

TRENDY TIMES

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DECEMBER 8, 2009 VOLUME 1 NUMBER 10

Safe Route to School for Bath?



The safety of the children attending the Bath Village School will be the main focus of a meeting scheduled for Monday, December 14 at the school. The safety factor refers to the lack of a safe pathway from the school to the village center and residential areas.

Currently there are two ways to get from the school to the town library, town clerk's office or to the common in front of The Brick Store. One of those options

is down a rather slippery and steep path that can be even more treacherous in the winter. At one time this path was a viable option, but due to time and deterioration it is not a safe alternative.

The other way is to walk along the side of busy Route 302. There is only a little bit of shoulder to walk on and with the traffic it also is not an option most people are happy with.

Therefore on Monday, December 14 at 4:00 PM a

meeting of Safe Routes to School for the Town of Bath will be held. This event is open to the public, and the public is very much encouraged to attend. The agenda will include a Power Point presentation by John Corrigan, the Safe Routes to School Coordinator from the NH DOT. Mr. Corrigan will also have time for a question and answer session following his formal presentation. Mary Deppe from the North Country Council will also be in attendance to add guidance from the Council.

This event is not the first step on the path to getting a safe pathway for the Bath Village School students. For some time now a group of concerned people in Bath have been laying the groundwork. At this point the Bath School Board has offered full support of the project. Also it appears that everyone at the school itself is very much behind the project.

One of the positive aspects of this project is that there is a grant possibility that would fully fund this construction. In order to qualify for that grant there must be a committee formed in Bath that has the full backing of the town. It also requires that at least one if not more parents of students are involved with the committee.

Another positive that has

been mentioned is that not only will the children of the Bath Village School be made more safe, but they may also be able to be better educated. With the sidewalk in place and safety issues dealt with, then trips to the library for after school projects become much more viable. The students also annually make the trip to the common on Veterans Day for an historical visit and ceremony honoring veterans.

Once formed, the committee will be looking at what the guide refers to as the "5 E's" Evaluation,

Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, and Engineering. It appears that Bath is on its way to fulfilling the "5 E's" and making this a positive for the town and its children.

So please circle the date of Monday, December 14th. The time is 4:00 PM. Concerned citizens are very much encouraged to attend, ask questions, voice your opinion and possibly volunteer to help out on the continuation of this grant proposal and eventual construction of a safe, sensible walk way for the children and adults of Bath.



Photos courtesy of Colleen Strout

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Christmas Trees

By David Falkenham

Extension Educator, Forestry and Wildlife Resources

The Thanksgiving craziness is behind us and now it's time to settle in, roll up our sleeves and get ready for the bulk of the Holiday season. Have you taken care of the most important Holiday event? Which event is that you might ask? The Christmas tree of course, when the tree is up the holiday's can really begin! My wife and I took the black lab for a tree cutting date the Friday after Thanksgiving... I call it "Green Friday".

Whenever I scan my memory banks to past Holidays, it is always the memory of the glowing tree in the living room that stays with me, every other memory is fuzzy, but the Christmas tree sticks. My earliest memories of cutting down a Christmas tree come from Jefferson, New Hampshire on a Tree Farm once owned by an elderly

Austrian man and his German wife. They had very thick accents that somehow seemed to enhance the experience. After what seemed like hours of tromping through the snow looking for the perfect tree, my father, sisters and I would return triumphant in our annual conquest and the elderly couple would treat us to hot chocolate and cookies and of course wine for my dad.

Fittingly, my research on the history of the Christmas tree takes me to Germany and Scandinavia; where late in the Middle Ages the people would place evergreen trees inside their homes to show their hope in the forthcoming spring. These early traditions gave rise to our modern Christmas tree. According to legend the first stories of decorating trees came

from a German man named Martin Luther who was awestruck by the beauty of the snow covered evergreens near his home. On his walk one evening he was so enchanted by the moonlight reflecting through the snowy forest that he returned home, cut down an evergreen tree and placed it in his home to share the story with his children. He then decorated the tree with candles which he lit in celebration of Christmas. By the 1700's, the decorated Christmas tree was well established in Germany, France and Austria.

This tradition likely crossed the Atlantic into America with German immigrants and Hessian Soldiers during the American Revolution. Legend has it (there is often a fine line between legend and history), that a cele-

bration around a Christmas tree on a bitter cold Christmas Eve at Trenton, New Jersey may have turned the tide for American colonial forces in 1776. As the story goes, Hessian Mercenaries were so reminded of home by a decorated evergreen that they abandoned their guard posts to eat, drink and be merry. General George Washington attacked that evening and defeated them.

Early condemnation by Puritans slowed the spread of the tradition in the United States. Even as late as 1851 a Cleveland minister nearly lost his job because he allowed a tree in the church. Despite all of this the tradition has grown with steady acceptance. Today the Christmas tree business is internationally recognized, as can be noted this time of year

by the dozens of tractor trailer loads of trees headed south.

When it comes to choosing your tree, it really is a matter of personal preference. There are many species to choose from, Scotch pine, Balsam fir and Fraser fir are the most common in New England. The best advice that I can give about choosing a good Christmas tree is to support your local economy and get your tree from a local Christmas tree producer. There are literally dozens of Christmas tree producers in this area and they all work very hard throughout the year to grow beautiful, fragrant and long lasting Christmas trees. Some producers have "choose-n-cut"; others will cut them and have them on display for you to choose from. Some places even add extra's to the experience by having refreshments in a warm building, sleigh rides, Santa visits...the list is endless.

Regardless of where you go, it will be a great memory builder for the entire family. The small cost of the tree is nothing compared to the expensive Blackberry that you are getting your spouse this year, the memory lasts forever and I guaranty you won't forget to buy batteries. To me the tree, and the experience associated with it, means just a little bit more...

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Santa's Secret Wish

By Unknown

On Christmas Eve, a young boy with light in his eyes
Looked deep into Santa's, to Santa's surprise,
And said as he nestled on Santa's broad knee,
"I want your secret. Tell it to me."
He leaned up and whispered in Santa's good ear,
"How do you do it, year after year?"

"I want to know how, as you travel about,
Giving gifts here and there, you never run out..
How is it dear Santa, that in your pack of toys
You have plenty for all of the world's girls and boys?
Stays so full, never empties, as you make your way
From rooftop to rooftop, to homes large and small,
From Nation to Nation, reaching them all?"

And Santa smiled kindly and said to the boy,
"Don't ask me hard questions. Don't you want a toy?"
But the child shook his head, and Santa could see
That he needed the answer. "Now listen to me,"
He told the small boy with the light in his eyes,

"My secret will make you sadder, and wise."
"The truth is that my sack is magic. Inside
It holds millions of toys for my Christmas Eve ride..
But although I do visit each girl and each boy
I don't always leave them a gaily-wrapped toy..

Some homes are hungry, some homes are sad,
Some homes are desperate, some homes are bad..
Some homes are broken, and children there grieve..
Those homes I visit, but what should I leave?

My sleigh is filled with the happiest stuff,
But for homes where despair lives, toys aren't enough..
So I tiptoe in, kiss each girl and boy,
And pray with them that they'll be given the joy
Of the Spirit of Christmas, the Spirit that lives
In the heart of the dear child, who gets not but gives."

"If only God hears me and answers my prayer,
When I visit next year, what I will find there,
Are homes filled with peace, and with giving, and love..
And boys and girls gifted with light from above..
It's a very hard task, my smart little brother,
To give toys to some, and give prayers to others..
But the prayers are the best gifts, the best gifts indeed,
For God has a way of meeting each need."

"That's part of the answer. The rest, my dear youth,
Is that my sack is magic, and that is the truth..
In my sack I carry on Christmas Eve day
More love than a Santa could e'er give away..
The sack never empties of love, or of joys
'Cause inside it are prayers, and hopes. Not just toys..
The more that I give, the fuller it seems,
Because giving is my way of fulfilling dreams..

And do you know something? You've got a sack, too..
It's as magic as mine, and it's inside of you..
It never gets empty, it's full from the start,
It's the center of lights, and of love, it's your heart..
And if on this Christmas you want to help me,
Don't be so concerned with the gifts 'neath your tree..
Open your sack called your heart, and share,
Your joy, your friendship, your wealth, your care."

The light in the small boy's eyes was glowing..
'Thanks for the secret. I've got to be going."
"Wait, little boy," said Santa, "don't go..
Will you share? Will you help? Will you use what you know?"
And just for a moment the small boy stood still,
Touched his heart with his small hand and whispered, "I will."

Calendar of Events

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11

VIGIL FOR HOPE AND SURVIVAL

5:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Grace United Methodist Church, Bradford

See page 11 for more information.

HOLIDAY HARMONIES BY THE PINE HILL SINGERS

7:00 PM

Alumni Hall, Haverhill

GUIDED MEDITATION WITH SUSAN LUCAS

7:00 PM

Serenity Day Spa, Woodsville

Please bring non-perishable food item as admission.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

4TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon

Learn & Grow Preschool, Haverhill

WHITE MOUNTAIN FOSTER & RESCUE CRAFT FAIR

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

First Congregational Church, Haverhill

See page 11 for details.

BUTTON UP VERMONT WORKSHOP

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Blue Mountain Union School, Wells River

TEEN DANCE

7:00 PM - 10:00 PM

American Legion, Woodsville

See page 9 for details.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13

LIGHTING OF THE MEMORY TREE

5:30 PM

United Congregational Church of Orford, Orford

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20

LIGHTING OF THE MEMORY TREE

2:00 PM

Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

MONDAY, DECEMBER 21

HAVERHILL SELECTBOARD MEETING

6:00 PM

Morrill Municipal Building, North Haverhill

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

6:00 PM

Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

7:30 PM

Orfordville Church Building, Orford

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

CAROL SING

9:00 AM

Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

CAROL SING

10:30 AM

United Congregational Church of Orford, Orford

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

BRING A BELL AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR

9:00 AM

Bethany Church, United Church of Christ, Pike

BRING A BELL AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR

10:30 AM

United Congregational Church of Orford, Orford, NH

WHENEVER DATE

Place your event for your town, school or organization at no charge.

Submit your entries by:

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Deadline for submissions Thursday by 5pm

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China, Now A Great Power

By George Clark

Until the early Nineteenth century, China, a nation with a long history, purposely was isolated from contact with other than Asian people. During the first two thousand years it went through a series of dynasties, much like Egypt. When each became weak, another group from the land mass would assume power. An example of this was the great Mongol conquerors, like Genghis Khan who began their conquest of China about 1200 A.D. This went on until the earliest European contacts, and later. Italian adventurers, like Marco Polo, made contacts as did later Mediterranean and Arabic people. The Portugese and Spaniards developed some trading with China but essentially were limited to just coastal areas like the island of Macao near Canton.

Essentially, China's rulers wanted little to do with foreigners. They were satisfied with their own culture and saw little advantage in allowing any nation[s] to make contact with them. However, as the modern era began many nations, especially those aggressive European nations that were expanding their markets, decided that China with its huge population must become a trading partner. A trading partner but at China's disadvantage, of course.

The real trouble began in the early nineteenth century when Great Britain, anxious to dispose of its huge crop of opium grown on the island of Ceylon was hindered from selling it in China. The emperor and his staff realized that opium was causing great problems for the easily addicted peasants and

their control over them. Therefore they ordered no further importation in 1800 though the British continued to deliver the "product" until 1839 when the Imperial Commissioner Lin Tse-hsü burned all the annual import (30,000 chests).

The British decided they couldn't lose that massive buying public and initiated several physical attacks upon the immature naval forces of the great backward nation of China. In 1840 the British navy reacted by occupying the Chusan and Canton River forts which forced a treaty, unaccepted later by the Chinese nor British.

This was the beginning of a series of attacks by Great Britain, soon after by France, and eventually leading to the T'ai P'ing Rebellion against the weak imperial government which lasted

from 1850 until 1864. Other nations, including the United States, took advantage of China's weakness and forced a series of unequal treaties upon her including the Treaty of Tientsin, 26-29 June 1858 which open eleven more ports to Britain, France, the US and Russia. The Occupation of Peking by British and French troops which burnt down the Summer Palace on 12 October 1860, and increased China's indemnities and among other items, allowed Catholic missions to own land in China. In fact, the brand new Japanese nation even took advantage of China by invading the Chinese island of Formosa in 1874 resulting in the occupation of that island until 1945.

Needless to say, China was a sick nation with an extremely weak form of government and many occidental nations were gradually taking advantage of her. Not too long after these happenings, Italy, Austria, Denmark, and Germany were also signing advantageous treaties with China, which was also losing land, mostly on the coast to the major countries like Britain, Russia, Japan, and France. Hong Kong was an island actually (conquered) owned by Britain as was the island of Macao by Portugal. In fact the US did not own any land nor occupy any space in China, but had enviable treaty rights as did the European nations.

Then came an uprising that frightened all nations. A band of Chinese, led by mystics and called the "Righteous Fists" later degraded by the occidentals to "Boxers" began moving against foreigners in 1899-1900. At first it was isolated outbreaks and mainly against missionaries, a group forced upon the Chinese through the unequal treaties. Many of whom were hurt and killed in outlying sections and hordes were soon making their way to places like the Legations in Peking. Additionally, those Chinese converted to Christianity were especial targets and most badly harmed if not killed outright.

All foreigners were frightened, and at Peking the ambassadors and staffs were begging their home nations to send troops immediately if not sooner. Off shore, naval forces of the various nations plying the China seas were gathering in the port area about Taku and landing available forces. The 50 American Marines, along with British

Marines, French, Russian and Italian sailors, and a detachment of Japanese Marines, were among the first to arrive and at once began moves to train toward Peking. After a few adventures a trainload arrived there on 1 June 1900. The US Marines, led by Captain "Handsome Jack" Myers, was the first off the train and led the group into a cheering legation throng. "Now we are saved." Not quite.

The Boxers, then joined by the Imperial Army, laid down a siege on the foreign legations while arriving troops from Great Britain, Russia, Japan, the US and several smaller detachments, managed to make it to Tientsin. They were forced to fight the Chinese Boxers and since the Allied fleets bombarded Chinese forts at Taku, now the Imperial army before they could advance on Peking. One group of British and a few Americans had earlier tried to make the trip to Peking but were disastrously treated by the huge Chinese armies and forced to retreat back to Tientsin.

After 55 days the allies advanced upon Peking and finally relieved the hard pressed legation guards, and it was mostly the US Marines and their next door neighbors, the German Marines who had fought the Chinese to a stand still. Mainly because they both held the wall which the Chinese had to capture in order to defeat the legation defenses.

After this, the treaties the Allies forced upon China were even worse than all the previous unequal pacts. This was the real beginning of the enmity of the Chinese for outsiders. The land they lost, the rights as a nation they hadn't already lost were then literally taken away. The worst part, for China, was that those occidental nations didn't see anything wrong with what happened. For many years after, the occidentals would demand their "rights" and always get them. At least until the socialist forces of Sun Yat-sen's Kuomintang began another Chinese rebellion in 1911. It continued with military forces led by General Chiang Kai-shek fighting warlord armies for many years until the Japanese launched their invasion in the so-called "China Incident" in 1937.

To be continued in the next edition of Trendy Times.



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THE WORLD'S NEWS LEADER

Letter To The Editor

To the Editor:

After reading "one down - how many more to go?" In your December 1, 2009 edition of Trendy Times I must say I'm irate over the fact that the "accused" isn't named. There was no news release from the Grafton County sheriff's office or the Grafton County prosecutor's office. The fact that the "accused" was released is "bologna". If it was anyone else their name, mug shot, entire life story and most assuredly guilt would have been splashed all over your newspaper. So, once again the "privileged" get away with a slap on the wrist.

A "real first class operation" as stated by Grafton County Sherriff Douglas Dutile, should be enough to put the "accused" away for a more than a few years. Why

waste our tax dollars with a trial; 'not guilty' would be a bit of a stretch for anyone when they're caught redhanded ("I didn't know there was marijuana growing in my basement", just won't fly). It 's quite obvious Mr. Prosecutor & Sheriff Dutile that the "accused" knew what he/she was doing and intended to sell/distribute illegal drugs in our community. The fact that the "accused" isn't named and is being protected by the Grafton County authorities is too much for me. I'm glad I live across the river, but the community of Haverhill and Grafton county may want to consider electing new public servants who serve all the community and not just those "with very strong family ties to the area".

B. Smith
West Newbury, VT

From the Editor:

The article in Trendy Times did not mention the name of the arrested individual because of the extensive coverage in other publications in the area. The story in Trendy Times was more about what else is going on in the area.

For the record it was the decision of a Haverhill District Court Bail Commissioner to set the terms of bail.

Also for the record, the arrested person was Patricia W. Smith, age 55, who lived in the Mt. Lakes area of Haverhill.

At the time of this writing, there have been no further arrests in this case. However, the case remains open and authorities expect more arrests to be made as a result of the investigation.




2000-2009

Name That Decade!

The following is a response to the question posed in the December 1 issue of Trendy Times.

The question was: What is the name of this decade (2000-2009)?

It is not too late to add your comments for future issues of Trendy Times.

By Peter Moore

I like to think of the first two decades of a century as being like the first two years of a baby's life.

For the first two decades, each year stands alone. Time is marked by the year and not the decade. After the first nineteen years* of a century, people start referring to decades. The Twen-

ties. The Thirties. And so on.

For the first two years of a baby's life, time is marked by months and not years. Once a baby reaches the age of two, their time is marked by how many year's old they are. Two years old. Three years old. And so on.

*A century actually starts at the beginning of a year ending in "01". Hence: "...nineteen years..."

Peter B. LaVoice
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Trendy Times will feature Happy Hanukkah Greetings in our 12/15 issue, Merry Christmas Greetings in our 12/22 issue and other Season Greetings through December.
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Hanukkah Is Definitely December 11-19

I must start this article with a HUGE APOLOGY. In our December 1 issue of Trendy Times, on the front page, no less, we ran an article entitled "December is...". In that article we pointed out some of the important dates of the month. We mentioned good happenings as well as those less enjoyable, but just as memorable.

One of those important times of December is

Hanukkah. Not a single date, but a time period that unlike many holidays, moves each year. For 2009 the dates are December 11-19. In our last issue somehow the dates were listed as December 22-29. For that misprint I truly apologize. I need to thank those that took the time to call our office to tell us we made a mistake. And I do mean thank you. Without those calls I would not have known of the error, and there-

fore could not correct it here. So again, thank you to the callers, it was simply a typo when the dates were put into the article. In doing further research on this article I did discover, as some of the callers mentioned, that the 2008 dates for Hanukkah were, ironically, December 22-29.

As a means of learning more about this holiday I hit the web and found these items. Wikipedia, the online encyclopedia defines Hanukkah as follows:

Hanukkah in Modern Hebrew, also romanized as Chanukah), also known as the Festival of Lights, is an eight-day Jewish holiday commemorating the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem at the time of the Maccabean Revolt of the 2nd century BCE. Hanukkah is observed for eight nights, starting on the 25th day of Kislev according to the Hebrew calendar, and may occur from late November to late December on the Gregorian calendar.

The festival is observed by the kindling of the lights of a special candelabrum, the nine-branched Menorah or Hanukiah, one light on each night of the holiday, progressing to eight on the final night. An extra light called a shamash (Hebrew: "guard" or "ser-



vant") is also lit each night for the purpose of lighting the others, and is given a distinct location, usually above or below the rest.

In the United States, Hanukkah is considered as one of several primary holidays celebrated this time of year.

From another on line site comes the following: The first day of Hanukkah in 2009 is on Saturday, December 12, meaning the first candle to be lit is on Friday night, December 11. The holiday runs 8 days, through December 19, 2009.

Still another web site gives us the starting dates of Hanukkah for the next six years as follows:

Wednesday, December 1
in 2010
Tuesday, December 20
in 2011

Saturday, December 8
in 2012
Wednesday, November 27
in 2013
Tuesday, December 16
in 2014

Sunday, December 6
in 2015

Hanukkah is also marked, traditionally, by the giving of gold to children, the playing of games which include the entire family, plus the reciting of prayers during the lighting ceremony and the playing of music.

In closing, I do not pretend to be an expert on Hanukkah, nor is this article meant to be any more than the very basic information about this holiday. And again I wish to thank our readers for letting me know of the error and giving me the opportunity to correct it. Happy Hanukkah to all.

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AD COURTESY OF TRENDY TIMES

The Grinch that "Stole" Kwanzaa

By Peter A. Heilemann

"Happy Hanukkah" is a cry heard for over 2,200 years celebrating the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem during the Maccabean Rebellion in the 2nd century BC.

"Merry Christmas" is also a cry heard, arguably, for over 2,000 years and celebrates the historical birth [through Roman census records] of Jesus of Nazareth, whom Christians worship as the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

"Happy Holidays" has been around for hundreds of years and has become especially prevalent since the pandemic of political correctness from the 80's up to now. That is, in part, an effort to celebrate Christmas without bringing religion into it; if that was possible. [I am not so paranoid as to think "Merry Xmas" is a concerted effort to eliminate Christ from Christmas, but it does make one ponder...]

Kwanzaa is a 'holiday' invented by Ronald McKinley Everett, an African American political activist who was heavily involved in the Black Power movement. He is a convicted felon who served time in a federal prison for felony assault and false imprisonment. He tortured two female members of his own 'US Organization'.

At Karenga's trial, the question of his sanity arose. A psychiatrist's report stated the following: "This man now represents a picture which can be considered both paranoid and schizophrenic with hallucinations and illusions, inappropriate affect, disorganization, and impaired contact with the environment." The psychiatrist reportedly observed that Karenga talked to his blanket and imaginary persons, and believed he'd been attacked by dive-bombers. [Citation in Wikipedia]

Everett, who now goes by the name Ron Karenga, founded the 'US Organization', a Black Nationalist organization which competed

with the Black Panthers for attention, funds and followers.

While Kwanzaa is presented in a fashion to make one believe they are celebrating the African roots and heritage of the slaves and although it has much in the way of animism and earth-worship in its rituals, it is actually a totally American, completely fabricated pseudo-holiday which has no connection with any African traditional feasts. Even on his website, Karenga admits, "On the national level, we created Kwanzaa..."

True to the warped principles of political correctness, convicted felon Karenga left prison only to become a professor in the Africana Studies department of California State University at Long Beach.

So...
... Happy Hanukkah? ...fine!
... Merry Christmas? ... also fine!!!
... Happy Holidays? ... ok, if you insist?!!

But "Happy Kwanzaa"?

I'd rather send Santa a birthday card.
[...and he's not real either]

Trying To Catch The Fog

By Michele Avery

Often, when I find myself in a contemplative mood, I grab my camera and hop into the jeep and look for the miracles in nature. This day, while ice was blanketing the branches of our backyard trees, I headed south and felt compelled to pull off the road somewhere near Lyme and found this wonderfully serene waterside creation that I could not pass up. I call it, "Trying to catch the fog." I am not sure whose house can be found sleeping at the water's edge, but I am

thankful for the combination of elements at the right moment.



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Legion Supports Veteran's Fight For Flagpole

The following was taken from a web site entitle "The American Legion Flag Advocacy"

The American Legion has joined the fight being waged by a Medal of Honor recipient against a Virginia homeowner association's demands to remove a flagpole.

Col. Van Barfoot, 90, a World War II and Vietnam veteran, was ordered by the Sussex Square Homeowner's Association to remove the flag pole from his front lawn after he flew the U.S. flag on Labor Day and Veterans Day. The association is claiming that the flag pole is not "aesthetically appropriate."

"The association underestimated the fight left in this elderly veteran and now they have to contend with the determination and persistence of Col. Barfoot's 2.5 million friends in The American Legion," National Commander Clarence Hill said. "Col. Barfoot has hired legal counsel. The American Legion is prepared to help with the expenses and fight these disgraceful actions by the association. Where is the common sense here? Is this anyway to treat any American, much

less a true hero like Col Barfoot?"

Fighting for the flag is not new to The American Legion, the nation's leading authority on flag etiquette. Since 1989, The Legion has been fighting for a constitutional amendment that would grant Congress the authority to protect Old Glory from desecration.

"The flag is a symbol of our country," Hill said. "People should fly it proudly. That's all Col. Barfoot wants to do. If he were desecrating the flag, instead, the association couldn't do a thing to stop him. We proudly stand with Col. Barfoot and say 'enough already!' Let him keep the flagpole and fly the flag as often as he wants. He certainly earned that right."

"What the association is doing is especially disgraceful given the fact that our president has ordered another 30,000 troops to Afghanistan in defense of our freedom," added Joseph Caouette, The American Legion's Chairman of Americanism. "I wonder what they think of all of this."

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Trendy Times reserves the right to accept or reject publication of any letter to the editor or submission of any nature for any reason, of course you will need to be really out there for us to turn you down. However, we do reserve the right to make slight changes to submissions for readability purposes. Thank you for your understanding.



TRENDY TIMES
 A WEEKLY PUBLICATION

Something To Think About

By David Turner

Putting things in perspective. I don't think we do that much any more, I think that habit died somewhere with the "ME" generation. I will always believe that the WW2 generation is and will be the finest generation we will ever have in this country. Why, because they knew how to put things in perspective, and we forgot how. This is a true story about how a close friend of mine learned how to put her life in perspective, and became a better person because of it.

It started when she made an appointment to see a psychiatrist. Her life, in her eyes had become almost unbearable. She was recently divorced. Her ex husband was abusive, mostly mental but there had been some physical abuse also. They had a child together and there were constant court battles for custody and past due child support. She had recently been laid off from her good paying job and had to take another job that paid much less and she was getting behind in her bills. And, to top it all off, her son, obviously affected by all the fighting between them, was becoming difficult to deal with.

She woke up the morning of the appointment, feeling the same dread of facing the day that had become a part of her life. She started thinking about all she was going to tell the doctor, not wanting to miss anything. She hoped that by being able to tell everything that was happening in her life, not missing anything, that the psychiatrist would better be able to offer her the help she so desperately needed.

The day progressed as usual, fighting to get her kid dressed, then fed, then off to day care. Then she had to get herself ready to go to her job, which she had begun to hate, all the time trying to get her story together for her af-

ternoon appointment. She hoped that tomorrow would be better somehow, after her talk. She wasn't sure how it would be better, but she had run out of options.

She made it through the day and it came time to go see the doctor. She felt that she had every situation in her life that was a problem ready to explain, and had even made little notes to help remind her of the things that were making her life so difficult. She pulled in the driveway of the office with both anticipation and a little dread. What if the doctor didn't understand her situation? What if this person she was about to see, had not been in her situation and couldn't understand how awful her life actually was? She walked into the office, wondering how she would feel, walking out.

The doctor called her in. She had known it would be a female. She had asked specifically for one, feeling that only a woman could understand how she was feeling. But, the person that stood before her was a tiny, soft-spoken woman with a slight foreign accent. This worried her some. What if she didn't understand English enough to really be able to do any good, to offer any advice that would actually help her better cope with everyday life?

The lady motioned for her to have a seat and walked around her desk to her chair. She said she would be right with her as she finished filling out some papers, probably from the last patient. My friend sat in the chair in front of the nice oak desk and began to think of all the problems she was facing, trying to get it in proper order, not wanting to miss a thing. There was the bills, the ex husband, the problems with the kid, and it just seemed that she could never

get a break in life. Every time she thought she might get a little ahead, something would happen to put her right back down. She would be able to save a little money and something would happen to her car. She would feel that she was making a little progress with her son, and then get a call from the day care person that he was causing problems with the rest of the kids there. As the lady finished up, she felt she was ready, that she pretty much had things in order, and prepared herself to unload all her life problems on the doctor.

But, just as she took a breath to start, the doctor reached out to straighten something on her desk. As she did, her sleeve pulled back and my friend noticed some marks on her arm. At first she didn't know what it was. She looked a little closer then it hit her! She knew exactly what they were! The marks were tattoos, numbers that the Nazis had put there to identify her, when she had been admitted to one of the hundreds of concentration camps that dotted the German countryside during the Second World War!

For a moment she was speechless, thinking about those marks and what they meant. This lady had probably been starved, worked half to death, and maybe even experimented on. She looked up and found the woman looking back at her, waiting patiently to hear about her problems, and in that moment, something happened to her. Just a moment before, her life seemed terrible. Now, it seemed only difficult. What could she possibly tell this lady that would seem the least bit awful. What terrible things could she relate that could come close to the horrors that doctor had experienced.

Right there, right then, her life changed. Those marks on that ladies arm was exactly what she needed to see at that time to be able to put her life in perspective. She realized that even though life seemed pretty awful, there were others around her that had seen and done things that were far more terrible than anything she could ever dream of. Thinking about what she knew of that time in our countries history and all the suffering that had gone on then, she could no longer come up with anything in her life that she now felt she needed to talk about.

Not knowing what else she could say, she smiled at the lady and told her that maybe she had made a mistake by coming there, and would call her if she needed to talk about it in the future, knowing that she wouldn't, and got up and left. She didn't see it, but as she left, the doctor pulled her sleeve back down, and smiled.

She drove home, this time not thinking about the misery of her life, but of the fact that the sun was shining and the brisk air was saying that fall would soon be here and just how pretty the colors would be, when it came.

David Turner is a contributing writer for this paper. He and his wife Deborah own the Variety Store in Woodsville. Their store donates profits from the sale of a large variety of new and gently used household articles, that they have purchased over several years, back into the community in the form of heat, food and clothing to those that are a little less fortunate than most. Although only open for a couple months, they have already helped several families in the area. They are depending on the support of the general public to be able to continue to do so. They hope you will stop by and check them out at 147 Central Street, in Woodsville, next to Cumberland Farms.

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December 8, 2009

Volume 1 Number 10

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Seal and Insulate

Nancy Rae Mallery, Green Energy Times, Bradford, VT - October 5, 2009 Issue.

For more info about Energy Independence: www.greenenergytimes.org

Sealing and insulating the "envelope" or "shell" of your home: its outer walls, ceiling, windows, doors, and floors is often the most cost effective way to improve energy efficiency and comfort saving up to 20% on heating and cooling costs (or up to 10% on your total annual energy bill).

Sealing Leaks. Many air leaks and drafts are easy to find because they are easy to feel, like those around windows and doors. But holes hidden in attics, basements and crawlspaces are usually bigger problems. Sealing these leaks with caulk, spray foam, or weather stripping will have a great impact on

improving your comfort and reducing utility bills. Concerned about sealing your house too tightly? This is very unlikely in most older homes. A certain amount of fresh air is needed for good indoor air quality and there are specifications that set the minimum amount of fresh air needed for a house.

If you are concerned about how tight your home is, hire a contractor who can use diagnostic tools to measure your home's actual leakage. If your home is too tight, a fresh air ventilation system may be recommended.

After any home sealing project, have a heating and cooling technician check

to make sure that your combustion appliances (gas- or oil-fired furnace, water heater and dryer) are venting properly.

Adding Insulation. Insulation keeps your home warm in the winter and cool in the summer. There are several common types of insulation: fiberglass*, cellulose, rigid foam board and spray foam.

When correctly installed with air sealing, each type of insulation can deliver comfort and lower energy bills during the hottest and coldest times of the year.

Insulation performance is measured by R-value, its ability to resist heat flow.

Higher R-values mean more insulating power. Different R-values are recommended for walls, attics, basements and crawlspaces. Insulation works best when air is not moving through or around it.

It is very important to seal air leaks before installing insulation to ensure that you get the best performance from the insulation.

To get the biggest savings, the easiest place to add insulation is usually in the attic. A quick way to see if you need more insulation is to look across your uncovered attic floor. If your insulation is level with or below the attic floor joists, you probably need to add more insulation. The rec-

ommended insulation level for most attics is R-38 (or about 12-15 inches, depending on the insulation type). In the coldest climates, insulating up to R-50 is recommended.

Sealing Ducts. In houses with forced-air heating and cooling systems, ducts are used to distribute conditioned air throughout the house. In a typical house, however, about 20 percent of the air that moves through the duct system is lost due to leaks and poorly sealed connections. The result is higher utility bills and difficulty keeping the house comfortable, no matter how the thermostat is set.

Because some ducts are concealed in walls and between floors, repairing them can be difficult. However, exposed ducts in attics, basements, crawlspaces and garages can be repaired by sealing the leaks with duct sealant (also called duct mastic). In addition, insulating ducts that run through spaces that get hot in summer or cold in winter (like attics, garages, or crawlspaces) can save significant energy.

Additionally, if you are replacing your forced-air heating and cooling equipment, make sure your contractor installs the new system according to ENERGY STAR quality installation guidelines. A quality installation will include a thorough inspection of your duct system, including proper sealing and balancing of ductwork, to help ensure that your new system delivers the most comfort and efficiency.

*Fiberglass... insulation?



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OBITUARY

Calvin J. Perkins, 66, formerly of Rumney, passed away on Tuesday, December 1, 2009, at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center, in Lebanon, after a brief illness.

Born on June 3, 1943, in Plymouth, NH, he was the son of Vernon J. and recently deceased Marjorie (Burnham) Perkins. He was raised in Rumney, graduating from Plymouth High School; he then went on to attend the University of NH and received a Bachelors degree.

Calvin retired from his position as an Area Conservationist with the County of Albany, NY in 1994, and moved back to Rumney. Since his retirement he has been extremely active in conservation and community service to the Greater Rumney Area, he was a past President of the N. H. Association of Conservation; Chairman of Grafton Conservation for 10 years; he served on the State Conservation Commission and also on the Grafton County Farm Advisory Commission; he was a past North Haverhill Fair Director and also a member and Immediate Past President of the Cohase Lions Club.

His is predeceased by a brother, Rudy Perkins, and his parents.

Calvin is survived by his two sons, Shannon Perkins, and Rexland Perkins and wife Diane; a brother, Barry



Perkins; a sister, Joyce Prague and husband Michael; three nephews, Alan Claveau, Joshua Perkins, and Brandon Perkins; three nieces, Sara

Bucznski and husband Theodore, Kelsey Perkins, and Linda Trask and husband Joshua; three grandnephews, Teddy Buczynski, Wyatt Perkins, and Corbin Trask; a grand niece, Molly Buczynski; and many friends in the greater Rumney Community.

Donations may be made in Calvin's name to a charity of one's choice.

A Funeral Service was held on Saturday, December 5, 2009, at 1:00 pm at Mayhew Funeral Home, 12 Langdon Street, Plymouth, NH. Theodore C. Goodfleisch, pastor of the West Rumney Community Church, Rumney, officiated.

Interment followed the service and was held at the Pleasantview Cemetery, Rte. 25, Rumney.

Vigil For Hope And Survival

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December 8, 2009 Volume 1 Number 10

Dreams & Memories

This is an entry to the Deer Hunting story/photo contest for Trendy Times. The deadline for submission is Thursday, December 10.

By Mark Locke

I couldn't decide on just one story to share so I thought I would share a few. Some are old, some are new, all are special to me. I'll bet alot of you can relate to some of it.

For as long as I can remember, I have been a deer hunting fanatic. I eat, sleep, and breathe whitetail deer. It all started 23 years ago when I was only 10 years old. Dad said if I could pass Hunter Ed., he would take me hunting. Well, I passed and he kept his promise.



Opening day was only a few weeks ahead and we prepared together by sighting in our rifles and "scouting our spot." It kinda seemed more like an afternoon walk through the woods for relaxation than looking for sign, but I was spending time with Dad so it didn't matter to me. To fuel my desire to get into the deer woods even further, Mom and Dad rented a VCR, (remember those days anyone?) and a couple deer hunting videos for me to watch so I could learn more about the sport before I actually stepped into the woods.

With hunter education, practicing my marksmanship, and soaking up as much knowledge about deer hunting as I possibly could behind me, I was ready for opening day. The night before the Vermont rifle season opened was as full of nervous anticipation, as Christmas Eve. Would I be lucky enough to see any deer, would my Dad get to shoot one, or would I tag my first deer?

The alarm went off well

before daylight but I was already awake, dressed and had all of my gear organized on the kitchen table, I was ready. Dad and I had a small breakfast and got ourselves bundled up for the chilly morning air. We only had to drive a very short distance to where we were planning to hunt, and we entered the woods as the sun was peaking over the eastern horizon.

My Dad has never been the type of hunter who could sit for any period of time, so he taught me how to "still hunt." Well he walked through the woods and I followed, I guess it's called still hunting. About a half hour into our "still hunt", the sound of sticks cracking, leaves crunching loudly, and the sound of hooves beating the ground rapidly caught our attention. It was coming our way!! I didn't know what to do! I glanced over at Dad and he was ready with his Winchester 94 .30/30 shouldered and hammer cocked. I raised my 20ga to my shoulder and tried to stop shaking. The deer burst out of the thick spruces into the small opening where we stood, mere yards away. Dad spoke loudly "DOE"! I lowered my gun and stared at Dad who was trying hard not to look too "shook up," and was smiling from ear to ear. I realized I was shaking from head to toe, not from the cold, but from the excitement of having a deer, a REAL LIVE WILD DEER so close I saw the whites of it's eyes! I don't think we saw another deer that day, but from that moment on, I became hooked, obsessed, even addicted to hunting whitetail deer. As I got older, I couldn't wait until I became a dad to

share this with my own children.

October 26th, 2008 the dream of sharing the deer woods with my kids came true. My daughter Mikayla, (then 8y/o) and I sat in a ground blind where we had seen a spike buck and some does in the area and had pictures of them from my trail camera. We had seen nothing all day Saturday except for a couple flags as we snuck into the blind. Sunday evening we were in the blind a little early and deer movement was slow. Mikayla was getting cold but it was still daylight so we slowly headed for the truck. As we were getting to the truck, we saw two does. One bolted and the other hung around just long enough for Mik to load her custom built .223 Handi Rifle, put the crosshairs behind the shoulder, and BOOM!!! The deer piled up in her tracks! Talk about a proud kid! Dad too! Luckily a local gentleman helped with the field dressing and loading chores, because of my disability, I would have had to call someone for help. Thank you very much, YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE! After stopping at the Brick Store for weigh in and registration, it was off to home to surprise Momma and Sissy. To say they were surprised just doesn't describe how excited we all were for little 8 year old Mikayla. She shot her first deer, a doe weighing in at 104lbs in only her 4th trip into the woods! I attached a photo. Her younger sister Alexis is starting to



show some interest in this sport as well. Not so much guns, but archery has come pretty easy for her.

As far as harvesting my first deer, it took me 11 seasons before I took my first deer, a doe. My first buck, well, that took 20 seasons, a busted up 6pt. I was lucky enough to draw an Illinois Archery tag this year through the Illinois' DNR lottery and harvested my first buck with a bow! I have attached a photo of the 204lb 10pt buck.

I say I was lucky to draw a tag, but I was even more lucky to have my Dad travel with me. It was an awesome feeling to get the "big one" for the first time, but to hear the pride in my Dad's voice when I told him about it, was VERY special. I can say with certainty that the hunt for the Illinois buck is at the top of the success ladder size wise, but nothing can ever take the top spot in my special memory file. The memory of sharing that opening day hunt with my Dad 23 years ago is something that I will cherish forever, up there with my Mikayla harvesting her first deer.

Take the time to introduce a child to the outdoors. It will leave a lasting effect on them and can be addictive. It may lead them into other, more "hardcore" activities such as fishing, archery, shooting, hiking, swimming, and could even cause video games, television, cell phones, etc. to be shut off. I was lucky enough to have a Dad that took the time to take me hunting and I am forever thankful for that. I believe it had a positive effect on me and kept me from looking for a chemical high. No chemical can ever give you the rush, exhilaration, and adrenaline charge that having a live wild animal so close you could almost reach out and touch it. Or reeling in a big walleye while fishing the Connecticut River, or taking a partridge on the wing.

If you teach your child to hunt you will never have to hunt for your child.

December 8, 2009 Volume 1 Number 10

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