



Weare in the World

For Weare Residents, By Weare Residents

February 14, 2024

Local School Districts Hold Deliberative Sessions

The Weare School District held its Deliberative Session on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Articles 1, 2, and 3 – the last being the proposed \$18.7 million budget – moved forward with little discussion. Article 4, the proposed teacher contract, garnered public feedback. To view related documents, go to www.sau24.org and click on “Budget Information 2024” on the right. To view a stream of the Deliberative Session, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MjNYWYlejkk>.

The John Stark School District held its Deliberative Session on Friday, Feb. 9. To view related documents, go to www.sau24.org and click on “Budget Information 2024” on the right. To view a stream on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uN8KcRtbGro>

Meet the Candidates

SAU 24 is hosting a “Meet the Candidates” for school board night on Tuesday, March 5 at 6 p.m. in Room 144 at John Stark Regional High School. The candidates are running in Weare, John Stark, and Henniker School Districts. There will also be time for budget questions. Luther Drake, the moderator in both the Weare and John Stark School Districts, will moderate the evening. Voting day will be held March 12 at the WMS Gym.



Elections will be held on Tuesday, March 12 in the Weare Middle School gym.

Debate on East Road Property Dominates Deliberative Session

By Tom Clow

The 2024 Town of Weare Deliberative Session held on Saturday, Feb. 3 and attended by 92 registered voters, turned into a marathon event lasting from 9 a.m. to after 4 p.m. When all was said and done, there were very few changes made to warrant articles that carried a tax impact, but heated debate on others, with some articles being referred for further study.

The lengthiest and most contentious debate concerned articles 24 and 26, both relating to a 137-acre property on East Road that was approved for purchase by the town at the March 12, 2013 town meeting. The moderator allowed the articles to be discussed simultaneously since they related to the same subject matter. What ensued were strong feelings about what part of the land could be used for recreation and ballfields and what would be made part of a conservation easement. Town Counsel Laura Spector-Morgan was called on several times for legal clarification.

Article 24 was submitted by the Weare Conservation Commission and asked for authority to complete the easement and survey plan voted on in 2013, “including the hayfield and exclusive of 20 acres set aside for ongoing gravel operations and future recreational facilities,” to a qualified land trust. The article was amended at the meeting, removing a request to raise and appropriate \$60,000 from the

Town Conservation fund to complete the process. The article was recommended by the board of selectmen by a vote of 3-2-0.

See DELIBERATIVE, page 2





“Talk” To Us
Leap Year Extra Day
Deadline: Feb 16
 Weareintheworldnews@gmail.com

DELIBERATIVE, continued from page 1

Article 26 was submitted by petition and called for the conservation commission, under the direction of the board of selectmen, to “take immediate action on the division of the 137 acres ... dispersing it as follows: twelve (12) acres to include, but not be limited to, the fields and front acreage of the property to be allocated to recreational facilities and ballfields, eight (8) acres to be allocated as gravel pits, and to convey the remaining 117 acres as the conservation commission deems appropriate.”

Article 24 as amended and Article 26 as submitted by petition will both appear on the ballot in March.

Two other articles that were submitted by petition also resulted in debate. Article 25 would restrict eligibility for appointments on town boards and committees to two consecutive terms and require a three-year absence before being reappointed to that committee. Attorney Spector-Morgan advised that, if approved, the restriction could not apply to boards or commissions defined in state statutes. The article was amended to read “vote to study,” restricting eligibility.

Article 27 (also submitted by petition) would rescind the provisions of RSA 79-A:25 II, which authorizes the deposit of 75% of land use change tax collected by the town to be deposited in the conservation fund. Land use tax is collected when a parcel is taken out of current use. The article was amended to read, “Vote to study to rescind...”

Changes to Tax Impact Articles

-Article 10 calls for an average wage adjustment of \$1.50 per hour for all full-time fire and rescue personnel. However, an amendment links this article to Article 8 (a 5% cost of living adjustment for all non-union town and library employees.) The amendment states that should Article 8 pass, then Article 10 shall raise and appropriate zero dollars (\$0).



-Article 12: An amendment to Article 12 for a Chevrolet Tahoe police pursuit vehicle will allow the withdrawal of \$46,690 from the unassigned fund balance to replace the amount that would be raised by taxation.

-Article 13, which would establish a Public Safety Services Revolving Fund, was amended to replace the words “grants and criminal forfeitures” with “donations.”


Candidates for Local Office

Town of Weare		Candidates
Board of Selectmen	Two three-year terms	Janice Mathews James Drury
	One one-year term	David Pratte

Moderator	One two-year term	Jonathan Morton
Supervisor of Checklist	One six-year term	Kristen Lundeen Maria Fossiano
Library Trustee	One three-year term	Joshua Hilliard
Trustee of Trust Funds	One three-year term	Beverly C. Cotton
Ethics Committee	One three-year term	Carl Warren Hallstrom
Weare School District		
School Board Member	Two three-year terms	Daniel J. Recuperio Sarah Button
John Stark School District		
School Board Member (At Large)	One three-year term	Deb Urbaitis
School District Moderator	One one-year term	Luther Drake


School News


SAU 24 administrators, Weare School District Board Members and Center Woods Elementary School staff nominated CWES **Principal Jess Potter** for the New Hampshire Elementary Principal of the Year Award. Her letter of nomination to the N.H. Association of School Principals stated, "Jess epitomizes what it means to be an excellent educational leader. She is an effective, student-centered leader who focuses on building trust and community." Potter began her career in the Weare School District as a student and later became a teacher in 2000, assistant principal at Weare Middle School in 2005 and principal at CWES in 2011. She is also a parent in the Weare School District. Potter's nomination is now being considered with principals around the state.



The **JSRHS personal fitness class** visited Strive Indoor Cycling in Concord earlier this month. "Strive was able to provide an amazing experience for our students, especially for those attending Strive for the first time," said JSRHS physical education teacher Cooper Gorski. In the JSRHS personal fitness class, the goal is to experience new ways to stay physically fit while exploring some local places to create more opportunities for our personal fitness for life. *Photo: Cooper Gorski, Lucas Belliveau, Caleb Hauptman, Joey Dykstra, Brayden Menard, Logan Butler, Isaac Coker, Kaleb Hardy, JSRHS teacher Hanna Schofield (teacher at JSRHS), Elliot Belliveau, Stephen Johnston, Ava Martin and Strive Instructor Alli DuPont.*



The **Harlem Wizards** came to WMS on Jan. 29 to play a fundraising game for the Weare Middle School Student Council and Music Department. The event was a huge success, raising nearly \$7,500 in the game between the Harlem Wizards and Weare team.

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WMS Principal Jon Barry with a Wizard player on his shoulders. Diana Stupca (fifth grade teacher at WMS) in the foreground. (Joann Keirstead photo).



The home team of WMS staff members, Weare police officers, the JSRHS J.V. Basketball team and a parent (Shelley Porth photo).

The **Director of Bands at Plymouth State University**, Jared Staub, visited the Weare Middle School in February to work with the school's band. Dr. Staub is also the applied low brass instructor at Plymouth State. The WMS band is headed to Plymouth State University in May for an engagement where they will perform alongside the Plymouth State Band. *Photo: WMS eighth grade student Nick Tetro, the top scoring euphonium player in the state for the New Hampshire Band Directors Association Honor Band, plays with Plymouth State University Band Director Dr. Jared Staub during Staub's visit to the Weare Middle School.*



CWES Assistant Principal Jacqui Cornwell, second grader Haley Sullivan and third grader Aubrey Biron.



Third grader Lillian Davidson and second grader L.J. Smith with Literacy Coach Maureen Colby.

Mrs. Grantz's second grade class at CWES celebrated the completion of the first module of the new English Language Arts curriculum by sharing their beautiful work with Mrs. Rauscher's third grade class. The students shared their response, knowledge and vocabulary journals and their vocabulary card collection, fluency journal, a fall poem illustrated with a painting, a chameleon craft illustrating the meaning of the word camouflage and a sky tree craft illustrating the cycle of seasons. Guests included Superintendent Jackie Coe, Principal Jess Potter, Assistant Principal Jacqui Cornwell, Student Services Coordinator Morgan Hallock, literacy coach Maureen Colby, Title I teacher Nancy Bishop, reading interventionist Mary McNally and math interventionist Amanda Dionne.

To celebrate the **100th day of school** on Feb. 9, CWES third graders started a food drive with the goal of collecting 100 items to donate to the Weare Food Pantry. The total collected was 386 items! The third graders lined the halls and stairs to move the items hand-to-hand all the way to the main office to pack up for the food pantry. *Photo: Mia Nicol passes off to Brianna LeRoy.*



See Science Center



(The center's display of the Millyard done in Legos)

By Sharon Czarnecki

Please note: Weare Public Library has passes for the SEE Science Center, thanks to the Friends of the Library).

This center is listed in our "Something to Do" item on page 7. However, perhaps some of you have not been there and are wondering, "Why should I go? What do they offer?" Here is some background you may find helpful when trying to decide.

The SEE Science Center is located in Manchester's historic millyard and is a welcoming space where all generations can play and explore together. Touch, try, laugh and participate. Discover our world and one another with fun, memorable science-based experiences. Touch exhibits on forces, light, space, dinosaurs and bubbles. Learn about human biology, innovative technologies and more. At SEE, visitors can pull themselves up using pulleys, build and try their own ball roller coaster, explore the LEGO millyard model, the world's largest LEGO® installation at mini-figure scale in the world, and much more.

For the remainder of February, visitors will have the opportunity to make various sound crafts to take home and learn about sound in special demonstrations. Advanced reservations are suggested.

www.see-sciencecenter.org

For 21 and older: The "Science on Tap" program is now available on the second Tuesday of the month at 6 p.m. at Stark Brewing Co., 500 Commercial Street Manchester. "Science on Tap" is a program of the SEE Science Center and is part of a worldwide movement to provide opportunities for people to engage directly with scientists and STEM professionals in an informal setting.

Scout News



Pack 24 Cub Scouts

By Alyssa Small

On Feb. 10, Pack 24 Cub Scouts held their Blue and Gold banquet. This ceremony is held each year to commemorate the founding of Boy Scouts of America on Feb. 8, 1910 and to acknowledge the Scouts' advancements. Scouts from each den received badges of rank, learned about summer camp at Camp Carpenter and enjoyed a spaghetti dinner served by the older Scouts. Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make the event a success.

The Cub Scout program is open to all boys and girls in grades K-5, and the Pack welcomes new members year-round. Regular den meetings take place every other week. If anyone is interested in joining, learning more about the program, or checking out an upcoming event, please reach out to Pack 24 Cubmaster Matt Bieler at matthew.bieler.bsa@gmail.com.



Weare Pink Ladies Group January Potluck

By Lorraine Westfahl

Our get-together in February will be a lunch at Stark House Tavern, 487 S. Stark Highway, Weare on **Thursday, Feb. 22 from noon - 2 p.m.** This is a fun gathering for members of Weare Pink & Friends. Please RSVP To Lilly at lily4liberty@comcast.net.

Weare Public Library News

UPCOMING EVENTS

For Kids and Teens:

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

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

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

Pre-K Storytimes. Wednesdays, Feb. 14 and 21, 10:30 a.m. Join Ms. Karen for stories and songs.

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

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

Kids Graphic Novel Club. Feb. 22, 4 p.m. We're reading The Magic Tree House Graphic Novel: "Mummies in the Morning" by Mary Pope Osborne, illustrated by Kelly Matthews. Call Ms. Karen at 603-529-2044 to reserve your copy.

Lego Club. Feb. 29, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Stop by and show us what you can make with our big bucket of Legos, and we'll put it on display for all to see!

For Adults:

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

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

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

Book Group. Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. We're reading "Take My Hand" by Dolen Parkins-Valdez. Call us at 603-529-2044 to reserve your copy.

Friends of the Library: Spring Bake Sale. Mar. 27, 5 - 7 p.m. Treat yourself to a plethora of decadent pies, cookies, cakes, breads, muffins, and more! Are you a baker? Contribute your goodie by signing up at the library or email friendsofwearepl@gmail.com. Raised funds will go towards passes for our patrons at the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, VT.

Breath Training Basics. Mar. 28 at 6:30 p.m. With Breath Coach Cheryl Lundgren, learn how improving your breathing can enhance sleep and reduce stress. With some simple tips and techniques, incorporate breathing exercises into your routine and cultivate a deeper sense of calmness and well-being in your daily life.



Friends of the Weare Public Library

By Dianne Hathaway

The Friends of the Weare Public Library would like to host a spring bake sale on **Wednesday, March 27**. To do that, we need bakers! If you would like to contribute, sign up at the Weare Public Library or send us an email at friendsofwearepl@gmail.com.

If enough money is raised, we will use the funds to purchase a pass to the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, VT. If you've visited, you know what a gem this hands-on science museum is. If you haven't visited, you will want to go!

Please join us! We meet on the fourth Tuesday evening of January, March, May, July, September and November at 6:30 p.m. at the Weare Public Library. **Our next business meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 27**. If you would like more information, please email us at friendsofwearepl@gmail.com.

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

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

33 North Stark Highway, Weare, NH 03281

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

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

There's always something happening at Hand in Hand Senior Center. People meeting, greeting, reaching out to each other for friendship, companionship, support, fun and learning something new. Much of what we offer comes from people, like you, who have an interest



or talent and are willing to share it with others.

Recently, our friend Jade shared her knowledge and love of gardening by offering a terrarium making

event. Because of discussions, questions and the materials Jade provided, beautiful terrariums were produced. Now, all those participating have an indoor garden to enjoy throughout our cold winter days. If you have an idea, interest, or talent that you would like to share, please reach out to us. It will enrich your life and the lives of others.

Wednesday lunches continue to be popular, with many people staying long after lunch to chat, play cards, or pull out the latest craft they're working on. Invited community members and business owners join us for lunch and keep us abreast of what's new and what's happening in Weare.

We are now offering yoga 2 at 11 a.m. on Mondays (right after chair yoga). This is more advanced, and all are welcome to give it a try. Bring your craft and get help if you need it Mondays at noon.

Movie afternoon is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22 at 4 p.m. The movie this month is "42: The Jackie Robinson Story." It's worth a watch. Refreshments will sweeten the pot.

Spread the word and help Hand in Hand Senior Center become all it can be for the Town of Weare.

**WHAT'S FOR
 LUNCH?**



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

Feb. 14: Spinach lasagna rollups; peas with ham; garlic bubble rolls.

Feb. 21: Breakfast: toad in a hole; potatoes; sausage patties; baked beans; fruit.

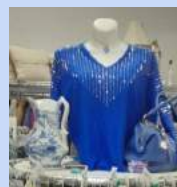
Feb. 28: Pasta and meatballs; Caesar salad; garlic bread.

Coffee, tea, and various desserts are also available.

**WHAT'S IN
 THE SHOP?**



We've been busy reorganizing the shop and adding more merchandise to our shelves and racks. Come on in and see what bargains you find.



Tips for Caregivers

Capital Area Memory Café
 Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2-4 p.m.
 Granite Ledges of Concord
 151 Langley Parkway, Concord



The Memory Café, returning after a COVID-19 shutdown, is a joyful and creative social experience for people with memory loss and their caregivers to gather with others in a positive and engaging environment. It is held at Granite Ledges and sponsored by Granite VNA, Concord Hospital and Granite Ledges. Refreshments are offered along with programs for both care recipient, and caregiver.

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

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

Lookin' for Love

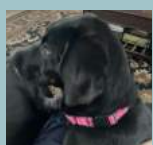
By Cathy Bailey

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

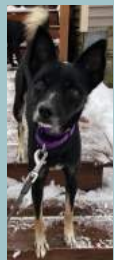


Meet Maisie Mae! She is a Hound/Yellow Lab mix and is friendly, affectionate, gentle, smart and quiet. She is house trained and crate trained; her vaccinations are up to date and she has been spayed. She is good in a home with other dogs, cats and children. This

gentle little girl has a gorgeous face and a beautiful soul! Her coat is soft and velvety. She has a certain sadness about her that no young dog should ever have; it's very endearing and gently tugs at your heartstrings. Maisie walks well on a leash. In fact, she loves to be outdoors and go for walks! She's very intelligent, she's happy to oblige when you tell her to "kennel up;" she'll go immediately into her crate. More than anything though, she longs to find her family / person, who she can cuddle up with and keep them warm. Maisie is three years old, weighs about 45 pounds and is microchipped. She has the sweetest temperament, loves other dogs, is fine with cats and she's happy to spend time with gentle children.



Meet Catie! She is a Hound/Black Labrador Retriever mix and is smart, friendly, affectionate, gentle, funny and quiet. She is house trained and her vaccinations are up to date and she has been spayed. She is good in a home with other dogs, cats and children. This southern belle puppy loves to be loved! She is a sweet, bouncy girl who enjoys going for walks and playing. And at the end of the day, she is eager to snuggle and shower a person with love. She loves people of ALL ages, as well as other dogs - and she's just fine with cats as well! Catie is very astute and she's eager to learn all of her basic commands. She's very smart and highly trainable. Catie is about six months old, and she weighs about 32 pounds. She will likely weigh about 50 pounds as an adult. She is also microchipped.



Meet Whitney! She is a Basenji mix and is friendly, gentle, affectionate, smart, and quiet. She is house trained, her vaccinations are up to date and she has been spayed. She is good in a home with other dogs and children. This soft, velvety girl is confident, playful and affectionate. She loves to go for walks, and she does well on a leash. Her photos don't do her justice; she's an

adorable little bundle of CUTENESS! Whitney was found on the streets of Puerto Rico, desperately looking for food as she was starving and scared. She was rescued by one of our wonderful partner organizations, and subsequently fostered in Puerto Rico to help her acclimate to a family environment. Whitney is now here at our shelter in Weare searching for her forever family! Whitney is two years old and she weighs just 16 pounds. She is also microchipped.

For more information on these and other dogs visit <https://www.heartsandtails.org/petfinder-list/>.



Looking for Something to Do?

Compiled by Sharon Czarnecki



Capitol Center for the Arts

603-225-1111

www.ccanh.com

Chubb Theatre 44 S. Main St., Concord
Feb. 15 – 7 p.m. Croce Plays Croce (singer)
Feb. 29 – 7 p.m. The Four Phantoms (singers)

Bank of NH Stage 16 S. Main St, Concord
Feb. 16, 17 - 7:30 p.m. / Feb. 18 - 2 p.m.
"On the Exhale" (play)
Feb. 23 – 8 p.m.: Free Range Revue (LGBTQIA+)
Feb. 25 – 1 p.m.: Capitol Tea Dance (dance)
Feb. 25 – 6 p.m.: Sing A Long Piano Bar



200 Bedford, St.
Manchester, NH
603- 669-0400

www.see-sciencecenter.org

NOTE: Our library has discount passes!

Feb. 19 – Mar. 1 The Science of Sound



23 Science Center Road
Holderness, NH
603-968-7194

www.nhnature.org

NOTE: Our library has discount passes!

Feb. 18 – 7 a.m. Intro to Ice Fishing
Cost: \$30/member; \$35/non-member. Advance registration is required at www.nhnature.org or call 603-968-7194.



150 Ash St. Manchester
603-669-6144

www.Currier.org

NOTE: Our library has discount passes!

- Feb. 25 – 3 p.m. Art Talk - Work of Josef Albers
(Registration and fee – see website)
- Feb. 29 – Opening of “Harper’s Pictorial History of the Civil War” exhibit. Artists: Kara Walker and Winslow Homer
- Art From Home - Free 30-minute adult programs
(Registration is required.)
- Feb. 21 – 1 p.m. Andrea Bowers, “We are Part of Nature.”
- Feb. 28 – Romare Bearden, “Battle with Cicones.”



880 Page Street, Manchester
603-669-7469

www.majestictheatre.net

Feb 16 and 17 – 7 p.m. and Feb 17 and 18 – 2 p.m.:
“Beating a Dead Horse”



80 Hanover St.,
Manchester
603-668-5588
(Some events are at Rex

Theatre - 23 Amherst St., Manchester)

www.palacetheatre.org/calendar

February events include tribute bands for Michael Jackson, Michael Buble and Dave Matthews; Winter Blues; Dueling Pianos; Calamari Sisters; Vance Gilbert; Jessie’s Girl; Tuck Everlasting; and the Saving Grace Dance Ensemble. See calendar for full listing.



Concord City Auditorium
2 Prince St., Concord
603-228-2793

www.app.arts-people.com/index.php?show=190208

Feb. 16 and 17 – 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 18 at 2 p.m.:
“Witness for the Prosecution.”



1 Central Wharf
Boston, MA 02110
617-973-5206

www.neaq.org

NOTE: Our library has discount passes!

Mon.–Fri.: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Weekends: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Daily at Simons 3D Theater:

- “Arctic – Our Frozen Planet”
“Blue Whales, Return of the Giants”
“Great White Shark”
“Incredible Predators”
“Secrets of the Sea”

(Tickets Required-See Website)



686 Flanders Road, Henniker
603-428-3245

www.patspeak.com

- Feb. 17 – 6- 9 p.m. McMurphy’s Band
Feb. 24 – 6 p.m. April Cushman (acoustic trio)



129 Centerville Road
Henniker
(603) 428-3579

www.hennikerbrewing.com

- Feb. 14 – 6:30 p.m. Valentine Sip N Swing
Feb. 15, 22, & 29 – 6 – 9 p.m.: Trivia Night



2 Commerce Dr, Hooksett
(603) 541-5200

www.basspro.com

- Feb. 24 – 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Handgun license class



Fuller Public Library
29 School Street
Hillsborough, NH
603.464.3595

www.fullerlibrary.info

- Feb. 27 – 10 - 11 a.m. – Parent/child paint class



A double rainbow was seen over CWES – and in other places around town – on Feb. 9 (courtesy photo).



The Tree

By Sharon Czarnecki

It was always there. I've driven by it over a hundred times. I'm sure it was vibrant in spring, full of life in summer, resplendent in fall and in past winters had moments of icy glory. But this year!

This year it made a statement. It stopped me in my tracks. It hollered at me: "Take a minute. Where are you going? What could possibly be more important than **ME?** YOU – WILL – STOP! – AND – LOOK AT ME !!!"

And I did, of course. What else could I do? I noticed - the exuberant height, as though I had caught it stretching beyond its limits to catch an invisible ball. I noticed how it had allowed nothing else in its space. "This is *mine!* I alone protect this puny human house." And how it filled the frame leaving the viewer wanting – nothing else. I noticed how artistic it was – all even and symmetrical, except for the playfully extended branch on the lower left. When I inquired about that, the tree explained that the best art does the unexpected here and there. True. Lastly, there was the breathtaking sparkle: some of it on bare branches, some of it layered over snow. **MAGNIFICENT!**



Asked and Answered: Winter Activities



In loving memory of Jake York (courtesy photo).

Snow Dog

By Emma York

Crystals of ice floated from the sky like microscopic parachutes. I tipped my head back and watched as they collected on my eyelashes one by one and then slowly melted away. I blinked them off and adjusted the zipper on my coat so I could chew on it. The air was still and the snow moseyed to the ground where it settled in, as there was no breeze to disrupt it.

Suddenly I heard the deep loping steps of a large animal. The snowflakes that were in his path were the unfortunate ones. They were plowed right down as my dog, Jake, a Labrador Retriever and Great Dane mix, ran towards me with his tongue flying out of the side of his mouth. His golden coat looked like a blur as he barely gave me a chance to sidestep out of his way. He took the corner too sharp and would have trampled me just as easily as the snowflakes. He was gentle, much like all Labradors, but he didn't quite grasp his own size.

As I turned around to watch him do his laps, I marveled as the giant gold blur zoomed past the bright blue sled propped haphazardly against the wall. I grabbed Jake, putting my arm around his neck the same way you would over a person's shoulders. Together we walked up and down the small hill in my front yard making the base for our path. He stayed right alongside me, happy to be outside, as all he did was pace back and forth inside. Out here, he could wander aimlessly for days and be happy as a clam. He didn't mind that we walked back and forth in the same trail because I was there. He loved his human family.

Finally, we trudged our way back up the hill for the last time. My legs were tired, but Jake pulled me right along. When we got to the top, I took my arm off his neck and he looked at me as if he wanted to know what

See JAKE, page 10

JAKE, continued from page 9

was next. I rubbed his forehead; up over the boney egg bump right at the top, then over to his floppy ears and finally poked his nose before walking over and grabbing the sled. He whipped around to look at me with excited eyes as I pried the sled from the crusty layer under the fresh snow. Jake started trotting around me excitedly, showing off his goofy dance that looked like a drunken jogger that remained in one place. He was just dying for me to get in the sled. I knew what he was looking forward to. I laid the sled on the ground and started for it like I was about to sit down. Jake started for it too. I pulled back to toy with him, he pulled back too. He couldn't control his anticipation and lurched forward every time I did. Finally, I sat down, and Jake took his place on my right side. He watched my hands and waited intently. His ears were cocked, eyebrows up, and nothing but focus showed on his face. I tucked my gloves into my coat so I wouldn't get snow up my wrists. Then I plunged my hands in and pushed.

Jake pounced with both front feet on my right hand, trying to catch it under the snow and I laughed wildly. He never hurt me, he was just big and playful. Just as the sled started taking off on its own, he caught my right hand with my arm extended. He pranced forward so I stiffened my arm and let him push me. He pushed me on my sled all the way to the bottom until there wasn't enough momentum to help him anymore. He calmly placed my hand back down in the snow and looked at me as if he was saying "Let's go again." So that's exactly what we did; just me and my best friend prancing in the powder.

One of My Favorite Things to Do in Winter

By Marge Burke

On a cold, snowy winter day, I might like to take a quick walk outside, letting the snowflakes bounce off my cheeks while enjoying the silence of the world around me. Yes, a quick walk. What I really like to do, though, is to create a mess in my kitchen with a soup-making blitz. I get out the pots, measuring spoons, ingredients, recipes and get to work, dicing onions, cutting carrots and celery, measuring spices, adding other ingredients as indicated. Ah, the aromas that begin to fill the kitchen, and the mess, too. I stir and taste, ad lib a bit from the recipe according to my preferred taste. Sometimes, I have two different kinds of soup going at once; buttercup squash roasting in the oven, while black bean soup with corn, fresh frozen from summer, simmers on the stove. Nutmeg added to

the buttercup squash makes a delicious soup for lunch. I like squash so I might make curried butternut squash bisque, also delicious for lunch. Then there is minestrone soup filled with lots of beans, brussels sprouts, broccoli, and other vegetables suitable for a hearty dinner at the end of the day. Once all these soups are ladled into containers and set on the kitchen counter, I step back and say to myself, "Well done, Marjorie." The containers then go in the refrigerator or freezer for later eating. After all that is done, I have to clean up the mess I created: dirty pots to wash, utensils, spices to put away, floor to wash (I can be rather messy on soup blitz days). Why mess the kitchen twice, when I can do all this in one day, and maybe take a longer walk in the snow when the next storm comes?

I Walk Snow

By Marge Burke

Those words, "I walk snow, Mom. I walk snow," are immortalized in the Burke family lore. They are not my words, rather the words of my son the winter he was two years old. Don't get me wrong here; I do like the snow, but not that particular winter when I heard those words often. All bundled up in a snowsuit, boots, hat and mittens, all my son wanted to do was walk in the snow; the more the merrier. Of course, I had to follow that toddler, be sure he didn't get buried in snow piles or pick him up when he fell. An easy task, you say. Well, not if you are eight months pregnant. What a clumsy sight I was. Now, a grown man, my son still likes to "walk snow," often phoning me when it is snowing to repeat those immortalized words.



Tell Us About:
Your Extra Day !

What are you going to do with an extra day in the year?
Did you have any childhood misconceptions about what that extra day would mean?



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



POETRY CORNER

Awe and Wonder

Snowflakes fall softly
 one after the other,
 air is still, nothing
 moves, just flake after
 flake, I watch in awe
 as the flakes change
 the landscape, more flakes
 than stars in the sky,
 I wonder what it is
 like to be a snowflake
 freely falling from
 on high, do they know
 their companions, do
 they know their
 destination, or
 why they fall,
 so many questions,
 do the first flakes hurt
 when they land on
 frozen ground, do all
 of them hurt as they
 pile up on top of
 each other, or get
 stepped on, I leave the
 wondering, return
 to awe, watching the
 transformation as
 my world is hushed and
 blanketed in white.

-Marge Burke

WINTER IS

Winter is wonderful
 win-win for outdoor
 sports enthusiasts.
 Winter is white with snow,
 Winter is wonderful,
 a win-win for
 shovels and plows, mittens,
 wooly hats, and boots, too.
 Winter is for skiing,
 down-hill or cross country,
 snow shoeing and sledding.
 Winter is cold weather,
 good for ice skating, and
 bob houses for fishing.
 Winter is for cocoa,

a roaring fire and
 time to read a good book.
 Winter is for making
 snow angels and snow balls,
 riding a snowmobile.
 Winter is a hushed world
 blanketed by white snow,
 wrapped up in a cocoon.
 Winter is a full moon,
 casting shadows across
 the snow covered forest.
 Winter is before spring,
 warmer days.
 when earth awakens, more
 daylight and warmer days.

-Marge Burke

Why We Love Living in NH

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



Viki Rinne photo.



"Sunrise in Weare" (Nancy Kincaid (photo).



Parking Lot Transformed (Marlayna Keane photo).



Henniker Pines (Joe Czarnecki photo)

Weare Business Corner

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Travel with Confidence: Unlocking the Power of Trip Protection

By Alicia Garcia, Cross Travel Services

Trip protection is more than just a safety net – it's a crucial component of modern travel, empowering travelers to explore the world with confidence and peace of mind. By investing in trip protection, travelers can embark on their adventures knowing that they're equipped to handle whatever challenges may arise along the way. Here are some key benefits:

TRIP CANCELLATION OR TRIP INTERRUPTION

Imagine you've booked a long-awaited vacation and have paid for flights, accommodations and activities totaling several thousand dollars and you unexpectedly fall ill a week before your departure date and your doctor advises against traveling. Trip protection offers a safety net against unexpected changes or interruptions. This coverage ensures that travelers are financially protected against non-refundable expenses for flights, accommodations, and activities affected by unforeseen circumstances like flight cancellations, illness, or emergencies.

PRO TIP: Place your trip protection policy details in a bag you carry with you at all times while traveling.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL OR EVACUATION ASSISTANCE

You're on a hiking trip in a remote area of a foreign country. While exploring trails, you accidentally slip and fracture your leg. You're in significant pain and unable to walk back to your lodging or access medical facilities easily. Trip protection provides invaluable assistance in emergencies by covering emergency medical expenses and evacuation services. In the event of an illness or injury during travel, travelers can rest assured knowing that they have access to necessary medical care and support, including transportation to medical facilities or repatriation to their home country if needed.

PRO TIP: Keep emergency contact numbers in a backpack for easy access while traveling.

LOST OR DELAYED BAGGAGE AND FLIGHTS

A business trip takes you overseas. You've packed all your essential documents, clothes, presentation

See TRAVEL, page 13

TRAVEL, continued from page 12

materials in your checked baggage. However, when you arrive at your destination airport, you're informed that your luggage hasn't made it onto the flight due to a mishap during transfer. Trip protection includes benefits for lost or delayed baggage and flights, offering reimbursement for essential items purchased due to baggage delays and compensation for lost or damaged belongings. Additionally, it may provide coverage for additional expenses incurred due to flight delays or missed connections, ensuring travelers can navigate such inconveniences without bearing the full financial burden.

PRO TIP: Slip an AirTag or Tile into your checked baggage to track its location.

As you embark on your next adventure, remember that trip protection is your steadfast companion, offering reassurance and support every step of the way. Whether you're exploring distant lands or traversing familiar territory, travel with confidence, knowing that you have the power of trip protection on your side. For more travel tips and insight, follow me on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#)



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Mark Your Calendar**Wednesday, Feb. 14**

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

Friday, Feb. 16

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

Monday, Feb. 19

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

Tuesday, Feb. 20

- 7 p.m. – Cable Committee meeting

Saturday, Feb. 24

- 9 a.m. – Weare Republicans meeting

Monday, Feb. 26

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

Tuesday, Feb. 27

- 6 p.m. – Board of Fire Wards meeting

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