some tips for success.

More information on Any Path Physical Therapy LLC:
office@anypathphysicaltherapy.com
www.anypathphysicaltherapy.com

Lookin' for Love

By Cathy Bailey

If you'd like to adopt any of the pets pictured here, please complete an adoption application at <https://www.heartsandtails.org/adoption-application>



Meet Joe! He is a Schnauzer mix and is friendly, affectionate, gentle, smart and quiet. He is housetrained and his vaccinations are up to date and he has been neutered. Joe is one of the sweetest, good-natured dogs that you will ever have the pleasure to meet! It's very apparent that this sweet boy had a family at some point in time, as he is very friendly with people, housetrained, great on a leash, and gets along well with every dog - and cat - he meets. Unfortunately, Joe's "family" in Puerto Rico decided to dump him in a parking lot of an industrial area in the town of Toa Baja. He survived there for a few months, scavenging for food and relying on the kindness of the workers, who would throw him scraps from their lunch. One of our wonderful rescuers was contacted by the workers and agreed to foster him and try to help get him to New England so that he could be placed in a secure, loving home. Joe is now in New Hampshire and he is very excited to meet his forever family! Joe is about four years old, weighs 46 pounds, has all of his required vaccines and is neutered and microchipped.

Meet Keanu! He is a terrier mix who is friendly, affectionate, gentle, playful, smart and quiet. He is housetrained, his vaccinations are up to date, and he is neutered. He is good in a home with other dogs, children. This boy is amazing! We took a chance a few

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DOGS, continued from page 8

weeks ago when he was about to be euthanized. We didn't know much about him, but just one look at that sweet face, and we knew we could NOT let him perish. And only seven months old. Poor sweet baby was just beginning his life! So, fast forward... we changed his name from Panda to Keanu (which means "cool breeze" in Hawaiian), and

brought him to New England for a fresh beginning. Our hope is that the cool breeze will equate to a fresh start for this beautiful boy. At at only 38 pounds, he's much smaller than he looks in the photos. Keanu has been a delightful addition to the Hearts and Tails family - he is super cuddly, crate trained, housetrained, great on a leash, and gets along well with all the other dogs!

For more information on these and other dogs:

<https://www.heartsandtails.org/petfinder-list/>

**Looking for Something to Do?**

Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki



**880 Page St., Manchester
7 p.m.**

Join us for an evening of the music that took the U.S. by storm and changed the face of popular music as we knew it! The British Invasion musical movement of the mid-1960s included the Beatles, the Rolling Stones, the Animals, the Searchers, the Dave Clark Five, Herman's Hermits, Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey, Cilla Black, Dusty Springfield, Petula Clark and more. This night celebrates their music as 16 performers put their spin on some of these classic and memorable songs. Tickets: <https://majestictheatre.net/event/british-invasion/>



Our library has discount passes!

What Do the

Animals Do in Winter?

Saturdays, Jan. 13, 21 or 27, 10- 11:30 a.m.

There will be an afternoon session from 1-2:30 p.m. if the morning sessions fill.

Squam Lakes Natural Science

Center offers a winter program for adults and families with children ages 7 and up. Learn about the animals who live at the Science Center during the winter. Most of them stay in the same place, just as they would in the wild. A staff naturalist will lead a guided walk on the live animal exhibit trail to see the animal ambassadors dressed in their winter coats and discuss how these native animals are well adapted for winter in New Hampshire. If needed, snowshoes are available at no extra cost or participants can bring their own. Children must be accompanied by an adult. This program is all outdoors and limited to 12 participants. Dress to be outdoors with insulated snow boots, hats, gloves, and warm layers. Pre-registration is required for all programs at www.nhnature.org.

Cost: \$12/member; \$15/non-member

To register for this event, and learn about upcoming programs, and membership go to www.nhnature.org or call 603-968-7194.

**Asked and Answered:
Dress Up Your Pet****The Case of the Killer
Christmas Tree – or –**

The time my dog dressed for Christmas

By Sharon Czarnecki

It was early December and we had selected a live tree, cut it down, and lovingly decorated it for Christmas. This involved many decorations (unbreakable on the lower branches, to deter the cats) and, of course, yards of lights and garland.

This was not our first rodeo, either. That tree was tied to the wall with guide wires on either side. The two cats took turns racing around it and no doubt climbing it when we were not looking. At least it would not fall over. Which turned out to be a very good thing.

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TREE, continued from page 9

One evening, we all went out to the mall shopping and left our trusty pets in charge of the house – the aforementioned two cats, a small Sheltie dog and a Rottweiler Shepherd mix named Sundance. This was a happy set of pets, and we were always greeted with much enthusiasm whenever we returned home.

Except this time. We got home and Sundance did not come to the door. He didn't come when we called. Did we leave a door open? Had he run out the back and was outside in the cold all this time? As we walked through the house to check on this, we all stopped in amazement to look at our tree. It was like the Grinch had visited. The light strings were down on the floor. There were ornaments everywhere (amazingly, none broken.) And there was a long strand of garland leading down the hallway. And into the bedroom. And under the bed....Where it was firmly wrapped around the covering Sundance's tail. Clearly this wicked tree had chased our poor dog all the way into the bedroom and just would not let go. And that is how my dog happened to dress for Christmas.



My goats Brownie, Big Joe and Sierra dressed for Christmas (June Holm photos).



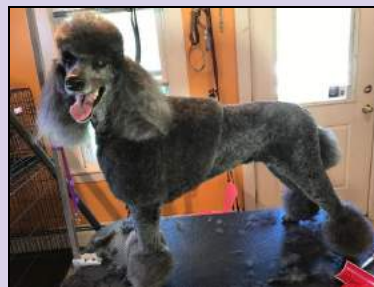
My horse, Journee, as a unicorn for Halloween – Joe Czarnecki photo).



Journee in "parade dress" (Joe Czarnecki photo).



Rescue mustang Ralphie who took second place after only 100 days of training. He performed to "Pirates of the Caribbean" music (Nicole Czarnecki photo).



My dog, Winnie, loved to go to her groomer's (Pampered Pooch Grooming in Warner) to get "spruced up." But her favorite thing was the nail polish, and she



would lift her paw and hold it still as the last step in the process. That's when she knew she was positively gorgeous! (Nicole Czarnecki photos).



Tell Us About:
Winter Breakfast

How do you start your day on a cold winter day – or snowy morning – share recipes of special breakfasts.

Eulogy

For Mickey

By Douglas Gilbert

Who among us hasn't wondered how we got here, precisely in this moment, with thoughts and feelings and ancient instincts gushing forth from where?



Call me Mickey, a mongrel cast aside at birth, left on the street for some Samaritan to rescue, tame and socialize.

Little wonder I was incarcerated early in life with a full list of issues. I learned aggression, trusted no one, and kept my head down and my tail up.

The Boss came to the facility one day. I picked up his scent and liked his deep voice, so when he returned, I remembered him. On our second walk, he unshackled me so I could explore the grounds, cautioning me to say close if I strayed too far. I was wary, but intrigued, keeping the perfect distance between too far and striking distance. Still, when our time was up, I allowed him to leash me up and lead me back inside. The Boss returned day after day, working with me in the yard, on leash, off leash until we were good together.

Before long, we busted out the front door to have ourselves a time. We walked the Appalachian Trail, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, more mountains than we could count. Big mountains, big medicine. I was his Atticus and he, my Ryan. My trail name was Sentry, standing guard outside the campsite, posting watch inside the tent. Back home I slept one-eye vigilant, watching over his repose. He taught me English, and I taught him to growl. We traveled to Florida, Minnesota and North Carolina. He was my Steinbeck and I, his Charley. We told each other everything. On days we did not hike, we played golf, and I stayed out of the sand traps and off the greens until they passed an ordinance. He saved me when I chomped that pesky Chihuahua.

Returning from our second hiking season, all muscled up, something was amiss. My appetite departed, and my nose dried up. Sluggish and low energy, I never complained, but the Boss took notice. The day I stumbled on the stair, he brought me to the vet near the pound where we began. Back in the slammer for the crime of contracting renal disease.

As it was in the beginning, the Boss came to visit every day, believing I was mending, believing in more hiking seasons. On the fourth day, he got the call.

Our final journey started where we started, with a walk in the yard. He lay on the grass, red eyed, gasping,

soaked in sorrow while I chewed some grass and licked his wet face one last time before we entered the chamber. The sedative took my legs out, took my pain, and he laid my head on his lap while he sat on the floor. I stared at him, through him, as the orderly applied the second injection. I say it is not the ones who bring us to the world that matter, it's the ones who take us out.

"How long will this take?" the Boss asked as he stroked my forehead.

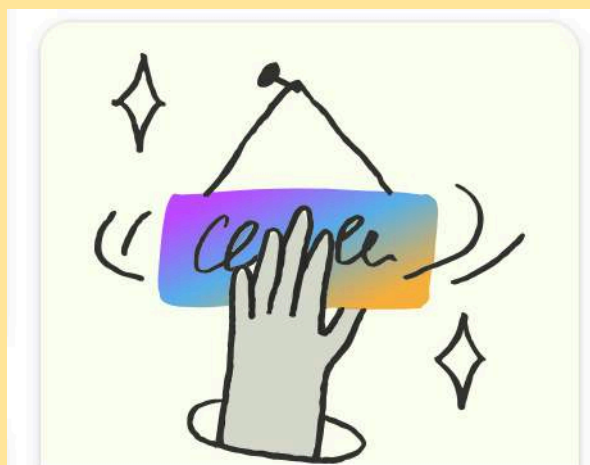
"He's already gone," the orderly replied.

The Boss eventually rose, carrying the unbearable weight of emptiness and recalling the Hidden Words, "I have made death a messenger of joy to thee. Wherefore dost thou grieve?"

Yellow lightning streaks the evening sky, from deep within the smoky clouds, followed by a distant, throaty growl. He wants to think it's me watching over him, but I am at his side, silently shadowing his steps. He feels me there. The pain inspires him to walk away, but the Boss sits and stays.

Weare Business Corner

Please note the article on page 7 about neighbors looking for help in Weare. This is a website we have recently learned about that may be of interest to local business owners.



Own a local business?

Create a business page to connect with neighbors, post updates in the feed, and gain new customers.

Create page

https://nextdoor.com/news_feed/



Why We Love Living in NH

An occasional column featuring readers' reverent observations of our natural surroundings



Sunset in Weare (Nancy Kincaid photo).



Fox stretching in snow (Vicki Rinne photo).



Christmas finery (Joe Czarnecki photo).



POETRY CORNER



The Silent Stars

In all their dazzling
brightness, the stars
shine down in silence,
upon our night, they
twinkle, or wink at
earth below, do they
know what joy they
bring to our wandering
eyes when we gaze
skyward, what do they
see of us below,
or is our earth just
another speck in the cosmos.

-Marge Burke

Puddles

Puddles form after the rain,
irresistible to younger folk,
especially when wearing their
wellies, they stomp and jump,
shriek and laugh when water
splashes, they stoop, drag
fingers through the surface
making tidal pools, admire
themselves in water's
reflection, what fun to be
a younger folk.

-Marge Burke

Letter to the Editor



Dear Editor,

The 2023 senior holiday meal sponsored by Weare Parks and Recreation in collaboration with Weare Middle School is now in the books. But what a night! The students from Weare Middle School, under the direction of Jodi Antoine – the school Library Media Specialist – provided a wonderful evening for our community’s seniors who were in attendance. From the beautifully decorated tables, to preparing and serving a turkey dinner, to engaging with our seniors, it was a wonderful time had by all.

To the parents of these students: you should be very proud. They were so excited to cook and serve and were so polite and engaging in conversation with their guests. These will be our future community leaders and I think we will be in good hands.

Parks and Recreation would like to thank Ms. Antoine, and Weare Middle School Principal Jon Barry for allowing the community to use this wonderful facility and for the time they gave to make this a success. We also want to thank music teacher Serena Gorham and her student, Miles Green, who provided music during the evening and Ms. Wilhemina Bodine for allowing us to use the FACS room to prepare the meal. We also want to thank the Weare Public Library staff for their assistance in promoting the event and helping to hand out the tickets. And thanks to a very generous anonymous donor who provided Hannaford gift cards to help purchase the food for this event. We hope to have more events to come.

-Denise Purington

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 3:45 p.m. - Trustees of the Trust Funds meeting
- 6 p.m. – Weare School Board meeting
- 7 p.m. – Conservation Commission meeting
- 7 p.m. – Weare Democrats meeting

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 7 p.m. – Planning Board meeting

Friday, Jan. 12

- 6:30 p.m. – John Stark School Board meeting

Monday, Jan. 15

- 6:30 p.m. – Board of Selectmen meeting

Tuesday, Jan. 16

- 6 p.m. – Board of Fire Wards meeting
- 7 p.m. – Cable Committee meeting

Friday, Jan. 19

- 11 a.m. – Weare Area Writers Guild meeting

Monday, Jan. 22

- 6:30 p.m. – Board of Selectmen meeting

Contact Us

weareintheworldnews@gmail.com

Editor – Karen Lovett

Assistant Editor – Alyssa Small

Town News – Tom Clow

School News – Marge Burke

Community Outreach – Sharon Czarnecki