



Weare in the World

Volume 5, Issue 4

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For Weare Residents, by Weare Residents



Troop 24 and Troop 529 Win Awards at Scouts Klondike Derby

By Lorrie Piper

Two town troops attended a Klondike Derby at Lake Horace in Weare on Feb. 7 and took home several awards. This is a particularly challenging scout event, since it is held during the winter months. It's based on the heritage of the Klondike Gold Rush and Boy Scouts of America has been running these derbies since 1949.

The Klondike Derby consists of stations where patrols/units must test their scoutcraft skills and their leadership abilities, earning points towards a total score. The unit must transport their gear on a homemade sled pulled by the Scouts.

Four teams consisting of 24 scouts competed at Lake Horace, testing their skills at six stations. The scouts all did their best to earn the highest points in fire building, woods tools, pioneering, wilderness survival, obstacle course and first aid.

Troop 529 teams won the pioneering and wilderness survival stations, while Troop 24 teams won overall first place, along with fire building, wood tools, obstacle course and first aid.

Boy Scouts of America aims to build these life skills in
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School Deliberative Session Results in Amendments, Finance Committee Approval

By Tom Clow

Two warrant articles were the focus of discussion and amendments at the Weare School District Deliberative Session on Wednesday, Feb. 17. Article 4, which asks voters to approve the cost items in a one-year collective bargaining agreement between the Weare School Board and the Weare Education Association, was brought up first, and was amended by changing the dollar amount in the article from \$5,935 to \$129,318.

Superintendent of Schools Jacqueline Coe explained that the original figure was the difference in salary dollars after considering the savings from the anticipated retirement of several senior staff members and new teachers being hired at lower salaries. She said that previous employment contract articles had been presented in this way; however, legal counsel had advised that putting the total cost of \$129,318 in the warrant article was best practice. The agreement calls for teachers to advance one career step on the salary grid, but salaries on the grid do not increase. The raises will average 2.3% and range from \$950 to \$1,400. School board members displayed a chart that showed average annual teacher salaries in adjacent towns ranging from \$7,000 to \$14,000 greater than in Weare. The data came from a 2019-2020 New Hampshire Department of Education comparison of district salaries.

Article 3, the school district operating budget proposal, was also amended by being reduced from \$16,685,938 to
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\$16,537,569. This represents a reduction of \$148,369, which reflects the changes made in Article 4 as well as eliminating funds to make the technology coordinator a year-round position. COVID grant funding will be used next year to fund that change, according to information released by the SAU 24 office. The amended version of the proposed budget is \$25,499 lower than the default budget. Complete Weare School District budget information can be found at: <https://bit.ly/WeareBudget21-22>.

The deliberative session, which had been rescheduled from Feb. 3, was held in two locations at the Weare Middle School. The gymnasium was the primary site set up for social distancing, with all attendees wearing masks. Those who chose not to wear masks met in the school cafeteria. Technology allowed voters at each location to participate equally in the meeting.

The Weare Finance Committee met via Zoom immediately following the deliberative session to review its recommendation on the Weare School District Warrant. The Finance Committee voted 11-0

to recommend Article 3, the proposed budget. The committee also voted to recommend Article 4, the collective bargaining agreement, by a vote of 8-3. All of the Finance Committee recommendations on the town and school warrant articles, as well as the rationale behind these decisions, will be published in a mailer that will be sent to voters prior to the March 9 election.



Deliberative Session. Pictured from left to right are acting District Clerk Irene Gamache, Drake and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Jacqueline Coe (Tom Clow photo)

Area Average Wage Comparison 2019-2020	
Bow	\$63,722
Kearsarge	\$63,244
Hopkinton	\$62,291
Hillsboro-Deering	\$61,490
John Stark	\$57,961
New Boston	\$57,726
ConVal	\$57,540
Goffstown	\$57,353
Dunbarton	\$56,097
Henniker	\$55,503
Weare	\$48,310

Moderator Luther Drake explains the procedures for the Weare School District



Local scouts compete in the Klondike Derby on Horace Lake (courtesy photo)

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young people with a hands-on approach, all while working with adult leaders, exercising teamwork and having a lot of fun along the way.

If you are interested in joining Weare Scouts, contact: Wearetroop24@gmail.com or troop529wearenh@gmail.com

SAU 24 Teacher Contract Details

Teachers in the Henniker, Weare and John Stark School Districts all came to the negotiating table with the same request: to extend their current contracts, moving them up on the salary grid (step), but with no request for an increase in salary grid in any of the districts.

"Our teachers told us they understand the difficult economy we are in right now," said SAU 24 Superintendent Jacqueline Coe in a school district press release. "Yes, they are our teachers, but they are also moms, dads, community members and taxpayers; some teachers have spouses who have lost their jobs. We are all in the same COVID storm together."

"This is a very difficult time for everyone, and we felt that asking for raises to the base pay or for language changes right now would not be in the best interest of the school or local community," said Dawn Spring, president of the Weare Educators Association. "Our focus needs to be, and has always been, on the health and safety of everyone in our buildings. I look forward to being a part of a collegial negotiation session in 2021 when we can again work together for the good of our students and our teachers. The Weare Education Association is committed to working together with the Weare School Board, Superintendent Jacqueline Coe, and the community as we all try to navigate our current situation."

The district press release describes "an extraordinary year" in which teachers had to completely change the way
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they delivered lessons to students from in-person to remote, and it had to happen overnight. Last March, teachers quickly had to learn the nuances of teaching remotely while at the same time learning how to use new technology to do it.


The summer gave teachers some time to plan for the new school year, but no one knew exactly what the new year would look like. Would it be fully remote, partially remote, or fully in-person? Every scenario was carefully planned, but as with so many things related to this pandemic, ever-changing factors meant many had just a few days' notice before the school year began as to which method would begin the year, the release said.

Adding to the mix of things teachers need to prepare for and manage every day beyond teaching are all of the COVID protocols that must be followed.

"While a teacher is in the middle of an in-person classroom teaching, he or she is also constantly scanning to be sure students are properly distanced and wearing a mask," Coe said in the release. "That's followed by making sure hands have been washed, mask breaks get taken, and lunches and recess happen safely. Teachers provide a critical service and have remained committed to our students throughout this crisis."

Increases in the three contracts range between \$500 to \$1,500, with an average increase of approximately \$1,000 per teacher.

-Submitted by Patti Osgood



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Meet the Candidates

Elections for the Weare School Board and the Weare Board of Selectmen will be held Tuesday, March 9 at Weare Middle School. This week, meet the candidates.

There are two open seats for the Weare School Board; nine candidates are running (Robert Shannon Jr. initially filed, but withdrew.) All were contacted to participate in the survey; seven responded. (In addition, all candidates have been invited to participate in a virtual forum on March 4. See page 12 for details.)

There are two open seats for the Weare Board of Selectmen; three candidates are running. Their surveys

start on page 10.

Weare in the World developed the surveys. Candidates were given a 700-word limit. Surveys were lightly edited only for style and mechanics.

Weare School Board



Name: Sarah Button

Length of time in Weare: Four years

Occupation: Middle school math teacher

Community involvements and affiliations: Soccer coach through Weare Athletic Club

Contact: sjebutton@gmail.com

Twitter: @MrsButtonHDMS

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

I grew up in Manchester and went through the public school system. I appreciated the opportunities I had access to, and feel strongly that public schools serve a great purpose in society. As a teacher for 12 years and a parent of two children who will be in the Weare School system, I feel like I am uniquely qualified to be a school board member. Not only do I understand the challenges we face as parents and as taxpayers, but the strains and expectations within our schools. I want to make sure we offer our students high quality education in an efficient, cost-effective manner.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

There is not a one-step solution to improve student achievement, but rather small changes that can collectively make a great difference. I believe that students who are proud of and invested in their school community will achieve at higher levels. This means offering choice for students through academics and extracurricular activities. It also means fostering a positive community within the schools - reducing staff turnover, empowering staff and students to make decisions while participating in the community, and making data-driven decisions that support learning. With regards to ensuring that graduates are ready to enter college, the workforce, or another path - providing students with choice, such as extended learning opportunities and extracurricular

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activities, combined with a strong community of support, will enable them to access experiences that a basic curriculum would not. This provides students with more opportunities to explore and in which to gain skills.

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

I strongly believe that establishing full-day kindergarten is one of the best things we can do for this town and our children. Offering full-day kindergarten is a two-fold investment. Not only will full-day kindergarten improve long-term student achievement, but it will also increase property values. Weare is one of very few towns in New Hampshire that has not adopted full-day kindergarten, which puts us at a disadvantage, not only when it comes to student performance, but when it comes to real-estate. Many young families that are moving (both from out of state and from within the state) are looking for full-day kindergarten because of the financial burden of childcare. I believe that, with an established full-day kindergarten program, we will see a financial return in our property values, and in the town economy. Imagine how the local economy will benefit from the extra money parents will have (an average of \$200 per child per week).

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

Qualified teachers need to feel empowered, valued and respected. Sometimes this means compensating educators for their time financially, but often it can be achieved through other means. I believe that new teachers should be involved in a strong mentorship program that extends beyond the first year in district. I also believe in a clear and consistent observation and feedback process. Lastly, I think we need to offer our best teachers the opportunity to lead through in-house professional development and participation in decision making.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

I think people falsely believe that a quality education is an expensive one. As a veteran teacher, I understand that oftentimes the most expensive programs don't provide the highest outcomes (despite what they advertise) and I am uniquely qualified at discerning the unnecessary costs at the ground level.

6. What changes should be made on the state and local**level regarding public education?**

We need to understand that providing quality public education to all children is one of the most patriotic things we can do as Americans. Giving children the opportunity to be productive, functioning members of society upon graduation is the best way to help our economy (local, state, country, and global).



Name: Elizabeth Salas Evans

Length of time in Weare: Four years; my parents have been residents of Weare since 2001.

Occupation: Small business owner and project manager: COVID Business Recovery N.H. for The Center for Women & Enterprise

Community involvements and affiliations: Executive board, investment and finance committees for NH PBS; finance committee for the Society for the Protection of N.H. Forests

Contact: elizabethsevens83@gmail.com

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

My motivation to run for school board are born out of my personal experiences as a parent to young children and a lifelong learner myself. The COVID pandemic has created a contrasting school experience for my children from mine. Particularly, as they attend school through a computer screen, without recess, sports, and buses. Despite these differing experiences, our teachers have implemented creative and heartwarming ways of building lasting bonds with our children during these difficult times. My priorities as a school board member are to listen to the needs of our community, the needs of our teachers, and attempt to identify resources that would allow for these needs to be met in a fiscally conservative way, while also recognizing the appetite for innovation as our community grows and searches for ways to adapt.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

In 2019, I attended a series of sessions led by SAU 24, focused around a "Portrait of a Graduate". A sentiment by students from my perspective was a feeling of not being heard when proposing new subjects for curriculum development. Empowering students with the ability to develop and lead a portion of their curriculum holds the

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potential to improve student achievement. Particularly, when developed within a framework that provides the time for growth beyond a one or two semester incubator phase. Giving our students the autonomy to create within a safe environment will increase their confidence as they graduate to the next chapter of life.

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

As a small business owner and economist, full day kindergarten would best prepare our children for a competitive learning environment while providing parents the opportunity to increase economic productivity. Being good for children, the local and overall economy.

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

I believe we already have a lot of qualified teachers that currently do a wonderful job. My plan is to speak to our current teachers to learn about ways we can better support them and retain them for the long haul through the creation of a shared vision.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

When children receive high-quality education, they are better prepared to enter college and the workforce. Also, generally with a high-quality education, the potential for innovation and business creation exists. If our children are confident about their leadership ability, they will feel confident in bringing their ideas to life through business creation. If our children create businesses in our community, this will help to reduce the local taxpayer burden.

6. What changes should be made on the state and local level regarding public education?

More attention should be allocated to researching the potential for redistribution across districts that remain under/over funded consistently to create a more equitable funding system across New Hampshire.

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

I have witnessed the long divide in our town between our schools and our taxpayers, as both a student and a homeowner. I would like to help facilitate a middle ground between the two; find our happy medium of supporting our schools (student needs) and not “breaking the bank” for our taxpayers. I would like to see our school board have more community feedback, better transparency and create a working relationship between community and education, ensuring a more cohesive relationship with our faculty, students and taxpayers. Having two special-needs children, I have become accustomed to hearing, “it isn’t in the budget” when asking how my children’s needs can be met. After extensive research on Weare’s budgets, and budgets of 95% of the schools in NH, I feel confident my budgeting capabilities would be an asset to our school board.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

Re-evaluation of the budget to include access to more than college counselors, working together in our school to tap resources that can expose our students to more trades and creating a foundation for those who chose to directly enter the workforce or otherwise. That foundation can be solidified by modifying the curriculum to offer basic budgeting skills, account balancing, basic credit-building guidelines and understanding our country’s tax system. These foundations are small steps that can be taken at a local level. I believe advocating at a state level would better affect a change.

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

I am overwhelmingly in support of full-day kindergarten. This decision would, not only, benefit our students academically, but mentally and emotionally as well. Additionally, adding full-day kindergarten to Weare will increase the state funding for education. This funding and increased in-house learning time would allow our students to attend public school, instead of costly private education on top of taxation. I feel we have sufficient space and budget to be successful in implementing full-day kindergarten.

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

Maintaining open lines of communication with our current
See FULLER, page 6



Name: Jessica Fuller

Length of time in Weare: Five years; also went to John Stark Regional High School.

Contact: jezilynn1990@gmail.com

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teachers and encouraging them to grow would help increase the morale and attract new teachers to more than our material benefits and pay scale. Opportunities for teacher collaboration and input into decision-making are key factors in retaining qualified teachers. We need to survey our current teachers to assess the quality of the teaching and learning environment and to guide improvements. A comprehensive set of policies is needed to address our teachers leaving, possibly extending when certain benefits can be used, and to ensure every student is being taught by a competent, committed teacher.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

Responsible revision of our current budget is something we owe our taxpayers. Seeking answers from within before asking for a tax increase is crucial in maintaining community trust. Transparency in this allows us to give the local taxpayer clear, well thought out reading when we do need to share the burden. Our budget will continue to increase each year, increasing the taxpayers' burden.

6. What changes should be made on the state and local level regarding public education?

One of the biggest changes that needs to be made is the state curriculum. The current curriculum is not affording students the best, appropriate education preparing them for adulthood. We need to focus less on standardized testing and more on the individual needs of students. There needs to be significantly more support for special education. We have a vast majority of special education students who, at one point or another in their academic career, have been "pushed along" or held back because the resources available are inadequate.



Name: Holly Shelly

Length of time in Weare: Five years

Occupation: Business Development Manager

Community involvements and affiliations: Coached T-Ball for Weare Athletic Club in 2019; this is my first step into civic duty

Contact: hshelly886@gmail.com or Facebook

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

My biggest priority is getting kids back to school full time, without remote or hybrid learning, as quickly as possible

with less restrictions. I want to see kids get back to normal so they are able to get their lives back, including getting back on track with their education. I have three children and I have seen the mental impact this past year has taken. They are my biggest motivator in both this race and life. It's time to get the kids back to being kids. It's imperative for both their mental health and their education. The elected school board will be responsible for what that will look like next year so this is very important to take into consideration. Some of my other priorities can be seen in the answers to the other questions.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

Shifting back to academic standards over COVID restrictions is a good first step. We will be playing catch-up as long as kids are not in school full time. Thankfully, the elementary school is full time now, so they have the opportunity to close the gap from last school year as long as they do not go remote. The hybrid learning at the middle school, however, is continuing to make it hard to catch up.

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

Full day kindergarten is great in theory and I support it 100%. However, the cost to the taxpayers at this time is too prohibitive. I do not see it being a possibility in the next couple of years. We need to drive taxpayer costs down as much as possible already. I think it will be a tough sell to the citizens of Weare and without a cost-neutral plan, it's not going to happen. Those running in support of bringing it to the taxpayers should know it's unlikely to pass if it increases taxes.

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

Teachers need a better salary in Weare. There is no way around it. We are on the lower end of average salaries for the state and our spending on salary and benefits is lower than average for public schools. (Salary/benefit spending in Weare schools is about 66% of the budget; the average for the U.S. is about 80%). Teachers can go to neighboring districts and make more. We need to take a thorough look at the budgets and find room to make this happen as quickly as possible. I have nothing but the utmost respect for teachers, especially forgoing renegotiating their contracts this year. This year has been tough on kids

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especially, but teachers have had to change everything they do and not get much in return. Many work longer hours during remote learning than they do in the classroom. I think they also need a better salary structure, which prioritizes performance and not just length of time in college. We need to do better for them next year and the years to follow.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

High quality should not equal breaking the bank. Getting high-quality teachers in our classrooms and offering a robust curriculum is key. In reality, we need to make an environment that is conducive for our children to become engaged in their own education. Working within our means is difficult, but when a school board is willing to be creative and wants to work with both the community and administration, there is a lot that can be accomplished. Taxpayers are footing the bill for a lot of increases in spending and decreases in funding already. I'll spend my term working to lower overall costs. I also want to appeal to those who pulled their children out of the district this year to get them back into schools. It makes fiscal sense; the number of children attending plays directly into the funding the schools receive.

6. What changes should be made on the state and local level regarding public education?

The state needs to address funding issues for public education. This pandemic has made it even tougher driving up costs, which ultimately, trickles down to the taxpayers.



Name: Alyssa Small

Length of time in Weare: Almost eight years as a homeowner (My parents have been here since 2000)

Occupation: Paralegal

Community involvements and affiliations: Staff of *Weare in the World*; substitute at Center Woods Elementary School
Contact: alyssawaite@gmail.com

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

Last year, there were two open spots on the school board and only one candidate on the ballot. Because of that, a write-in candidate took a seat. To me, that showed our community's lack of enthusiasm for education. Our kids

need us to be aware and involved, and the teachers and administrators need our support. Also, this year has been such a challenge, and the kids and teachers are working so hard to make it work. I feel that the least I can do is offer to help (which is why I also started subbing this year). My priority is promoting positive relations between parents, administrators, teachers and the town. We really need to work together to get our kids safely back in school.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

Considering the individuality of each student increases student achievement. Each has their own aptitudes and weaknesses and finding these at an early age sets the framework for a lifetime of learning. Some students need extra services and others just need a teacher's encouragement. So beyond providing a solid foundation in the basics (math, reading, writing, etc.) and enrichments (art, music, technology, etc.), we need good communication between teachers and parents so we can work together to ensure our students are advancing toward their chosen path.

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

Full-day kindergarten would be helpful for many kids and families in Weare, as it is in the majority of New Hampshire towns. My kids were not ready for all-day/everyday school at age 5 (even after attending two years of preschool), but they could have handled more than is currently offered here (2.5 hours a day/ five times a week in non-COVID-19 years). I would like to listen to what our community wants and explore the options that could be offered.

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

We could offer a more competitive pay, keep smaller class sizes, promote a positive work environment and show community support and respect. Every year, we lose teachers to higher paying districts, and that is not helping our kids.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

We need to prioritize items that have a direct impact on the kids (such as teachers and safety) and scrutinize

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budget items that are important but maybe not essential.

6. What changes should be made on the state and local level regarding public education?

I am concerned about NH House Bill 20, which aims to take taxpayer dollars for homeschool and private school use. Although Weare has a very low tax rate compared to surrounding towns, there is always a lot of local complaint about the amount of tax money going to the schools. We cannot support sending tax money to private schools, too. Additionally, the bill proposes no state regulation or testing of any individual or entity accepting the school choice funds. Without regulation, there is no guarantee that the children in such programs would be receiving the adequate education promised by our state's constitution. There are also conflicts in using public funds for private use (for example, if tax money were to go to religious schools). Public school is where we all come together at the beginning of our lives, where we learn from each other and manage to get along despite our differences. By splintering off our kids at an early age, they would miss out on that broad sense of community in Weare.

Small is a staff member on Weare in the World. She recused herself from all survey-related activity.



Name: Allison Wheldon

Length of time in Weare: I have lived in Weare for seven years.

Occupation: I currently work for Market Basket, and have for the last 24 years, and I am also pursuing a career in real estate.

Community involvements and affiliations: My son has just started

attending school in Weare. I feel participating in the school board would be a wonderful way for me to become more involved in the community.

Contact: Awheld81@gmail.com

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

I feel that schools are very important to every community. There have been several times that I have gone to vote and noticed that there were no names on the ballot for the school board positions. This made me think that there is a place for me to help. I think making it a priority to find balance between what the schools need, while still making

sure the taxpayers do not have to pay significantly more money, is the best path to supporting our schools.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

Preparing our students for the future is something I believe every school strives for. The best path to get there is to do what you can to support those schools. The less time teachers spend worrying about budgets and money, the more time and energy they have to do what they do best! Educate!

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

I feel full-day kindergarten would be a great addition to the school. I know that there are some concerns about space and how much it would cost to start this program. I feel it would take some time and compromise to accomplish this. If this could be worked out, then I believe after you have a program, the state will fund it. Which means the town would eventually receive more funding from the state because we would have more full-time students.

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

One step that I feel would help retain teachers would be for the town to come together on a budget, pass it, and show that they do support the teachers. Every year the budget does not pass must make the schools feel as though this town does not support them. Who would want to stay at a job where your employer makes you feel unimportant? Teachers are in so many ways an important part of every child's life. They deserve to be respected and supported by the community they give so much to.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

Compromise and tough choices. The board's priority should be with providing the schools with the things they need to provide quality education. I believe the school board should be the biggest supporting force behind our educators. As a taxpayer, I do not want to pay more taxes either. I hope that new opinions and perspectives on the current situation could give everyone what they are in need of.

See WHELDON, page 9

WHELDON, continued from page 8**6. What changes should be made on the state and local level regarding public education?**

The state needs to put more effort into funding education. The funds they provided do not fully provide an adequate education.



Name: Danielle Younie

Length of time in Weare: 12 years

Occupation: Grants and contracts technician for New Hampshire Department of Education

Community involvements and affiliations: I have coached softball for Weare Athletic Club.

Contact: dyounie@gmail.com

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what will be your priorities?

I am motivated to run for school board because I saw the need and opportunity to be involved in our community. We bought our home in Weare because of the reasonable taxes and the schools having a decent reputation. In addition to understanding that, tax rate was key in house hunting, I have a background in education. I have worked with public school students K-12, and taught adult learners. I value public education and want our students to have access to the best education we can provide while being respectful of our taxpayers.

2. What can be done to improve student achievement and ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, the workforce or another path?

Often to gauge how a school is doing, we look at their performance on standardized testing. In looking at the District Report Card (ireport.education.nh.gov) I saw three years of steady improvement in all three areas of the state assessment, followed by a year of decline. I think it is important to look deeper at the year of decline, not for blame or faults but to identify factors that could have contributed to the change. Identifying and addressing the factors allows for the district to steer back toward improvement. Similarly, if we want to ensure everyone who graduates is ready to enter college, career or other path, we need to look at our local public high school. John Stark has their own school board, but Weare School Board decisions affect the incoming students' preparedness. Looking at the District Report Card for JSRHS, the four-year

graduation rate exceeds the state target, and the dropout rate is consistently under the state average.

3. What is your position on establishing full-day kindergarten in Weare? Please explain.

I do not believe our town is ready for full-day kindergarten to be a priority. It has been voted down several times in the last few years, and I respect there seems to be an interest in expanding to full day in Weare, but I want to see a viable long-term plan that will carry no negative implication on our entire student population. An appropriate plan would anticipate an incoming kindergarten class the size of recent first grade classes. The average first grade size (using District Fall Enrollment numbers since the 2009-2010 school year) is 102.92 students. Any plan that involves "art on a cart" or any roll-in version of unified arts I feel takes away from our current quality of education. Not only do I see this as a negative for our students, but it affects the nomadic teacher as well as impacting what is often the classroom teacher's planning block. Last year, one of the proposed plans involved moving the preschool to the middle school building, and while it was proposed as "temporary," that was the original intent when the fourth grade was moved into the middle school. I feel before we can vote on full-day kindergarten, we need to evaluate the space we have, maintenance needs and the most effective and appropriate use of the space.

4. What are your plans for attracting and retaining qualified teachers in the district?

Of our surrounding towns, we have the lowest starting salary. We need to offer competitive salary and benefits – this includes for paraprofessionals and substitutes as well. Substitutes are typically difficult to find, and this past year highlights that more than ever. Salary isn't enough to retain a teacher; we need to provide a positive work environment, with opportunities and support.

5. How does a school board balance the need to provide a high-quality education with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

In New Hampshire, public schools are largely funded by local taxes; it is not new or unique to our town. No one wants to feel taxed out of town, but public education is an important investment for the community and this is where we need to find the balance. A quality education attracts and retains taxpayers. A strong school system opens opportunities for our students in the future. The school board is made of taxpayers, who balance the needs of the

See YOUNIE, page 10

YOUNIE, continued from page 9

schools and can assure residents that funds are being used appropriately and fully before adding increases.

6. What changes should be made on the state and local level regarding public education?

Changes at the state level are beyond the scope of the school board; all citizens can follow proposed house bills and contact state representatives with opinions. As far as changes at the local level, I look forward to taking a big picture view at where we are, what is working, what our students and teachers need, and listen to our community so all taxpayers can feel well represented.

Weare Board of Selectmen



Name: Sherry Burdick

Length of time in Weare: I am a lifelong resident of Weare; my family goes back seven generations.

Occupation: I was a manager and engineer for 32 years. I worked for a worldwide company in charge of manufacturing capacitors for the space shuttle program and a heart implant

program for 10 years. I went on to work for research and development at headquarters solving problems both in developmental and expanding manufacturing lines for the same company. I changed jobs and was in charge of quality control for the entire plant, with promotions to research and development, and plant manager.

Community involvements and affiliations: I have been a member of the Weare Historical Society for the past 20 years and president for the past 14. I continue to serve on the steering committee that advocates for the beneficial use of the Charles and Ethel Eastman Fund, consistent with the bequest. As a member of the 250th committee, I was active in planning and implementing the celebration for our town's historic event. I was on Weare's Building Committee for five years. As clerk of the works, I researched and interviewed all tradespeople who worked on the historic Clinton Grove Academy and the Stone Memorial Building. I applied for grants from the State of New Hampshire for Clinton Grove, allowing us to have a full assessment done on the building and a new roof with no tax impact. In addition, I was in charge of upgrading the Stone Memorial Building both outside (new 20 oz. copper roof, replacing the 112-year-old roof), and outside,

repairing the mortar and replacing the skylight. Phase II included a new electrical system, a vapor barrier, insulation, new plaster ceilings, plastered wall repair, floor refinishing and the painting of the inside of the building. All Phase II work done on the building was paid for by the Weare Historical Society with no cost to town taxpayers. I helped place both of these buildings on the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places. In addition, I created Powerpoint presentations for the children at Center Woods School and have held open houses for the entire elementary school at the Stone Memorial Building's Museum. For the past 50 years, I have been involved with the Weare Christian Church (Women's Church Circle) that donates all monies earned to aid in mission work, birth defects repair, the Heifer program and the SPCA, to name a few. I am currently doing volunteer work with a New Hampshire draft horse rescue organization.

Contact: wearesherry@hotmail.com

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what is your vision for the future of Weare?

I am running because I want to see continued transparency in our town government. Without openness we do not have a democratic society. I also think we need to continue to preserve our open space—to maintain the rural character of the town. I hope we will continue to have limited housing growth and a great deal more growth in small businesses and farming.

2. What do you see as the three biggest issues facing the town right now and what ideas do you have for addressing them?

1. Keeping taxes as low as possible, without causing issues that will cost more money in the end. 2. Supporting the highway, fire and rescue and police departments, making sure that they have the tools they need to get the job done and limiting overtime whenever possible. 3. Treating all department heads and personnel fairly and compensating them so we do not lose good employees to other towns.

3. What are your budget priorities, and how would you balance providing town services with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden? We are currently providing reasonable services at a reasonable cost to town taxpayers. I would like to keep these town services affordable by limiting yearly budget increases to the rate

See BURDICK, page 11

BURDICK, continued from page 10
of inflation.

4. What infrastructure needs you feel should be prioritized for the town?

1. When I ran in 2018, I stated that the most pressing item was our roads. I suggested that we would need to put a bond in place to get this issue under control. Thank you to the voters for passing the Bond. We need to continue to work on the roads. 2. The bridges are another ongoing issue. We are working with the State of New Hampshire and will tackle the bridges one at a time. 3. We need to continue to address the town building maintenance: roof's replacement, insulation and vapor barriers for example. As with all older buildings, there are always repairs to be done.



Name: Frederick 'Ricky' Hippler

Length of time in town: 34 years (entire life)

Occupation: Trucking fleet maintenance supervisor

Community Involvements and Affiliations: Captain, Weare Fire Department (2004-present); Board of Fire Wards (2009-2015); Weare Board of Selectmen (2015-present)

Contact: Fhippler@weare.nh.gov

1. What are your motivations to run?

I enjoy giving back to my community. I joined the fire department when I was 18 because I liked the feeling of helping my community. I served on the Board of Fire Wards for six years before I decided to run for the Select Board in 2015. I ran then because I felt the town was in a bad spot with turmoil in the police department and as a town employee, I felt the board was disconnected from the boots-on-the-ground folks. I wanted to see the town not be in negative media headlines and would like to continue to see that be the case, and only see good news in the media in regards to our town.

2. What do you see now as the three biggest issues facing the town?

I know I kind of have an insider's edge here, but I want to see us navigate through the pandemic first and foremost. We have tried to take a proactive approach at how we manage the risk and have tried to think of our employees' and citizens' safety at the paramount of the day-to-day operations of the town. Second thing would be our roads and continuing the work that has been on going with

getting ALL of our roads to a level of satisfaction anyone could be proud of. The recent road bond made a good start at it, but the plan the Department of Public Works has to keep repairing the "red" roads needs to stay in motion and keep that recent investment as money well spent by being able to maintain the towns' roads. Third would be retaining our great employees that we have. We have employees in place that really go above and beyond, and with the great job they are doing, we need to be able to keep them with competitive wages and that comes from trust and support from the townspeople.

3. What are your budget priorities and how would you balance the town services with taxpayer burden?

I think anyone that has attended board meetings can tell you I have always been an advocate and strong supporter for the town's purchasing policy: following the bid process to make sure we are getting the right deal for the right price. I also feel we have some great department heads that have been put in place by the board that do not spend frivolously and manage their budgets well, balancing wants versus needs for the taxpayers. But with anything, there are certain things that must be done, and certain things that must be bought to continue to keep the level of service to the townspeople at the level they have come to expect. It's a balance for sure!!

4. What infrastructure needs you feel should be prioritized in town?

As I stated above, roads are our biggest asset and is the number one piece of infrastructure I see at the top of the priority list. We need to keep our good roads good by utilizing the maintenance plan that the Department of Public Works has put in place, while continuing to fix our bad roads (I'm sure we all know at least one or two). Another thing we need to maintain is our town buildings. The town hall is a beautiful historic building that needs some TLC, and I hope to see some further action taken on preserving that building, along with all the other aged buildings in town. Lastly, we need to make sure we are keeping up with vehicle replacements within the various departments of the town, such as plow trucks/equipment and police cars. These are first responder tools and need to be replaced on an appropriate schedule. At the end of the day, it's up to the taxpayers to say 'yay' or 'nay,' but I feel the select board are the ones that need to accurately convey the need and put the option in front of the people.

Name: Mark Nelson
Length of time in Weare: 12 years
Occupation: Superintendent
Community involvements and affiliations: None
Contact: nelson.mark@comcast.net

1. What motivates you to run, and if elected, what is your vision for the future of Weare?

My motivation is to give back to the community that has been so good to my family. With my daughters older now and my career where it is, it has given me the flexibility and time to give back. My vision is simple: keep taxes as low as possible and expand the business base while keeping the town a common-sense community.

2. What do you see as the three biggest issues facing the town right now and what ideas do you have for addressing them?

I would love to have something creative, but as with most years, it boils down to the following: 1. Taxes 2. Infrastructure 3. Department budgets. COVID is currently another: keeping our employees and residents safe. Taxes: again, common sense, attention to what is good for the whole community, and fact-based decisions on the return for the taxpayers' investment. Infrastructure: after 30 years and continuing work in infrastructure solutions, I bring the experience from estimating, budgeting, to project completion, including municipal, state and federal projects throughout New England. Department budgets: similar to taxes, common sense and what is best for the community, not just one person or department wish list.

3. What are your budget priorities, and how would you balance providing town services with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden?

Easy to say infrastructure as that is my comfort zone. I do believe that with a solid, maintained infrastructure, other costs and burdens on other departments and the community can be reduced. In the end, however, the priority should be to keep the community safe while keeping taxes as low as we can.

4. What infrastructure needs you feel should be prioritized for the town?

Hard to stay under the word limit with this one. Bridges are a big one. This is a major expense that every town faces. A steady investment in a bridge reserve fund is critical. The next one that has a major impact is maintenance. Proper maintenance extends road life and lessens road degradation. Not sure town resources are best utilized spending vast amounts of time on small

sections of roadway. Major projects can be sent out for bid. This would allow more time to maintain more miles of road, reducing the long-term costs. I am rambling and will spare all of you. Not having seen the budget breakdowns on what is spent and where, I will hold final judgment.

Virtual Sessions Offer Information on School Budget, Candidates

Two virtual sessions will be offered for voters to gather more information prior to the March 9, 2021, election in the Town of Weare. Both sessions will be held on March 4 via Zoom.

The first session will focus on the proposed school district budgets for Weare and John Stark, with the opportunity for public questions. This budget session will be with Weare School Board Chair Wendy Curry, John Stark School Board Chair Zach Lawson, SAU 24 Superintendent Jacqueline Coe and SAU 24 Business Manager Christopher Roy. This session will be held from 6-7 p.m. via Zoom. Link information is available at www.SAU24.org.

The second session, starting at 7 p.m., will be a "Meet the Weare School Board Candidates" hosted by the Weare Town Administrator, Naomi Bolton. Email nbolton@weare.nh.gov for the link to this Zoom session and if you would like to submit a question for the candidates. There are nine candidates running for the Weare School Board this year. Participation in this event is by candidate choice.

JSRHS Student Chosen for Local Leadership Program

John Stark Regional High School Sophomore Katelyn Pinter has been selected to participate in the 2021 Capital Area Student Leadership (CASL) program sponsored by the Greater Concord Area Chamber of Commerce, according to SAU 24. The program encourages students to become active, effective participants and leaders in their schools and community.

See PINTER, page 13



PINTER, continued from page 12

"Katelyn's enthusiasm, community participation, background qualifications and leadership potential stood out in a competitive pool of well-qualified applicants from six schools in the Greater Concord area," said Brynna Marceau of the Greater Concord Area Chamber.

This year's program is being held virtually on selected dates through the end of March. Katelyn and other CASL participants will meet with prominent civic and business leaders throughout the state capital.

-Submitted by Patti Osgood



Teacher Sue Fountain with the valentines from Learn at Home students (Katie Cyr photo)

Learn at Home Students Share Valentines Through Their Teacher

SAU 24 Learn at Home teacher Sue Fountain has been trying different ways to reach out to her Learn at Home students with a personal touch all year. Fountain teaches 4th and 5th-grade students from Henniker Community School, Center Woods Elementary, James Faulkner Elementary and Center Woods Upper Elementary.

"My students are learning 100% remotely and it can be hard and so isolating," Fountain said in a district press release. "I teach math and science, but I think it's important to bring them some of the personal connections that would occur if they were at school in a traditional classroom along with the academic lessons.."

Some of her ideas of how to connect sprang from when she read the book "From Me to You" to students. It's a story about a rat who is lonely until one day an anonymous note written on bright paper changes everything and shows how far a little love can go.

"It made me think, 'Who doesn't like to get mail?'" Fountain said. "So, I bought some red envelopes and wrote a letter to all my students about how much I liked

being their teacher and mailed them home. I heard from parents and students alike. They loved it!"

Fountain has continued to mail letters and notes home to all her 44 students about twice a month, the release said. One time, it was a bookmark project.

"I sent each student a bookmark-sized white card and asked them to write down five or so things that help them get rid of stress with my examples of what helps me (take a nap, listen to music, look or go outside, enjoy nature, etc.)," she said. "I included a self-addressed envelope addressed to me at school so they could return them to be laminated."

For Valentine's Day, Fountain offered students the opportunity to drop off at school a valentine for each of their classmates. She would sort them all, bag them up and get them to the intended students. "Valentine messages are so sweet and uplifting," Fountain said.

-Submitted by Patti Osgood

CWES students celebrate Valentine's Day with cards and the 100th day of school with costumes (courtesy photos)



Anna Pelligrino, gr. 2



Ben Moore, gr. 2



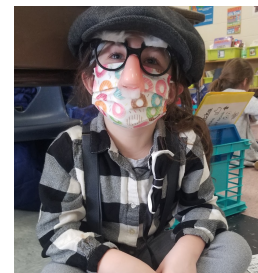
Olivia Pasek, gr. 2



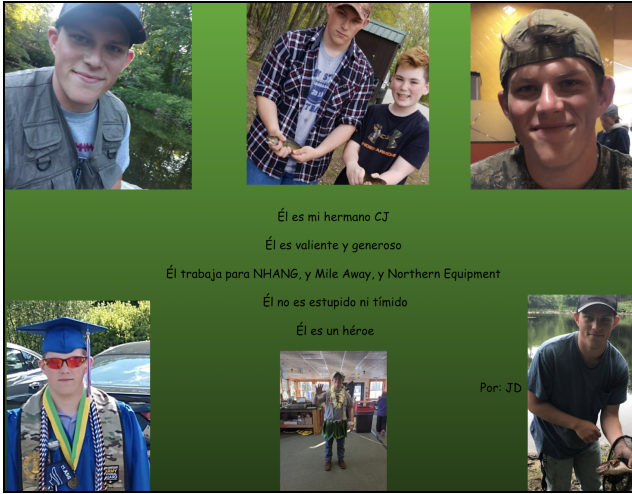
Addison White, gr. 2



Tenley Powers, gr. 1



Julianne Woods, gr. 1



JD Drabble presents his "hero poem" project (courtesy photo)

Foreign Language Teachers Use Program Designed for Math

Spanish teacher Catherine Chasse and French teacher Robyn French have been teaching all their classes online this year as part of the hybrid schedule, meeting with their students three days a week.

"In the hybrid format, home days for classes are independent workdays for students, which means there is no live, online instruction. But the way the schedule worked out, we're able to be with our students on the days they otherwise do not have any other live, online instruction," French said in a school district press release.

Since the Weare Middle School World Language curriculum relies heavily on listening to stories and topics presented in the target language and each class relies on personalized content generated through student interest and engagement, the teachers knew that integrating technology would make the most of the time they'd have with their students.

As this school year progressed, Chasse and French stayed in contact with their colleagues from across the country in online forums to stay up to the moment on what was working for teachers this year and help them navigate the new teaching format. What they found surprised them. They heard about foreign language teachers finding great



By Emelie Lundeen

success using Desmos, a free program designed for math, most notably for its online graphing calculator.

"A valuable piece about using Desmos is their teacher-friendly dashboard," said Chasse in the release. "I can see every student's screen and exactly what they are working on in a way that is like how I would teach if I were in the classroom walking around and seeing student's work. I can give them comments individually or share with the entire classroom."

The flexibility of Desmos provides an all-in-one site for a variety of activities. The teachers use authentic resources, all easily uploaded into Desmos. Students can draw over those images during a discussion to show their comprehension. Another feature the teachers like is that it saves student progress. In the event of internet connectivity issues, the student work is safe.

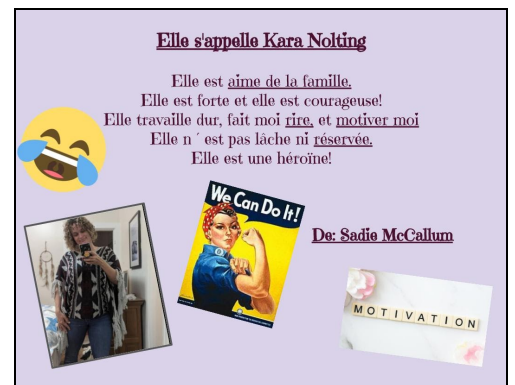
"We can also use Desmos to monitor engagement and understanding," said French. "We use it to build on conversations just like we would if we were in the regular classroom with students. For example, as we're taking attendance, we might chat with students about what they like on pizza, and Desmos makes it very easy to do."

"We had to figure out how to continue to best teach our students, and I think we've done it with technology," said Chasse. Combining the use of Desmos with Zoom annotation tools allows teachers to be flexible during remote lessons. "Once again, we can let student interest and ideas direct the conversation, which builds community," Chasse said.

In addition to the free Desmos, French and Chasse also rely on Flipgrid,

Peardeck, and Nearpod to maintain novelty and student engagement, but some of these programs do have fees. Being 100% virtual, Chasse and French have managed to re-create many classroom experiences to provide students a rich exposure to culture and language. Using technology, the teachers have incorporated virtual field trips, collaborative projects, and games, as well as the study of traditions, art, and current events from various countries.

-Submitted by Patti Osgood



By Sadie McCallum



Stephen Johnston, Austin Whitney, Thomas Johnston and Kaleb Hauptman. The Johnstons and Hauptman make up John Stark Regional High School's wrestling team.

After Loss of Head Coach, John Stark Wrestling Competes

By Tippy Johnston

The John Stark wrestling team started and ended their season on Wednesday, Feb. 17 against Pelham High School.

Stark has three wrestlers on the team and prospects for the season were looking very dim, as head Coach Jeff Kaplan died tragically from COVID-19 related issues in January.

However, with the help of John Stark Athletic Director Mark Searles and Austin Whitney, a coach with New England College's wrestling team, these dedicated wrestlers were able to have a season -- even though it was only one match.



JSRHS senior Thomas Johnston, second from left, is recognized for his membership on the John Stark High School wrestling team. He is shown with grandmother Vicky Kallan (left), mother Tippy Johnston and grandfather Nick Kallan.

New Officers Elected by Weare-Deering Republicans

The Weare-Deering Republican Committee announces their newly elected officers: Chair Lily Tang-Williams; Vice-Chair Tom Flaherty; Secretary Martha Kaloogian; and Treasurer Janice Mathews. The group meets on the fourth Saturday of each month. Registered Republicans from Deering or Weare are invited to join them. For more information, please contact them at weare.deering.gop@gmail.com

-Submitted by Tom Flaherty

Weare Democrats Elect New Officers

By Derek Winsor

The Weare Democrats met virtually on Feb. 10 to elect its officers and delegates-at-large to the New Hampshire Democratic party state convention.

The elected officers, in alphabetical order, are: Rachel Cisto (delegate-at-large); Nancy Christian (secretary); Tom Clow (delegate-at-large); Bev Cotton (treasurer); Connie Evans (delegate-at-large); Gary Evans (vice-chair), Debbie Farr (delegate-at-large); and Derek Winsor (chair).

Absentee Ballots for Town Election

By Bev Cotton

A word about absentee ballots for our upcoming town election: on our town website landing page, there is a link to the absentee ballot application. You can download this and send it in to the town clerk, or you could obtain one from the town office. You will need to check the "disability" reason because the form does not indicate the reason of COVID concerns. This is approved by the Attorney General and the New Hampshire Secretary of State.



The next issue of *Weare in the World* will be published Thursday, March 11 so that results of local elections can be included.



Senior Café

By Karl Messner

I am happy to let you know that the Café' is now open on Wednesdays only for indoor dining from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., respectful of CDC and state guidelines, of course. This past week, I served tomato soup

with a grilled cheese and tomato sandwich. It was great to see familiar faces sharing their time with us while enjoying lunch. On Feb. 24, I will be serving my homemade American Chop Suey accompanied by a side salad and garlic bread. All of it is whipped up fresh and hot to get that winter chill out.

The Senior Café is NOT income based. Our meals are available to all seniors in Weare AND the surrounding towns. We are very fortunate to have donations and support from this entire area. We look forward to seeing everyone stop by for pickup or delivery. Our suggestion is to call ahead and place your order to ensure we have plenty to go around. Please call 603-529-4263. Visit our Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/Hand.in.Hand03281/>

And remember, stop in. The soup is always on! Bon Appetit!

Rotary News

By Robin Morrell

The Goffstown Rotary Club has announced its current guest speaker lineup.

Tuesday, March 2: Ad Hoc Committee (Goffstown) to discuss the plans for the Rail Trail Pedestrian Bridge.

Tuesday, March 16: Dr. Tracey Hutton, Executive Director, Goffstown Main Street Program.

All meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. via Zoom. To join a meeting for its speakers or just to learn what Rotary is all about, please email goffstownrotary@gmail.com for the meeting link. The Goffstown Rotary Club services the communities of Goffstown, Weare, New Boston and Dunbarton. For more information, call 603-606-8758 for Robin.

Jack's Little Free Library

By Heleen Kurk

You never know what you'll find at Jack's Little Free Library. Come and see this little mini barn structure that holds books that people of all ages can take or trade at any

hour of the day or night. Volunteers from Friends of the Weare Public Library keep a path shoveled so you have easy access from East Road. This little gem proudly sits with a view of four historic buildings: the Weare Public library (formerly Paige Memorial Library), the Weare Historical Museum in the Stone Memorial Building (formerly the location of town offices and library), the American Legion (formerly one of Weare's early schoolhouses) and the Weare Town Hall (formerly a church, meeting house and the location of Weare's first high school.) Come check out



the view and grab a book. To join the Friends of the Library, go to <https://wearepl.wordpress.com/friends/>



Weare Garden Club

By Anne Wirkkala

Happy spring! Well, it's on its way anyhow.... and we need to be ready to garden. The first meeting of the year to be held virtually on March 2 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. It will be the usual ice cream social.... so make your favorite ice cream concoction to "share." Go wild with toppings! Non-members are welcome too.

The order of business will include a financial report, scholarship news, the annual plant sale and programs in general. The program will be "starting your seeds," a virtual presentation. Hope to see you all there!

Anyone interested in gardening can join. Email or call Anne Wirkkala at awirkkala@gsinet.net or 529-1234.

Random Acts of Kindness

Last issue, *WITW* asked for readers to send stories, poems and pictures of random acts of kindness. Here is what we received. Please keep your contributions coming! See the "Talk to Us" box on page 1 for next issue's theme.



C.A.K.E. and Kindness

By Debbie Farr, Ph.D.

Random acts of kindness, or randomly doing something nice for someone, can travel around the world! We've all probably heard stories of how one random act of kindness encouraged someone to do something for the next person, who then did something for someone else, creating a kindness chain! The impacts are encouraging and limitless.

Authors Passmore and Oades wrote about acts of kindness but expanded on it by using the acronym C.A.K.E. – *Consistent Acts of Kindness with Empathy*. So, the focus here is on being consistent with our random acts and being aware of and expressing empathy when doing so.

Consistency in performing random acts of kindness helps us connect with others (even if we don't actually see or talk with the receiver) and make us feel good. Having empathy for others is an important skill, too. For example, allowing someone to cut in front of you in traffic is a way to show your empathy for what they may be experiencing. Maybe their wife is in labor! Or maybe their child is bleeding all over their car seat. True – maybe they're just a jerk or a bad driver. But having empathy for the person and showing them an act of kindness may actually be better for them and for you.

Next time you're feeling down, send a nice email to someone, post a friendly note on someone's Facebook page, or simply say 'hello' to someone random at the grocery store. So do a random act of kindness today, remembering that a little C.A.K.E. makes it even sweeter.



Rethinking Kindness?

Margie Arwine

Driving up to the fast-food pick-up window, I paid for my food. I told the clerk I wanted to pay for the car behind me

and purchased the young man's meal. Slowly pulling forward, I looked in my rear-view mirror; oh no, the young man was driving a BMW! Really? I just paid for a BMW driver's lunch? Why couldn't it have been a 20-year-old rusty Saturn, not a Beamer?

Over the next few days, I was bothered by my reaction regarding my kindness incident. Not a very generous attitude on my part.

I came to this conclusion: practicing random acts of kindness should apply to everyone – even those who drive BMWs.

Thank you so much!

By Joyce Lanier

I want to say my son and daughter-in-law have helped us so much this past year! They have been with us with plowing, making food, asking weekly if we need anything at the store. Their names are Marsha and Scott Lanier. They were life savers with the pandemic and my husband being sick.

Senior Pen Pals

By Sharon Czarnecki

Letters are always nice to get, aren't they? Especially if you are shut in and can't get out and about. In normal times (what a lovely phrase), you would at least have visitors from time to time. But with COVID-19 around, the visitors are staying home too.

So, let's give each other something to look forward to. I have a group of friends willing to write to you. Just let us know you want a letter or a card. Yes, we know, it is hard to write back sometimes. No need. Just send us a smiley face now and then. No postage? No worries. We'll figure it out. If you want a letter, let me know. If the letter is for a family member, that's fine too. Just let us know. Email Czar5@comcast.net



Whether or Not

Whether or not
we wanted it
we got it
white weather
it fell and fell
and piled and piled
the plows went
up and down
and when it was
over we had
a winter white
wonderland.

-Marge Burke

Letters to the Editor

Weare in the World welcomes letters to the editor on matters of public interest. The suggested length is 250 words, and all letters are subject to editing. Letters must include the name of the writer and a way to contact them (phone number or email). *WITW* reserves the right to decline printing letters. Send letters to weareintheworldnews@gmail.com.

Redistricting

Dear Editor,

The state legislature has selected a committee of eight Republicans and seven Democrats to comprise the group that draws our electoral maps this year. We have not yet heard from this bi-partisan group, any statement indicating the process or guaranteeing transparency.

It is being proposed in various bills, as well as through requests from voting rights organizations, that a series of public “town hall” type meetings be scheduled throughout the process, so that the voters have the opportunity to view and offer commentary on the preliminary maps. If the feedback is largely unfavorable, then the maps would be asked to be re-drawn until which point there is broad support.

Even though one party holds the House and Senate now, the other party may be the majority ten years from now when the next maps are drawn. If a fair and open process is created now, it would perhaps result in that going forward. If the process is fair and transparent, we may be able to avoid litigation all the way up to the Supreme Court, as happened in 2011 due to the lack of transparency and no viewing of the maps until 24 hours prior to the vote.

This desire for openness and fairness is not partisan; it’s the foundation of any democracy. It would establish clear ground rules regardless of who the dominant party was in any given year. It would likely save big dollars and time in litigation. It would allow the public to be included in the process and to have a voice in being able to share their thoughts and opinions. There’s no party in any of this.

There is a non-binding warrant article on the Weare ballot this year. It is simply a way to show our legislators how we feel about this critically important topic: that transparency is important and inclusion of the public is a democratic process.

-Bev Cotton

Thank You to Democratic Caucus

Dear Editor,

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the recent Weare Democratic Caucus (and that includes a big assist from Nancy Christian and Roger Lessard, who graciously volunteered as caucus clerks), and an equally big “congratulations” to those elected and/or re-elected to an officer or delegate-at-large position. We have built a strong team to tackle the work that lies ahead for us.

-Derek Winsor, chairman



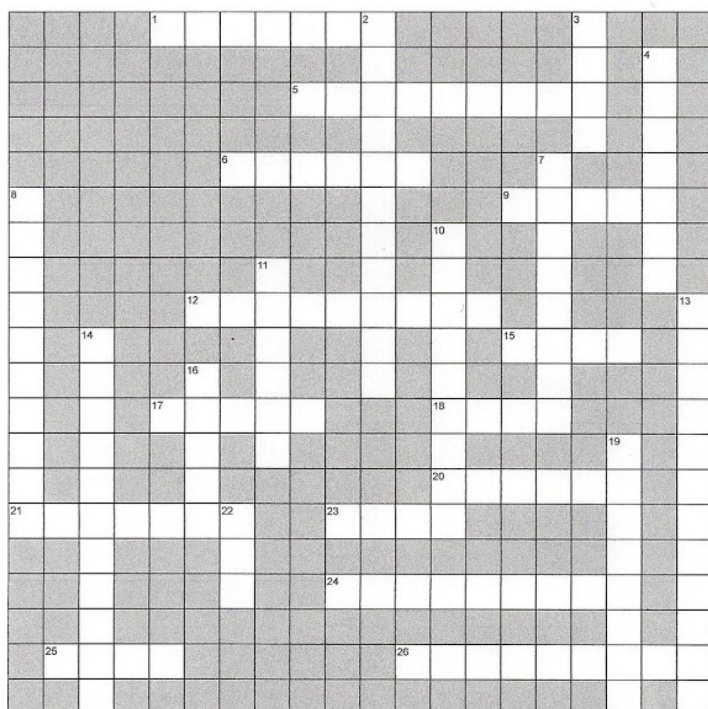
Scene in the yard (Marge Burke photo)



Ice fishing shown in the distance on Horace Lake (Karen Lovett photo)

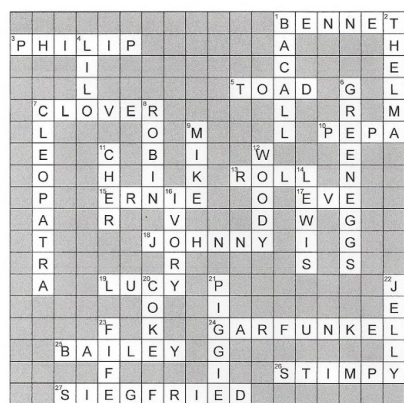
Crossword by Alyssa Small and Karen Lovett

The Candyman Can



EclipseCrossword.com

Just a Couple



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. "The danger must be ____, for the rowers keep on rowing."
5. Wonka makes this room decor taste like fruit
6. He played Wonka in 1971
9. "We are the __ makers, and we are the dreamers or dreams"
12. This villain wants to steal Wonka secrets
15. "Who ever heard of a Vermicious ____?"
17. Charlie's job: ____ boy
18. Number of golden tickets
20. Diminutive orange helper: Oompa ____
21. "Wait a minute. Strike that. ____ it."
23. Wonka's creator (author)
24. Violet's chewing gum turns her into one
25. Number of grandparents in one bed

26. Augustus topples into a river made of this

Down

2. Veruca insists on acquiring this animal (2 words)
3. To sink after a Fizzy Lifting Drink, do this
4. Charlie wants to give Grandpa Joe money for this habit
7. "The ____ is terrible. I hope it'll last."
8. "Everlasting" sweet
10. Wonka uses this to mix chocolate for his bars
11. Charlie's last name
13. "If the good lord had intended us to walk, he wouldn't have invented ____" (2 words)
14. Mike Teavee is shrunk by this
16. Charlie's science teacher mixes a potion that can remove these
19. Who can take a sunrise, sprinkle it with dew?
22. Veruca is deemed a bad ____

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