



Weare in the World

Volume 5, Issue 9 May 12, 2021 Page 1
For Weare Residents, by Weare Residents

Voters Approve John Stark Budget and Teachers' Contract

By Tom Clow

On May 11, voters in Weare and Henniker approved a 2021-22 operating budget of \$14,425,926 for the John Stark Regional School District. Balloting had been postponed from the second Tuesday in March, the traditional Election Day, because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Voters also approved the cost items in a collective bargaining agreement between the John Stark Regional School District and the John Stark Teachers' Association, which resulted in an estimated increase of \$74,802.

An article that authorizes the district to retain year-end unassigned general funds in an amount not to exceed, in any fiscal year, 5% of that year's net assessment, was also approved by a margin of 18 votes between the two communities.

In candidate voting, Deborah Urbaitis was elected to a three-year term as school board member at large, and Luther Drake was elected to a one-year term as district moderator. Both were running uncontested. Warrant article voting was as follows:

John Stark Regional School District Voting Results 2021`		
Operating Budget	Yes	No
Weare Henniker	180 148	145 100
Teachers' Contract		
Weare Henniker	176 139	149 109
Retain Funds		
Weare Henniker	147 147	179 97

School Board Invites Input on Student Mask Mandate

By Tom Clow

On May 18, parents will have an opportunity to voice their opinions on the requirement to wear protective masks in the Weare public schools.

Per order of Gov. Chris Sununu, schools in the state returned to five-day-a week in-person learning on April 19. The Weare School District had established in the fall protocols for in-person learning that include mask wearing and social distancing, which are recommended by the state health department. The previous week, the governor also allowed the state-wide mask mandate, established by executive order, to expire. This combination of events led to a lengthy debate at the Weare School Board meeting, held via Zoom, on April 20.

Board member Rochelle Kelley proposed that wearing masks become optional rather than being a requirement for students in the Weare schools. The proposal led to comments by other board members as well as several calls from remote listeners during the second public comment portion of the meeting. Most board members as well as remote participants expressed concern about making the change.

The school board's operational guidelines normally do not allow a decision to be made on a proposal that is not on the agenda of that meeting if the board feels it requires public input. Thus, Kelley's proposal will be on the agenda of the May 18 meeting.

In order to allow broader public participation, that meeting will be held live in the Weare Middle School cafeteria at 6 p.m. The cafeteria is being used to allow space for proper social distancing. Those attending are encouraged to wear protective face coverings. The

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meeting will also be broadcast live, with an option for residents to call in their comments. School Board Chair Wendy Curry also invites residents to email their comments directly to her prior to the meeting at wendy.curry@sau24.org.

The April 20 board meeting was recorded and uploaded to YouTube. Those wishing to hear the whole discussion from that meeting can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4nUB3MAb2aY>.

JSRHS Senior Builds Robot for Capstone Project

John Stark Learn at Home senior Brianna Meisser designed and built a robot that could manipulate small PVC pipes (or test tubes) and TicTac candy containers for the Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) "Savage Soccer" robotics program for her senior capstone project.

This completion is normally a team effort, but she decided to tackle it on her own.

"I had to prototype, design, CAD, build, wire, and program the robot," said Meisser, who considers herself more of a software/electrical



Brianna Meisser (courtesy photo)

person rather than a mechanical engineer. "I wanted to build this to be able to enhance my understanding of every aspect of robotics engineering since that's what I'm majoring in at WPI in the fall."

According to a school district press release, a modified, **by-invitation-only** Capstone EXPO will be held May 13 at John Stark Regional High School this year to allow for proper social distancing requirements.

-Submitted by Patti Osgood



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Teacher Appreciation



School Nurse Marcia Magdziarz happily accepts her treat from Principal Shawne Hilliard (courtesy photo)

Sweet Treats for Teachers

Teachers and staff at the Weare Middle School and Center Woods Upper Elementary School were in for a sweet surprise during Teacher Appreciation Week (May 3-7). The Weare Real Food Farmers' Market and their whoopie pie vendor, Cat's Pajamas, joined forces to treat the staff to 100 chocolate whoopie pies to say thanks. "We just thought it would be a nice gesture and the least we could do for the hardworking staff at the school," said Josh Dick from the Weare Real Food Farmers' Market.

-Submitted by Patti Osgood

Student Voices

"I appreciate Mrs. Descoteau because she is helping us practice for the SAS test and she makes every Friday fun. I really appreciate Ms. Morrocco because she helps me know how to draw. She puts on how-to-draw videos, which I really like, and it really helps me to know how to draw." - Cooper Lees, grade 3

"I appreciate Ms. Zifchak because she is a new teacher and she just started during COVID and she is doing a good job with everything. She is very helpful and very nice. I appreciate the music teacher Ms. Gorham because she helped me learn music notes, like the notes that go "la." We have a lot of fun in her class playing music Bingo, Jeopardy and learning about instruments." - Riley Lees, grade 4



Weare Friends PTO Holding New Event; Help Always Welcome

Why help the Weare Friends PTO? To begin with, all the work is done by volunteers. Especially this past year, the organization has been doing its best to help keep teacher morale up by letting them know that the community cares a lot about what they do for our children. The PTO's efforts help support our staff as well as the students and families in our community. The PTO offers both hands-on and monetary support for school events, such as Grandparents Day, Veterans Day, first grade information night and curriculum nights. The PTO also celebrates teachers and other support staff with goodies for Teacher Appreciation week, and it aims to lower the cost of field trips with some of its fundraisers. To that end, PTO volunteers put on several community events, such as the Halloween bash, a vendor fair and this year – the organization's first ever golf tournament. The PTO knows people cannot always be there to help the schools in person but still want to lend support where they can. Help the PTO stand in for you. Come enjoy the golf tournament! Sponsors are still needed. For more information visit the event page on Facebook: <https://fb.me/e/1ir1slNZx>

-Submitted by Weare Friends PTO

Scholarship Fund Joins NHGives

By Chris Hague

For a second year, the Eleanor A. Campbell Charitable Fund has joined the online "NHGives" event scheduled for June 8 and 9. Public support of the community-based Campbell fund assures its future as a resource for families of college-bound students. For 24 hours in June, NHGives offers an opportunity to support local nonprofits through a simple online visit. The fund's board hopes to make or exceed a \$1,000 goal, which would fund another scholarship.

Last year, the fund awarded 24 scholarships. Weare students received eight scholarships, with 16 going to Hillsborough-Deering area students. The 2020 scholarship awards totaled \$37,000, which contributed to a total of \$790,000 awarded since the fund's beginnings in 1931. Awards for 2021 will be announced in June.

Originally a private trust honoring its founder, Dr. Eleanor Campbell, the Eleanor Campbell Fund is now incorporated as a public charity which continues its community support with the help of donors. Tax-deductible contributions help local families facing the high cost of college. Every dollar contributed to the fund goes to a local student for further education.

To give by mail at any time, checks to ECCF may be sent to Eleanor Campbell Charitable Fund, P.O. Box 1653, Hillsborough, NH 03244. Information and PayPal donation instructions are available at any time on the Fund website, <https://eleanorcampbellcharitablefund.org>.

Big Yard Sale Fundraiser for Osborne Memorial Hall

Watch for yard sales at Osborne Memorial Hall each month this summer. The sales will be provided by the nonprofit South Weare



Improvement Society and proceeds will benefit the maintenance and restoration of Osborne Memorial Hall, located at 16 Deering Center Road., Weare. The first sale will be held Saturday, May 29, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. The event will be held rain or shine and masks are required.

For sale will be lots of furniture, collectible dolls, toys, kitchenware, books and a wide variety of odds and ends.

To rent the hall for an event or to participate in Weare Flags Fly, call 603-529-7282.



Front: Ellie Hilliard, Sierra Theriault, Aidan Erickson, Jackson Desforges, James Erickson, Mitchell Frechette.
Back: Cubmaster Mike Provencher (courtesy photo).

Scouts Clean Up at Center Woods

The Scouts of Weare had a very successful cleanup on the ABC trail this weekend! They raked the entire length of the trail, cut up and moved several downed trees, picked up trash and freshened up the trail marker paint. They had some extra time so they also picked up trash from around the playground and sports fields. This was a joint venture between the Scouts of Troop 24 and the Cub Scouts of Pack 24. Anyone interested in joining Cub Scouts can go to <http://www.beascout.org> to sign up. Interested individuals can also contact Cubmaster Mike Provencher at mprovencher29@gsinet.net for more information.



Weare Dems Clean-Up Day

License plates and DVDs and signs and deer skulls... Oh my!

These were all part of the findings on the two miles of Route 114 between Irving Road and Duck Pond Road. That portion of the road



"belongs" to the Weare Democrats as part of the Adopt-A-Highway program. Thus, their members were out in force on April 24 to help with clean-up. In total, 47 bags of trash were collected.

The Weare Democrats are planning on conducting a similar endeavor during the summer as part of their ongoing effort to keep Weare clean. If you have interest in participating, please send an e-mail to WeareDemCom@comcast.net.



Weare Deering Republicans

The group's next meeting is on Saturday, May 22 at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to attend, please let us know by sending a quick note: weare.deering.gop@gmail.com.



Goffstown Rotary Car Show; Sponsorships Still Needed

Maybe you are wondering: just what are the differences between a classic and an antique car?

There are some agreed-upon criteria for what makes a vehicle "classic" or "antique."

Model year/age: Generally speaking, antique cars are 45 years or older while classic cars are 20 years or older.

Historic status: Certain states have specific designations for antique vehicles, deeming them "historic," as opposed to comparatively newer classic cars.

Vintage cars: To make things even more complicated, there's a third classification: vintage cars. These are the oldest of the three categories. Below are the generally agreed-upon age standards, according to www.americancollectors.com:

Vintage car: manufactured between 1919 and 1930

Antique car: manufactured 1975 or earlier (>45 years old)

Classic car: manufactured 1990 or earlier (>20 years old)

Residents have a chance to see just a few of these right here in our own backyard at the Goffstown Rotary Car Show fundraising event!

The event will be held Saturday, June 5, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Parson's Field in Goffstown. Admission will be free for the **See ROTARY, page 5**

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general public, and COVID-19 guidelines will be followed.

Those who would like to support this great event and advertise their business in the process, please email goffstownrotary@gmail.com or call 603-606-8758 (Robin), or message the club via Facebook to get details on the different sponsor levels.

There is also a need for goodie bag items and raffle donations! All profits will go back into the community in the form of grants, scholarships, other charitable donations and community service events.

The Goffstown Rotary Club services the communities of Goffstown, Weare, New Boston and Dunbarton. Meetings are held most Tuesday mornings, 7:30 a.m., via Zoom, with one evening meeting per month. For more information about the Goffstown Rotary, visit www.goffstownrotary.org.

Bring Back Movie Night with the Weare Public Library

By Clay Kriese

Remember Friday nights at the video store?

Sure, for the last several years, streaming is king. At the Weare Library, however, DVDs are still among our most popular materials.

Why has this physical medium held on for so long? I cannot speak for retailers, but library patrons seem to enjoy the act of browsing. Perhaps it takes them back to a time when snagging the latest feature or stumbling over a forgotten classic brought about the feelings of suspense, discovery and anticipation.

Further, with over 50 national video streaming services vying for your eyeballs and dollars, keeping up with the trendiest flicks and series can be a very confusing, overwhelming and expensive task.

Now that we are fully open, at the Weare Library, not only can you access the newest movies (for free), you can bring back the nostalgic warm and fuzzies of the video hunt.

But you won't have to search long to find the latest box office hits in our "new" collection: Featuring titles like the recent Tom Hanks western "News of the World," the Kevin

Costner thriller "Let Him Go," the Oscar contender "Promising Young Woman," the DC action blockbuster "Wonder Woman 1984," and the children's comedy sequel "The Croods: New Age."

Reevaluating our collection, we plugged the holes with enduring classics. If you're looking for a blast from the past, we've just added Bill Murray comedies from the '80s like "Ghostbusters," "Caddyshack" and "Groundhog Day." For more laughs, "Coming to America" and "The Jerk" have also found a home.

A primary goal of the library is to educate. What better way to teach your child about the good-old-days than with a screening of our newly acquired "The Goonies," "Labyrinth," "Pee Wee's Big Adventure," "E.T." and the original '89 version of "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles?"

If you have a teenage daughter in the house, she may relate to Molly Ringwald in the John Hughes dramas "The Breakfast Club," "Sixteen Candles" and "Pretty in Pink." Or, if she's more of a goth, she may prefer Winona Ryder in "Beetlejuice" and "Heathers."

Likewise, boys may become inspired by outrageous hijinks of "Bill & Ted," "Ferris Buller's Day Off" and "The Karate Kid" (with the hit spinoff series "Cobra Kai" to boot).

The above mentioned is nowhere near comprehensive. We have nearly 2,000 other DVDs and Blu-rays to choose from. We allow up to five video check-outs at a time. You can keep them out for an entire week, and it won't cost you a dime.

At our new website: wearepubliclibrary.com, online browsing and reserving is a breeze. Click on "catalog." Then hit the "what's new" tab.

Sayonara streaming: Video's back in style!



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 Oscar!

Labradoodle, male, affectionate, high energy, playful, intelligent, medium coat, house trained, vaccinations up to date, microchipped, neutered, one year old, 65 pounds, microchipped, good with other dogs and children. Adoption fee: \$600.





Meet Duncan! Yellow Lab/Retriever mix, male, affectionate, playful, active, intelligent, medium coat, house trained, vaccinations up to date, microchipped, neutered, nine months old, weighs 36 pounds, microchipped, good with other dogs and children. Adoption fee: \$550.

Meet Cole! Terrier/Black Lab mix, male, affectionate, calm, gentle, intelligent, short coat, house trained, vaccinations up to date, microchipped, neutered, two years old, 65 pounds, microchipped, good with other dogs, older, gentle with children. Adoption fee: \$550.



Meet Rosie! Rat Terrier mix, female, loving, gentle, intelligent, active, short coat, house trained, vaccinations up to date, microchipped, spayed, nine years old, 23 pounds, microchipped, good with other dogs and children.

Adoption fee: \$450.

Meet Emma! Pyrenean Shepherd/ Golden Retriever mix, female, loving, intelligent, affectionate, obedient, medium coat, house trained, vaccinations up to date, microchipped, spayed, three years old, 40 pounds, microchipped, good with other dogs and children. Adoption fee: \$500. Emma is part of a bonded pair with Jake. They are inseparable and must be adopted together. Jake was her only friend where they came from in Puerto Rico.



Meet Jake! Pyrenean Shepherd/ Golden Retriever/ Rat Terrier mix, male, Loving, Intelligent, affectionate, obedient, medium

coat, loving, gentle, active, medium coat, house trained, vaccinations up to date, microchipped, spayed, three years old, 42 pounds, microchipped, good with other dogs and children. Adoption fee: \$500.

William Little's Believe It or Not

By Connie Evans

In researching our Weare History for May Day celebrations, I was quite disappointed not to find anything on the traditional MayPole activity that many towns used to celebrate the beginning of spring in the 18th and 19th centuries. I suppose the Weare farmers were too busy doing springtime chores to participate in such frivolity. I did, however, come across some interesting anecdotes in the midst of a long list describing the necessary pre-summer tasks. I will let you decide if they are a bit too far-fetched.

Jacob Carr boasted of his ability to load up his oxen cart to the absolute fullest his oxen could pull. He would brag that something as slight as a single grain of wheat more would make them unable to pull another step. One day some visitors arrived as he was hauling out a load of manure. He was quick to show them proof of his uncanny ability. They watched as the team pulled the big load along well enough. Carr stopped the oxen for a rest, pulled out his jack-knife and laid it on top of the pile. The oxen pulled but could not advance until he removed the knife and then they were able to continue onward.

In the early days, Weare was heavily populated with sheep and cows. Seldom did they cause any issues other than a few occasional escapees. There was one three-year-old cow, however, that presented a mystery to her owner, Abner Hoit. She had no suckling calf, but when it was time for Abner to milk her, he would continually find her drained and her legs splattered with milk. One day he decided to wait a few hours before sending her out into the pasture, and then he followed her. "She went to a great rock, walked around it several times, lowing, when a large black snake came out and sucked the milk from her bag. After the reptile had its fill, she seemed satisfied and walked away with the rest of the herd." Hoit's neighbors didn't believe him, so he repeated the process with them in tow. They killed the snake and Abner lost no more milk from his cow!

"The History of Weare" by William Little is sprinkled throughout with stories that make me smile or shake my head in doubt. Whether they are true or not, I find they reveal the humor, personality, and character of our early residents. They become more tangible in our minds. Such stories from the past are sorely lacking in history books, and I appreciate William Little and his team of interviewers who meticulously recorded them.



(All garden photos by Anne Wirkkala).

How to Compost

By Anne Wirkkala

Save your food scraps...this will reduce your trash and yield a very useful garden product (compost) that often is pricey to buy. Small bags that may cover one or two plants can be a great expense.

Thirty percent of any household's waste is organic matter that can be composted. Returning those scraps to the earth will cut your garbage by 25% and reduce methane emissions from landfills, as well as reduce the amount of trash in them. Here's how you do it.

- Select a dry shady spot in your yard for a compost site.
- Add food scraps (fruits, vegetables, grains, breads, pastas, eggshells, coffee grounds and tea bags)
- Skip the meat and animal products, as they attract pests - even your own pets.
- Cover with a layer of grass clippings, leaves, straw, weeds or other organic matter.
- Turn the pile regularly with a shovel, garden fork, or pitchfork. This will keep it from overheating as it decomposes.
- If the pile has dried out, add water. You can also cover the pile with a tarp to keep it moist.
- When your compost is a rich dark color, it is ready for the garden.
- If you have chickens, your non-meat food scraps can go directly to them, and they will then proceed to "compost" them for you.
- Yard waste -- I use compost piles for branches and other yard waste. Not only does this eliminate the turning process, but it also can be carried on through the winter months.
- A "chicken bucket" or compost pail with a cover on your counter helps in collecting these scraps as they accumulate.
- Where to find compost. Ask friends. Some of my egg customers freeze their scraps and bring them over

when they get fresh eggs. These scraps are like candy for the chickens; they love treats and then provide the aforementioned ready-made compost.

- Chicken litter can also be used as an overwinter cover for your gardens.

Garden Club Plant Sale and Scholarship Information

By Anne Wirkkala

The Weare Garden Club plant sale will start Saturday, May 15 at 9 a.m. There will be two locations: 183 East Road in midtown and at 54 River Road in South Weare. Sales will run daily until supplies are exhausted. If you are not yet a member of the Garden Club and have some over-producing plants in your yard or house to share, please consider donating them to the sale.

All plants can be dropped off at either location before or during the sale days. Plants available so far include leeks, garlic, grape hyacinths, sweet woodruff, lemon balm, and there will be much more to come usually including hardy perennials, shrubs, and some vegetable transplants to name a few. All proceeds go to the Garden Club scholarship fund. The Garden Club is extending the deadline for scholarship applications to a year-round rolling application format. We understand that college and course choices are difficult to make during pandemic days, but as things become more certain, plans for further education may develop during the year so please apply as the need arises. Applications can be obtained from either myself Anne Wirkkala, club president (awirkkala@gsinet.net) or Cheryl Elliott, scholarship chair (caeocan56@gmail.com).

Please remember that community members or educators who are not enrolled in full-time college programs and would like to take an independent course or workshop may also apply for these funds.





Obituaries

Pasquale Gareri

**September 17, 1935 -
April 16, 2021**

Pasquale (Pat) Gareri died on April 16, 2021 surrounded by his loving wife, children, and grandchildren. Family was everything to him and this is what he would have wanted. Pat was always the life of any party and touched many with his memorable smile. He was proud to have served in the US Air Force for 21 years as well as the postal service as a letter carrier for 20 years after his military retirement. He was a member of American Legion Post 65, serving in many leadership roles and basically raised his daughters and granddaughters there volunteering. The members of the Legion quickly became extended family to us all.

"Papa" was a beloved grandfather and great-grandfather and delighted in all his kids. He grew cherry tomatoes for small hands to pick and eat right out of the garden; he read many books over, and over, and over again to all of them, and could probably recite a few. He shared his love of music with the entire family, and all of us have a wide knowledge because of that love. He taught all of us to dance with him to Frank Sinatra and always joked that he was going to teach his grandkids to spit when they came along (they were all girls so he abandoned that plan).

Dad was one of a kind with a joke and a smile for his many friends. He loved to debate and was never one to attack someone else about their views. Dad never let a teachable moment pass and, yes, there were many times we listened while rolling our eyes. He always taught us to live by the Golden Rule (do unto others as you would have others do unto you) and to never forget to remove your hat and put your hand over your heart when the American flag passed by.

Pat was predeceased by his parents and a brother. He leaves behind his beloved wife of 62-years, Joanna (Mele), a son Anthony Gareri of Manchester; two daughters, Dianne Hathaway of Weare and Laura Buono of Concord; four granddaughters, Jessica Fudala and husband Eric of Manchester; Meggin Bergeron and husband Joshua of Manchester; Ashlee Baron of Bradford, and Alison Hathaway-MacLellan and husband



Brandon of Weare. He also leaves behind six great-grandchildren: William Fudala, Levi Baron, Oliver Lloyd, Abel Baron, Lucia Baron, and Cole MacLellan. He is also survived by two brothers and sister as well as many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thank you to the staff, nurses, and doctors at Concord Hospital as well as the amazing ICU team for the wonderful care they took of Dad, and all of us, during his final hours. Thank you to the Weare Ambulance Service and EMTs for their professionalism and care they gave to both our father and mother.

Services will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to: American Legion Post 65, P.O. Box 69, Weare, NH 03281.

Lois Jourdain

**February 10, 1950 -
April 30, 2021**

Lois A (Heaps) Jourdain, of Weare, NH, passed away on April 30, 2021 after a brief battle with acute myeloid leukemia. Born in Nashua, NH on February 10, 1950, she is predeceased by her loving husband David, her parents, Edna G. Heaps and Louis Gagnon, and her siblings, Edna Bromfield of Bainbridge, GA and Randall Heaps of Fitchburg, MA.



Lois will be remembered as a kind and generous soul, giving of herself in service to others. During her lifetime, she taught swimming lessons at the YWCA and Camp Kiwanis Girl Scout Camp in Tyngsboro, MA. She found her passion in long-term care nursing and was a graduate of both St. Joseph's School of Practical Nursing (LPN) and Rivier College School of Nursing (BSN). She spent the majority of her career at Fairview Nursing Home in Hudson, NH. After her retirement from nursing, Lois became a substitute nurse and teacher in the school districts of Nashua, Hudson and Weare.

Lois enjoyed traveling by car, plane or boat; playing the slots wherever she could find them, and Trinity bingo on Friday nights at Angel Wing Bingo Center with her best friend of 67 years, Kay Hannah. Most often you could find her with a good book, a glass of wine and her crochet needles watching her programs. A rousing game of Trivial Pursuit brought out her competitive spirit, and her team had a winning record.

It is never easy to say goodbye to such a special person. Lois was well-loved by many. She is survived by her brother, Jack Heaps of Bainbridge, GA, and her children, Gerald and Betty Jourdain of Hudson NH; Ray and Gladys Jourdain of Coral Gables, FL; Deborah and James Gaspar of Merrimack, NH; Lois Mason of Nashua, NH; and Pamela and Craig Moul of Weare, NH. Her grandchildren, Hans Carr of San Antonio, TX; Travis Jourdain of Miami, FL; Catherine and Andrew Chan of Epping, NH; Joseph Jourdain of Exeter, NH; Randall Mason of Minot, ND; Kitara Mason of Nashua, NH; Adalia Mason of San Antonio, TX; and Joshua and Jonathan Moul of Weare, NH. In addition, Lois had six great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and nephews.

Services: Visiting hours will be Wednesday, May 19, 2021 from 5-8 p.m. at the Davis Funeral Home, 1 Lock St., Nashua, NH. Healthy family and friends are invited to attend. A private burial for family will be held at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery where Lois will be reunited with her soul mate. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation to a service organization of your choice in Lois' name. Lois supported Pope Memorial SPCA, 94 Silk Farm Road Concord, NH 03301; Weare Food Pantry, P.O. Box 584, Weare NH 03281; The Front Door Agency, 7 Concord St, Nashua, NH 03064; and the Weare Athletic Club by volunteering. The Davis Funeral Home has been placed in charge of arrangements. An online guest-book is available at www.davinsfuneralhomenh.com.

The Black Fly War

By Al Weatherbee -The "Mountain Man"

We've had some beautiful weather here in Maine for over a week. Deep blue sky, sunshine for days now, birds singing and something new popping out of the ground every day. Best part of all is that until May 3 there have been no black flies.

But sure enough, late yesterday while I was working on the tractor, a few early scouts came buzzing around my head. They have an uncanny way of knowing when one is unable to defend oneself, so with greasy wrenches in each of my hands, they were able to get in a few bites (whacking your head with a greasy wrench hurts but it kills the black fly). Some of them flew away to report back to the main swarm down in the swamp.

Today, Dragon and I (*Dragon is the name of my tractor*) went up to the cabin to move some gravel. They were waiting for me, but I was ready with oiled hard hat and fly

repellent to minimize the damage. We fought for about two hours and as you can see from the attached photo, they had a loss of just a little over two hundred while I suffered four bites on legs and neck.

Now, I know this is going to be awful hard for you to believe, but it was getting towards dusk and the cold began to settle in. Most of the black flies started back to the bog. But a few stayed and kept re-forming and hovering up and down right in front of my face. I've never seen anything like this before.



Al Weatherbee and his oiled hard hat full of black flies (courtesy photo).

I now have a hearing aid for each ear and they use radio waves as part of their programming. They are sensitive to Wi-Fi and do some strange things at times when I'm near certain bandwidths. Well, as I looked at those pesky little flies, I realized that I was hearing their buzzing for the first time and as I listened, it seemed like it must be some kind of insect language. Then suddenly, three of four of the little buggers left the group and flew right up and landed on the end of my nose. I was about to give myself a nosebleed when I swear, I heard a loud "WAIT." The darn things were talking to me! I don't know if it was the new hearing aids or ESP or what, but I could hear them (*after all, Horton heard a Who*).

They said that they were representatives of the International Council of Flying Insects and their committee had a meeting last night at which they concluded that I was guilty of using weapons of mass destruction and chemical warfare. They would agree to minimize their attacks at certain times of day and leave my kin and friends at peace if I would refrain from using today's weapons. They said something about my having passed a red line, whatever that meant. Of course, I just laughed at them and told them to go back to the swamp.

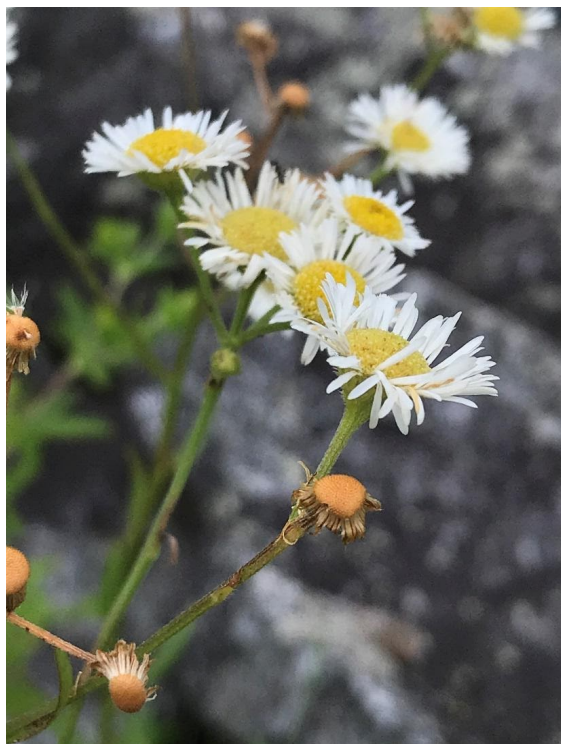
If you were planning to visit me, I'm sorry to have put you all in this position but I guess you'd best be prepared for the worst and either stay inside or get a hard hat and oil it up.

Love to all,
The Mountain Man

(Editor's note: Guest writer Al Weatherbee of Maine was 86 at the time of this writing. He is now 93 years old, and still fighting the black flies with vigor.)



Asked and Answered: Wildflowers



(Sharon Czarnecki photo)



(Karen Lovett photo)



(Alyssa Small photo)

STEPPING STONES

Stepping stone to stepping stone,
paw by paw, deliberately
went the black and white cat
along the serpentine
garden walkway, never
missing a step, never
having to stop to shake off
newly spread mulch from its paws
-Marge Burke



Job Opportunities in Weare

Dunkin Donuts Manager

DESCRIPTION: PT/FT; all shifts available

REQUIRED ATTRIBUTES: Good with people

EXPERIENCE: Not necessary

SCHEDULE: Varies

STARTING SALARY: Will discuss

There are also **crew positions** open

TO APPLY: Call 529-5547, 7 a.m. - 3 p.m. Ask for Kasia

Retail Associates, Country 3 Corners Convenience

DESCRIPTION: PT/FT; all shifts available

REQUIRED ATTRIBUTES: Reliable, works well with others, preferably 16 years of age and older

EXPERIENCE: Not necessary

SCHEDULE: Varies

STARTING SALARY: Will discuss

HOW TO APPLY: Stop in the store at 427 South Stark Highway for an application

Hardware and Lumber Yard Associates, Country 3 Corners

DESCRIPTION: PT

REQUIRED ATTRIBUTES: Reliable, good with people, enjoy working outdoors (lumber yard position)

EXPERIENCE: Not necessary

SCHEDULE: Various shifts

STARTING SALARY: Will discuss

TO APPLY: Stop in the store at 833 South Stark Highway for an application

Children's Assistant Librarian, Weare Public Library

DESCRIPTION: General library routines in the Children's Room.

REQUIRED ATTRIBUTES: Friendliness, flexibility, patience, good customer service.

EXPERIENCE: Working with infants, children and teens. A knowledge of children's literature and general computer applications.

EDUCATION: High School Diploma or GED

SCHEDULE: PT, 10 hours per week, weekday mornings and afternoons

STARTING SALARY: \$11 per hour

HOW TO APPLY:

Visit: wearepubliclibrary.com/employment

Mark Your Calendar

Wednesday, May 12

4:15 p.m. - Trustees of the Trust Funds, Town Offices

6:30 p.m. - John Stark School District Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Conservation Commission, Town Offices

Monday, May 17

6:00 p.m. - SAU 24 Board Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Board of Selectmen, Town Offices

Tuesday, May 18

6:00 p.m. - Weare School District Board Meeting

7:00 p.m. - Cable Commission Meeting, Town Offices

Wednesday, May 26

7:00 p.m. - Weare Library Book Group Discusses "Pachinko;" outside event

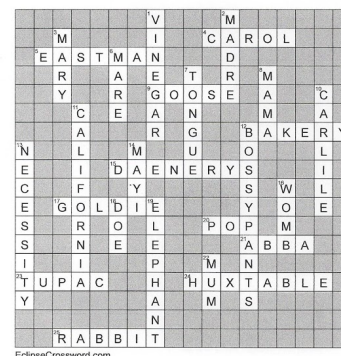
Thursday, May 27

7:00 p.m. - Planning Board, Town Offices

Saturday, May 29

9:00 a.m. - Chase Park Opening Day

Mothers



Contact Us

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