

THE North Star MONTHLY

Every Small Town's Newspaper

DANVILLE, VERMONT

GOOD FOR THE WHOLE MONTH

\$1.50

DECEMBER 2006
Volume 18, Number 8

PAGE FIFTEEN
**Creative Marketing
Works in Retail**

PAGE SIXTEEN
**The SkyScout
Will Tell
Which Star is Which**



PAGE TWENTY-TWO
**Vanna's
Prime Rib
Fit for a
King or a Queen**

BUD WILKERSON SPENT ONE CHRISTMAS AS A POW

VIRGINIA DOWNS

The dark days of Vermont's early winter prompt unpleasant memories for Bud Wilkerson of Lyndonville. Wilkerson is a veteran of the Battle of the Bulge in World War II. On the morning of December 16, 1944, German tanks surrounded his group from the 106th division, and their captain waved a flag of surrender from his bayonet.

Wilkerson is good-natured and soft-spoken. His drawl reflects his Maryland upbringing. His unlined face belies his age and the heavy physical toll that imprisonment in Germany took at the time he was a young man of 22.

Private First Class Wilkerson sailed for Europe in September of 1944 on the troop ship *Aquitania*. The ship docked in Scotland, and the men were transferred to Stow-on-the-Wold, near London.

From training in the States Wilkerson was a weapons spe-

(Please see *Bud* on Page 6)

Kilimanjaro is More Than a Long Walk

TERRY HOFFER

"When I was 18 I made a list of things I wanted to do before I died. Climbing one of the high peaks in the world was one of them," says Stuart Farina. Farina lived in Keene, NH at the time, and making the list was an adventure itself, but it was nothing compared to standing at the summit of Kilimanjaro looking down over the flat dusty plain of Kenya and Tanzania.

Farina lives in St. Johnsbury. Last summer in July he found his way to the top of Africa.

Kilimanjaro is one of the "Seven Summits," the highest points on each of the earth's seven continents, a list that has inspired some to seek the tops of them all and criticism from others who object to the commercialism and the enormous sums of money involved to do so.

Farina doesn't think of himself as a "peak-bagger," but when the opportunity presented itself to join a group heading for the top of Kilimanjaro, his reaction was, "Count me in." He prefers to be known as a "real enthusiast for the outdoors."

Farina studied physical education, graphic design and small business management in college, and he has parlayed those interests into a series of jobs that are flexible enough to accommodate his enthusiasm for kayaking, rock climbing, bicycling and mountaineering. He is an adjunct instructor at Lyndon State College, he is a school substitute in Waterford and St. Johnsbury, he

is an advisor to the Danville School Outing Club, and he works at Silver Mountain Graphics in St. Johnsbury. Farina is 59, but he remembers well the advice he heard many years ago, "Do as you want and the money will follow."

He says, "My wife and I agreed a long time ago that our tastes are simple. Our vacations tend to be biking, hiking or camping, and we have had some pretty remarkable experiences."

A year ago, John Kascenska, Farina's friend and associate in the department of recreation resource and ski resort management at Lyndon State College, was telling about his own experience on Kilimanjaro in 2005. Kascenska suggested that if he went back Farina should come along. Farina was all for it.

On July 8 the two from Vermont joined Rick Wilcox, from International Mountain Equipment (IME) in North Conway, and six others for a three-week guided trip with the summit of Kilimanjaro its destination.

After 19-hours in an airplane the group had a chance to let time catch up at the base of the mountain in Moshi, Tanzania. Farina describes the town as a "third world tourist trap," where the economy is primarily based on tourism and catering either to missionaries heading into the heart of the continent or to hikers, like Farina and his group, heading up the shell of the

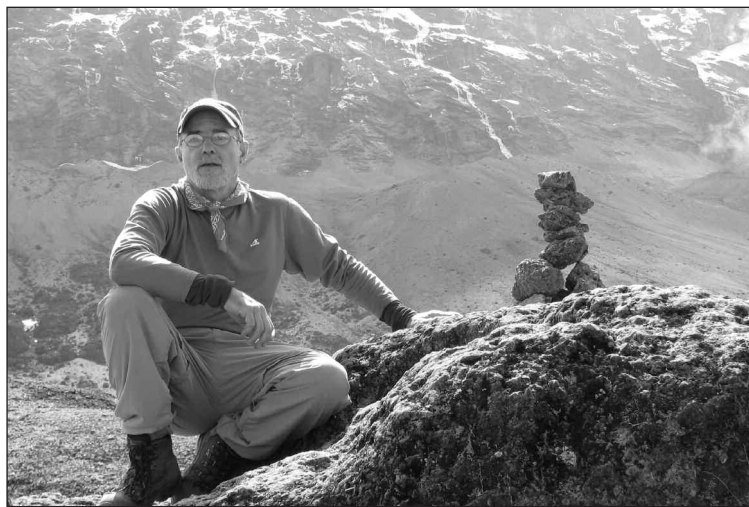


Photo Courtesy of Stuart Farina

In July, Stuart Farina of St. Johnsbury fulfilled one of the dreams of his lifetime. He climbed to the top of one of the high peaks of the world. Kilimanjaro is the highest point in Africa and one of the fabled "seven summits," the highest places on the Earth's seven continents. Here Farina stops at a stone cairn marking the point on the trail at 15,000 feet above sea level, higher in elevation than Farina had ever climbed before.

One Way to Sidestep the Dependence on Imported Sources of Heat



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Danville School Board Chair Fred Kitchel makes a site visit to the wood chip heating system currently in use at the Blue Mountain Union High School in Wells River. On November 8 voters in Danville approved the School Board's proposal to construct a similar system in the area immediately to the south of the school's gymnasium.

This is not going to be like your grandmother's wood furnace. Following an architectural/engineering study, reaffirmation by the Vermont Department of Education as to its financial feasibility and three public hearings, voters in Danville gave thumbs up to a new heating system for their school.

On November 8, Keith Gadapee and the rest of the Danville School Board presented their proposal for the vote. As described, the advantages of a system not dependent upon fossil fuel (that's heating oil) are clear.

Currently the Danville School uses about 27,000 gallons of heating oil each year, depending on the number of degree days - that's a measure of how cold the winter has been in terms of temperature and time. Using an estimated cost of \$2.52 per gallon the Board and the authors of the feasibility study agree that the heating oil required would cost about \$68,000. That's a lot of textbooks and classroom supplies, salaries and benefits and various other dollars that could be spent on educational programs.

Some schools have turned, at least in part, to wood chips. The first was in Calais, north of Montpelier. In the mid 1980's Calais was paying a fortune for electric heat, and the town decided to install a system whereby wood chips would heat the school. Since then the technology

(Please see *Some Schools* on Page 12)

THE North Star MONTHLY

P.O. Box 319 • Danville, VT 05828-0319

HOWARD'S
Home & Garden

"You're Home at Howard's!"

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

St. Johnsbury Center (802) 748-3127

Fire Safety Inspections - Let's Go

St. Johnsbury has a history, certainly over the last 20 years, of some mighty rigorous town planning. In 1985 under the leadership of Bernier Mayo and Scudder Parker, people swarmed into the meetings of 20 different subcommittees and over the course of six months developed the original JOIN St. Johnsbury town plan.

There were two relatively minor revisions of that plan, but this year the community swarmed again, and with Gary Reis and Bernier Mayo at the center of the hive it produced a remarkably comprehensive plan for the Town of St. Johnsbury. The plan is called *The Avenue to the Future*.

One recommendation in the chapter called Housing and Neighborhoods and a subsection called Rental Units seems haunting. The recommendation reads: "that St. Johnsbury energetically and proactively enforce its own ordinances with respect to fire and safety standards by instituting a fire and safety inspection program."

St. Johnsbury Fire Chief Ruggles is nobody's fool when it comes to fire fighting and other approaches to public safety. Ruggles was co-chair of the Housing and Neighborhoods committee of the recent town plan, and not one to spend a lot of time behind a fire chief's desk, he is a huge advocate of being proactive about this sort of thing. Ruggles says, "I'm in favor of keeping residents safe and in doing so keeping their neighbors safe. But no less important," he says, "this can go a long way to keeping firefighters safe when the fire alarm rings."

Currently, Ruggles says, the St. Johnsbury Fire Department does inspections of rental housing units when it (or the town health officer) gets a complaint. And through that process the department may do several inspections each week. When called, members of St. Johnsbury's Fire Department look for functioning smoke and carbon monoxide detectors; fire extinguishers, safe exits including functioning and unobstructed doors, windows and stairways; electrical hazards; safe heating systems; flammable liquids improperly stored and compliance with plumbing safety rules.

Fundamentally, Ruggles says, "It's a matter of education." He'd like, as he says, to be more proactive and make inspections of all the town's commercial properties, including its rental units, as a matter of course. There are approximately 1,400 rental units in St. Johnsbury, and his goal, if it was supported by the entire community, would be to visit each one every other year. Ruggles understands that every other year may be an overly ambitious goal, but he realizes that initial inspections and, where necessary, follow-up visits and then starting all over again - is a routine that needs to be.

He'd like to see landlords and tenants understanding that everyone has a responsibility in this and have both acknowledge the inspection and conditions for improvement if there are any.

If it makes someone safer, as well as his or her neighbor and the folks in the big red trucks who show up when the fire alarm rings safer, I'd like to know just how much more planning the idea requires.

Terry Hoffer

My life is in your hands

December, with its late sunrises and early sunsets, promotes an appreciation for hibernation. There is a lethargy that befalls some, myself included, for which the holidays are only a partial antidote. December's darkness provides little opportunity for those with jobs that follow typical business hours to be outside in the sun during the workweek. The deficient daylight and, for some, the cold are legitimate reasons for staying indoors and, as a consequence, being less active.

It seems that the number of reports proclaiming the hazards of overweight and obesity expands faster than our collective waistlines. There is an overabundance of information about the extent of the problem. What is lacking is information on interventions that effectively reduce overweight and obesity. That is slowly changing. We are in the earliest stages of a process that involves switching our social expectations and attitudes toward eating and exercising. One variable in this very complex social-psychological-physical-economic equation is the conduciveness of the environment to exercise.

The health benefits of walking are as well publicized as the obesity epidemic. It is an activity that most of us, given sufficient time and motivation, can (and should) do. However, there need to be suitable places to walk. Lack of, or poorly maintained, sidewalks (including snow and ice-covered sidewalks) and narrow shoulders on roads are examples of environmental obstacles to walking. Here in rural Vermont sidewalks and wide shoulders are not practical on many of the roads. In terms of "walkability," lower traffic volume offsets this to some degree. Nevertheless, just one car is sufficient to seriously injure a pedestrian.

It is December, with declining daylight. When I manage to include a walk before or after work, it's dark. I walk on a back road. There is no sidewalk and no shoulder. When the snow comes, snow banks unavoidably encroach despite the diligence of the road crew, and the road narrows. I wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight. I leave it to faith that the on-coming driver will give me sufficient berth.

I cover far more miles in a car than on foot. Like all drivers, I need to safeguard the walkers that I encounter on my travels by allowing them sufficient space. During the moment when I pass by someone on foot, his or her life depends on my safe driving. When I walk, I expect the same treatment.

I encourage all who are able: find an enjoyable and safe route for walking. Exercise for the benefits to body, mind and spirit, perhaps even more necessary as a means to counter December's darkness. If the route happens to require walking on the side of the road, as mine does, I remind passing drivers that our lives are in your hands.

Tim Tanner

A Legislative Wish List

The election is over - amen - until the next one! As a way to gloat, forgive me for repeating a well-advertised anecdote about the president. He once said he didn't need to take advice from his father, a former president, because he was getting it from a higher power. In view of the mishaps that have transpired during his six years in office, perhaps unknowingly he was conversing with an impostor - a false god?

Part one of the Democratic revolution is over, but it will be a hollow one unless it is followed by victory in part two - the election of a Democratic president in 2008. For as long as Bush is president, he can, and will limit a Democratic legislative program as much as possible.

The president will continue to wage the Iraq war and control foreign policy in general. There isn't much the Democrats can do except to control the funds the president asks for to pursue his

(Please see **John Downs' Wish List** on Page 4)

THE North Star MONTHLY

EDITORIAL OFFICES:
P.O. Box 319 ~ 29 Hill Street
Danville, VT 05828-0319
(802) 684-1056

EDITOR:
Terry Hoffer

ART DIRECTOR:
Suzanne Tanner

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR:
Tim Tanner

CIRCULATION:
Kathy Hoffer

ADVERTISING:
Vicki Moore

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD:
John Haygood
Jane Larrabee
Susan Lynaugh
Betsy McKay

The North Star Monthly (ISSN#1043-8041) is produced and published monthly by Polestar Publishing, Inc. located at 29 Hill Street, Danville, VT. Subscription Rates are \$15.00 per year. Printed in USA. Copyright 2006 by Polestar Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reprinted or otherwise reproduced without expressed permission from Polestar Publishing, Inc. Publisher is not responsible for errors resulting from typographical errors. Acceptance of advertising is subject to publisher's approval and agreement by the advertiser to indemnify the publisher from loss or expense on claims based upon contents of the advertising. Publisher does not assume liability for errors in any advertising beyond the cost of the space occupied by the individual item in which the error appeared.

Postmaster: Send address changes to **The North Star Monthly**, P.O. Box 319, Danville, VT 05828-0319. Periodical postage paid at Danville, VT.

Contributors to this issue include: Virginia Downs, Stuart Farina, Adrian Duckett, Denise Brown, Jim Ashley, Lorna Quimby, Jeff & Ellen Gold, John Downs, Isobel P. Swartz, Rachel Siegel, Paula LaRochelle, Van Parker, Joe Barbieri, Bets Parker Albright, Vanna Guldenschuh, Alice S. Kitchel & Burton Zahler, Bill Christiansen, Dee Palmer and Dan Zucker.

e-mail: northstar@kingcon.com
www.northstarmonthly.com

Write to Us

LETTERS: Write to *The North Star*, and let us know what's on your mind. Your point of view or observation is important to us. Letters must be signed.

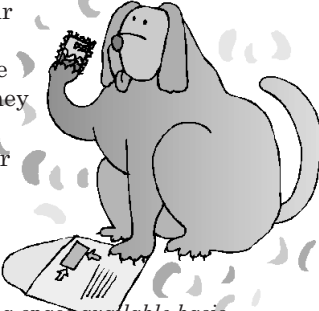
ARTICLES: We don't have a big staff of writers. So we look forward to your sending your writing. If you have questions or ideas and want to ask us first, please call. We'll send our guidelines. No fiction, please.

PHOTOS: We'd like to see your photos and welcome them with a story or without. They can be black-and-white or color, but they must be clear.

PRESS RELEASES: We prefer press releases that are unique to *The North Star*.

DEADLINE: 15th of the month prior to publication.

All materials will be considered on a space available basis.



Letters to the Editor:

Fenton Pottery

Dear North Star,


I read your September [2006] story about the Fenton Stoneware

Factory with great interest. I grew up in the 1960's in a house on the Old Center Road, right under the current interstate exit for the hospital, at the spot where Ms. White speculated the factory might have been. There was a brook there, but the house I lived in was built around the time of the Civil War,

(Please see **Letters** on Page 4)

Wealthiest Man in America Reaches End of the Line Republicans Shifting Party Policy as to Qualifications for Suffrage

The North Star
"WHERE LIBERTY DWELLS THERE IS MY COUNTRY"
1807-1891
Est. by Ebenezer Eaton
Danville, Vermont



THE NORTH STAR

December 3, 1875

William B. Astor, the New York millionaire, died in New York City last week at age 84. He was the wealthiest one man in America, if not in the world, and leaves his property to six children. His estate is variously estimated at one hundred and fifty to two hundred millions of dollars - an almost incalculable sum. His property, a good deal of it, consists of productive real estate in the city. Two of his sons are between 50 and 60 years old. He leaves two or three married daughters.

Army Matters - General Sherman devotes a considerable portion of his annual report this year to the Indian question and urges emphatically the policy of turning Indians over to the care of the army as the most practical solution of that troublesome question. Speaking of the Kiowa, Cheyenne and Comanche Indians on the border of the Staked Plains, he says, "If

the military commanders can have control over the supplies needed by these Indians as they now have over their persons, I am convinced a condition of peace can be maintained."

There is a bull frog farm in southeastern Wisconsin, 30 acres of swamp fenced in, and the proprietor sends thousands of these featherless birds to New York.

December 10, 1875

The Coming Centennial - Public attention is being rapidly enlisted in the approaching national birthday party at Philadelphia. Already there is assurance of a greater world's fair than any hitherto held. The commissioners have shut down, absolutely, on all applications for space. The exhibition is to be held on the west side of the city in Fairmount Park, the largest in the country. The park includes over three thousand acres lying on both sides of the Schuylkill River.

P.T. Barnum's Auction - Barnum's mammoth auction of animals took place at Bridgeport, Ct. last week. The offering for sale such a novel lot of property caused quite a large attendance. Horses belonging to the Hippodrome establishment were sold for very low prices. The entire lot numbering 102 including ponies and mules brought only about \$20,000. Among the wild animals were two giraffes, a lion and lioness, a Brazilian tiger, a leopard and two ostriches. There were two or three polar bears sold as well as the elephant Betsey. Albert, a male elephant whose big trick is standing

on his head was sold for \$3,000.

In early spring R. Roberts of Sharon had a turkey that laid 26 eggs at a litter, which eggs were set under other fowls. She soon commenced laying again and laid 104 eggs, making in all 130. If any turkey beats that we expect to hear from her.

December 12, 1875

Education and the Ballot - President Grant, in his annual message, recommends that the Constitution be amended that after the year 1890 no person shall be allowed the right of suffrage unless he can read and write. The fixing of a time is made in the interest of education and is designed to give the people a chance to acquire these elementary branches. However sound the theory it is a departure in Republican party policy. After the close of the late war the important question arose as to granting universal suffrage to emancipated slaves. Republican leaders claimed that the right of suffrage was a natural and inherent one, but did they not wish to keep their hold on the Southern states and control them through the votes of the ignorant negroes? But now the Republicans, who have had control of the government through the last twelve years, never broached the subject of education and the ballot until they saw their party power departing. We fully believe in the doctrine of intelligence as a qualification for voting, yet a single test that every voter must read and write would be practically disregarded.

Massachusetts has had a law of this kind on her statute book, but it is not generally or even partially enforced.

George Hannett of Walden was arrested by Sheriff Preston on Wednesday for bigamy and taken to St. Johnsbury jail.

Lunenburg - In the great gale of Monday last week as Mrs. Samuel Phelps, 78, was passing a short unused door which was nailed up, a sudden gust broke it in, striking her so forcibly as to seriously injure her perhaps fatally. She is now helpless and very feeble.

December 24, 1875

A Merry Christmas to all our readers.

Mr. Kason Cole of this town has recently shown us specimens of butter made from the milk of one of his Jersey cows. The cows are fed on straw and India meal, without hay, and yet the Jersey butter is nearly as yellow as though made in June. The superiority of the Jerseys for butter is pretty well demonstrated by comparing the article manufactured from native bred cows with that of the first mentioned class. Mr. Cole keeps 15 cows through the winter, 6 of them being of the Jersey variety. During the past season he sold 2500 pounds of butter.

Masquerade - The young people of the Congregational Church in this town will have a masquerade party at the town hall on the evening of December 24. The exercises will consist of Tableaux, Charades, &c. There will also be an oyster supper. Proceeds of the enter-

tainment will be expended in improving the church. Those desiring to mask will bring a sheet and pillow case.

Adv. Buffalo Robes. A new lot has just arrived. H.K. Haviland

December 31, 1875

Weather nice and pleasant for the season. We have had something of a thaw, which after freezing leaves the roads quite icy, and if you don't C sharp you'll B flat.

Writing School - Mr. S. A. Goss, teacher of penmanship at the St. Johnsbury Academy will open a writing school at Phillips Academy in this village. The first lesson will be given Saturday evening January 1. The course will consist of fifteen lessons and cost \$1.50.

Hardwick - Mrs. Burnham, mother of S. C. Burnham died recently at age 89. About 70 years ago with her husband and relatives she located in Hardwick but soon after moved on to the mountain in West Woodbury, when that section was an unbroken wilderness. She had 40 grandchildren, 22 great grandchildren and one great great grandchild.

Christmas Doings - At North Danville an entertainment was given at the Baptist church. A Christmas tree, nicely loaded with presents, presented an attractive appearance. Singing and the distribution of presents formed the principal part of the entertainment. The minister and his family received some \$40 worth of presents, including an overcoat and a lady's shawl.

THE North Star MONTHLY



Send
The North Star
for only \$15.00
\$24.00 for foreign subscriptions
Or send a year to yourself.

New North Star Subscribers and Renewals

Roland & Frances Beaupre, St. Johnsbury VT
Jason & Robin Bergman, St. Johnsbury VT
Calvin Bogie, East Ryegate VT
Mr. & Mrs. John Butler, Mystic CT
Paul & Elsie Cahoon, West Danville VT
George Churchill & Fred Blair, Charlestown MA
Wm. & Jean Clark, Manchester NH
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Collins, Elmira NY
Thomas H. Costello, Danville VT
Mark & Darlene Cote, Groton VT
Reg Craig, St. Petersburg FL
Nancy Cuddihy, Bethlehem NH
Ms. Clara Day, St. Johnsbury VT
Leo & Ruth Descoteaux, Barnet VT
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Doherty, Hebron CT
Gail & Frank Dolan, Norwich VT
Amy Ehrlich and Henry Ingraham, St. Johnsbury VT
Mr. & Mrs. T.G. Farrow, Webster MA
Suzanne Ferrall, Chevy Chase MD
Merle Fitzgerald, West Barnet VT
Martha & Stephen Gagliardi, Oakland ME

Allan D. Gilmour, Birmingham MI
Neil L. Goodwin, St. Johnsbury VT
Charles & Connie Goss, Barnet VT
Julie & David Grenier, Westminster MA
Bob & Clarann Haeger, San Anselmo CA
John D. Hale, East Ryegate VT
Mr. Marnel E. Harran, Siloam Springs AR
William S. Harris, Cambridge MA
Andrea Harris, Acton MA
Thelma Hartshorn, Danville VT
Helen Hayford, South Burlington VT
Doug & Mary Henderson, West Burke VT
Christine E. Hunt, Peacham VT
Raymond Iverson, McIndoe Falls VT
Karl & Nancy Jurentkuff, Sebastian FL
Mike & Sili Ann Kriegsman, Chevy Chase MD
Dean & Joyce Lakey, Julesburg CO
Virginia Leavitt, Hallowell ME
Mrs. Carolyn A. Lee, Lyndonville VT
Norm Lewis, Danville VT
Alan & Barbara Lewis, Poultney VT
Betsy McKay, Barnet VT
Eloise B. Miller, Peacham VT

Ann Mills and John Coffin, Peacham VT
Steve & Cheryl Mitchell, Danville VT
Sandra Molin, Webster NC
Claire H. Moore, Milton MA
Donald & Lisa Moore, Barnet VT
Donald & Deane Moore, Peacham VT
Mr. & Mrs. Roger W. Morse, West Lebanon NH
Douglas Murray, East Ryegate VT
J. David & Chips Naparstek, Boxborough MA
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Nelson, Barnet VT
Garret Nelson, Lyndon Center VT
Greg Nickerson, Big Horn WY
Bill & Carol Ottinger, Danville VT
Richard H. Ovitt Jr., Oxford GA
Passumpsic Savings Bank, St. Johnsbury VT
Jenny Patoine, Sutton VT
Bill & Helene Patterson, Cincinnati OH
Peggy Pearl, East Ryegate VT
Robert Player, Lake Dallas TX
Lynda Poole, Naples FL
Terry Powers, Wynnnewood PA
John Roberts, Boston MA

Forrest & Violet Robinson, Westmoreland NH
Dover Robinson-Ford, East Ryegate VT
Mary S. Sanford, Jacksonville FL
Ted & Joan Sargeant, Huntington VT
Diana & Jerry Senturia, Peacham VT
Agnes R. Shaw, Montpelier VT
Ron & Dawn Sicard, Danville VT
P. Sinclair, East Ryegate VT
Robert Somers, Springfield MA
Eric Sorensen & Karen Osterloh, Arlington VA
Daniel L. Strobridge, Essex Junction VT
Caledonia Central Supervisory Union, Danville VT
Erling Thorgalsen, Danville VT
Porter Thurston, Gorham ME
Paul & Marjorie Valliere, Indianapolis IN
Bill & Pat Vibert, Granby CT
Dale Wells, St. Johnsbury VT
Milly Whitney, St. Johnsbury VT
Allen Yale Jr., Derby VT
Dinah Yessne & Jim Keeney, Mayer AZ
Sue & Dan Zucker, Danville VT

Please! Send a gift subscription to:

Name _____
Address _____ Apt. No. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
YOUR NAME _____
YOUR ADDRESS _____ APT. NO. _____
YOUR CITY _____ YOUR STATE _____ ZIP _____

Yes! Send me The North Star Monthly:

Name _____
Address _____ Apt. No. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please let us know if you don't want your name published as a subscriber of *The North Star*.

Limited number of back issues are available for the previous 12 months. Get them for \$1.50 per copy at *The North Star* office or send \$2.50 each and we'll send them to you.

SUBSCRIBE TODAY!
\$15 / year

North Star Monthly
PO Box 319
Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-1056

Long Distance
(800) 286-1056

Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 2)

so I don't think the factory could have been there. I do, however, remember the day my brother, sister and some friends found many pieces of broken pottery at a site down the road where we were playing. We felt that we'd found buried treasure! We spent a long time digging up pieces, most of which were very small. I remember we also found an old metal bath tub at the site, filled it with pieces of broken pottery, lugged it home and parked it on the front lawn (to my mother's delight!) We tried very hard to find pieces that fit together, but with limited success. As I remember most of the pieces were plain, without much decoration.

The place where we found these many small pieces of pottery, and many more that we didn't bring home, was on the Old Center Road between where the interstate exit crosses the river and the iron bridge, behind what for many years was (maybe still is) a

propane gas storage building and site - Adirondack Gas or Northern Petroleum, I think. Perhaps another treasure hunt will find more there. As I remember, my mother talked to someone in the St. Johnsbury Historical Society at the time, and we were told that there had been a pottery factory there.

Hope this information is helpful. Thanks for reminding me of a great childhood adventure!

Judy Carpenter
Greensboro Bend

John Downs

Dear North Star,

I have to admit that I was a little disturbed by the cavalier remarks by my friend, John Downs, in his [November 2006] *North Star* column. Downs stated that, after the 2006 congressional elections, "...life will go on in its fits and starts, as it has for centuries..." He then used as an example of good things happening in the world the fact that China is about to empower unions and raise the minimum wage.

This may be a wonderful thing for Chinese workers, but what he

(Please see **Letters** on Page 5)

John Downs' Legislative Wish List

(Continued from Page 2)

policies. With the make-up of the Senate almost equally divided between the parties, the probability that the president will exercise his veto power will mean that the only legislation enacted into law will be what the president is willing to live with.

As a practical matter, this scenario mandates that the Democrats elect the next president, and continue to control the Congress. In the meantime, a critical job for the Democrats during the next two years must be to explain why they will not be able to enact many changes in the law talked about during the campaign. "Give us time!" should be their rallying cry.

Accordingly, assume that any implementation of this liberal's fanciful "legislative wish list" will require the next six years. There will not be much progress between now and January 2009. The following is a partial list of potential legislative actions.

1. Campaign funding: the laws must be wisely amended. Existing laws invite lobbyists to continue to run the government.
2. Foreign affairs: the image of the United States as a willing partner with other countries in addressing international problems must be improved. A good start will be refusing to confirm John Bolton as our Ambassador to the United Nations. The effort will be applauded abroad.
3. Health care: a single-payer universal health plan similar to Medicare, without insurance company involvement, is the least expensive and most comprehensive way to deliver health services to everyone. Other industrial nations, including Canada, provide this coverage.
4. Religion and politics: for its own good, the religious right - Protestant and Catholic sects alike - should abstain from partisan political activity. Political parties should stop pandering for votes at the expense of the rest of us. Stem cell research and abortions, for example, are better left to legislative action and judicial review.
5. Voting machines: one country-wide law should mandate that voting machines leave a paper trail so that malfunctions - deliberate or accidental - can be repaired without the loss of votes. There is an urgent need for better-trained poll workers and non-partisan experts to supervise the election process.
6. Proliferation of nuclear weapons: Negotiations should be used to discourage nations from building nuclear arms. A military solution is not justified considering that there are already at least ten countries claiming to possess them. Some countries believe that nuclear weapons are their best defense against being attacked. Our costly missile defense system doesn't work after many years of experimentation and the expenditure of billions of dollars; it should be abandoned. The United States should lead in nuclear arms reduction by destroying many of our thousands of weapons that will never be used.
7. Drug offenders: minor drug offenders should no longer fill our prisons. Reserve them for real criminals.
8. Habeas corpus and civil liberties: the right of habeas corpus for the benefit of non-citizens should be restored. The Congress should curb the president's ability to carry on surveillance of citizens without Congressional or judicial approval.
9. Immigration: enact President Bush's proposal that gives illegal immigrants a chance to earn citizenship some day. Abandon the idea of building a 700-mile fence along the border with Mexico.
10. Taxation: keep the inheritance "death" tax; the estates of the very rich pay most of the tax. Repeal or reduce other Bush administration tax reductions as needed to reduce the national debt and pay for social programs, such as education and health care.
11. Terrorists: reduce the role of the military and politicians in the fight against terrorists. It is better fought by well-trained, well-funded intelligence agencies with staffs that are large enough to do the job.

John Downs

JUST SOLD YOUR CASTLE? CLEARING OUT THE FAMILY FARM? NEED TO MOVE? WE CAN DO IT ALL.
We have three vehicles with over 30 tons of moving capacity.



The Little Mover
838 Keyser Hill Road, St. Johnsbury VT 05819
(802) 748-9112 Email: jphelps@kingcon.com

When you think insurance...



Caledonia Insurance AGENCY, INC.
663 Old Center Road, St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819
(802) 748-8797 Fax (802) 748-8609


Steve Parker's
Cut-Your-Own Fraser and Balsam
CHRISTMAS TREES

High Reach Farm
in North Danville
Saturdays and Sundays
between Thanksgiving
and December 17
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
All our trees are
100% organically grown!

SPECTACULAR TREES AT A BARGAIN PRICE!
\$25 - tabletops \$10-\$15
Plus FREE Brush
Follow the signs
from either North Danville
or South Wheelock



Dr. Mark A. Leipter
Dr. Richard Leven
Dr. Stephen Feltus
Dr. Rebecca Hogan
Peter Boyle, Optician



Give the Gift of Sight this Holiday Season

Purchase a Gift Certificate valued at \$100 for only \$75 or Purchase a Gift Certificate for \$50 and pay only \$40.
Some restrictions apply. Offer Expires December 24, 2006

Optical Expressions
Berlin Mall 282 Berlin Mall Rd., Unit 4 802 223-2090
Green Mountain Mall US 5, St. Johnsbury Center 802 748-3536

Sound and Noise

Some friends of ours recently pointed out that loud music playing in the dining room had made conversation all but impossible. This caused me to reflect on the part that sound plays in our daily lives.

From our earliest beginnings in the womb, sound impacts our lives. Research has shown that a fetus of 16 weeks gestational age perceives sound through the skin and bone of its body even before the cochlea of the inner ear has fully developed. Not only is it aware of the internal sounds of the mother's body, but also external sounds such as music and loud noises. The constant beat of the mother's heart, and the swishing sound of blood circulating to and from the placenta are so much a part of the uterine environment that they will soothe a newborn infant for two weeks after birth, if recorded and played back. The sounds and rhythms of the mother's speaking voice lay down particular neuron pathways in the fetal brain that are important later in helping the infant begin to learn its native tongue.

Many people use recordings of natural sounds, such as the ocean, rain and birdsong, to help relaxation, meditation and sleep. French physician Michel Odent, who pioneered the use of water birth, discovered that the rate of a normal labor will often speed up when a woman in labor simply hears the sound of flowing water.

Sound can evoke memories, set the mood for romance, stir the body to action or just give pleasure. Sound can unite us as we sing or play instruments together. But sound can be used to isolate us from others when we use electronic playback devices, cocooning us in our own small world. So when does sound become noise?

The Merriam Webster dictionary defines noise as, "sound, especially one that lacks agreeable musical quality or that is noticeably unpleasant." Interestingly, the root of the word "noise," is the Latin word "nausea" with which we are all familiar! I would add to this definition that "noise" can be annoyingly intrusive, distracting our attention from all other sensations. This is because our bodies are tuned to relate noise with danger but, in the industrialized world, we are also surrounded by noise that is part of our bustling environment. A certain amount of this noise has become so much a part of our surroundings that, after a while, we do not notice it until it stops or we move away to a quieter place. We call this background noise.

There are other noises that we inflict deliberately on ourselves, or others. Loud music in confined spaces is one example. I enjoy music but do not need to be surrounded by music of another's choosing in the store, the bank or especially in a restaurant. Far from calming me and encouraging me to spend money, this noise has the opposite effect. Eating is a social activity usually involving conversation with others. Banquet halls and restaurants are seldom designed to have good acoustics. Most people, but especially the hearing-impaired, cannot enjoy conversation against a background of any level of music nor should they have to.

Another inflicted noise that is increasingly common and especially annoying, is that of the cell phone and its user. Cell phones do not have to ring. They can alert the user by gently vibrating. Most users seem to enjoy inflicting a variety of so-called musical ring tones on innocent bystanders. Frankly, I don't want to be announced as a caller by an electronic Beethoven's Fifth Symphony or a jangling rendition of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. But that's just the beginning! I also do not wish to be an audience to business deals, family crises, legal haggling or disastrous romances, all in public and all at a high decibel level. It's almost as though the cell phone user imagines a small telephone booth is surrounding him or her, providing privacy. Not true.

Noise has become so much a part of our lives that we accept much of it without thought. But that familiarity deadens our perception and makes us less aware of the intimate beauty of natural sound in our lives. This is the kind of sound that can give us a sense of peace and binds us to the environment around us.

Isobel P. Swartz

Letters to the Editor:

(Continued from Page 4)

did not say was that China alone is also building coal burning power plants to the tune of one new plant a month.

This form of power generation is

adding a great abundance of particulate and carbon dioxide pollution to the atmosphere. This fact alone means that life on this planet will not go on, "as it has for centuries."

No matter what the outcome of our mid-term elections, we cannot allow "business as usual" to continue. We have to join the other developed countries of the world

and begin to clean up our act. At the same time we also need to help developing countries avoid our past energy wasting, polluting behaviors. Rather than slip back into the restfulness of post-election reverie, now is the time to call on our elected officials, whomever they are, to do something positive for a change.

Isobel P. Swartz ★



Pope Notes

Dee Palmer,
Library Director

Join us for holiday cheer during the Danville Holiday on the Green on Thursday, December 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We will be serving tasty hors d'oeuvres and punch, and we invite all our community members to stop in. During this special event please check out our "Giving Tree." Again we will hang tags on the tree with titles and prices of books that are lost, damaged or on our library wish list. If you would like to buy one of these for the Library we will place a book plate in the book with your name as its donor.

Our next Vermont Humanities Council book discussion series is "Portraits of the Artists: Novels About Painters." This series includes *Lydia Cassatt Reading the Paper* (about Mary Cassatt and Degas) by Harriet Chessman, *Girl With a Pearl Earring* (Vermeer) by Tracy Chevalier, *La Tour Dreams of the Wolf Girl* (Georges de la Tour) by David Huddle and *Frida* (Frida Kahlo and Diego Rivera) by Barbara Mujica.

The first discussion will be in January. Books and schedules are available at the Library. These discussions are all free and open to the public.

Please note that our regular Wednesday hours, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., will resume on December 20.

From the Children's Room

Our last story hour for the year will be on Monday December 11 at 10:00 a.m. We will start again on Monday, January 8.

The Young Adult after school program will not be in session during school vacation. The last day is Wednesday, December 20, and the program will resume on Wednesday, January 3.

Happy Holidays. Let it Snow!



BERKSHIRE PAINTING CORPORATION

- Painting & Staining
- Interior & Exterior
- Power Washing
- Sheet Rock Repair
- Quality Work
- Free Estimates
- Fully Insured

Doug Winseck (802) 626-4071 East Burke

When exercising, water is essential.

Health & FITNESS CENTER

Make a splash! Experience the Northeast Kingdom's newest and finest health and fitness center. Enjoy luxury, state-of-the-art equipment, privacy, convenience — and our pool! Open 5 a.m. to 11 p.m., 365 days a year.

	SINGLE	FAMILY*
1 MONTH	\$150	\$250
3 MONTHS	\$225	\$375
6 MONTHS	\$275	\$375
1 YEAR	\$350	\$575

* 2 adults and 2 children
Other restrictions apply.
Inquire about membership for couples.
Call for details

St. Johnsbury, Vermont
US ROUTE 5 SOUTH AT I-91 AND I-93
802 748-1500

WALDEN STORE

Route 15 Walden • 563-2888

Open
M-Th 9-9
Friday 9-10
Sat 8-10
Sun 7-7

MORE THAN A DELI • BEST PIZZA AROUND!!

SEASONS GREETINGS FROM THE WALDEN COUNTRY STORE!

Stop in and grab a menu, and check out our expanding groceries! Bring us this ad and get 10% off any sub or melt from our menu!

• GAS • OFF ROAD FUEL • NITROGEN • DIESEL • TORO • BEER • WINE • ORGANIC WINE • GROCERY • DAIRY • ORGANIC MILK & BREADS • MONSIEUR MEATS

Stuart V. Corso, D.M.D.

GENERAL AND FAMILY DENTISTRY

Dental Health Care Supplies
and Gift Certificates Available

Happy Holidays

31 Mountain View Drive Danville, VT
(802) 684-1133

Bud Wilkerson Spent Christmas 1944 as a POW

(Continued from Page 1)

cialist. His assignment was to see that every weapon in his unit was in top shape prior to the English Channel crossing to Le Havre where the Allies were hustling through France to Belgium for the eventual push into Berlin.

To keep from being dehydrated the men scraped away the thick ice that formed on the sides of the boxcar, condensation from the breath of the men jammed in unheated space.

"There was sniper fire when we landed and as we started on the move up to the Ardennes forest," he says. "We were the front line troops, attached to the infantry. Things happen so fast in battle that you just don't know

how they happen, why or when.

"From time to time we took German prisoners, and the MP's took them to the rear. We had a certain amount of ammunition when we got to the Ardennes, but they were saving most for the big 'putsch.' Headquarters had the idea we were going up there just to hold the line until everything caught up. But the Germans beat us to it; they were already forming their big offensive."

Having seen harrowing scenes on television of American troops slogging through snow in the Bulge conflict, I asked Wilkerson how he took cover. "They talk about digging foxholes," he says, "but I never dug a foxhole; the ground was frozen too hard. Sometimes you found a foxhole, jumped in, and there was already somebody else in there - dead."

The enemy was approaching. "We'd been up in the Ardennes about ten days on December sixteenth, and we heard activity about five miles away. There were tanks and gunfire. We'd had another foot of snow, and there was fog. We were roaming around trying to find an escape route. We

had no food and no ammunition. Air drops couldn't get in because of the weather.

"We sent reports on our field telephones to headquarters - you had millions of miles of telephone wires - you could hardly fight up there for falling over wires. Headquarters paid no attention. The generals were all partying."

On December 16, the morning of their capture Wilkerson and five others strayed from their outfit to a field, and there they glimpsed German tanks on the side of the road. One G.I. was ordered through a culvert to the other side of the road. When he couldn't make it, he tried to jump across and was caught in midair by a round of gunfire.

The men had taken refuge in a gully when the surrender came. Tracer bullets whizzed over their heads.

The 400 men in Wilkerson's Company M were taken behind German lines to an old sawmill where Germans administered "first aid." Wilkerson had bits of gravel embedded in his hands, and the captors' treatment was to shove his hands into a bucket of

turpentine. There were no bandages and no morphine for the gravely wounded.

"They took a Crawford military wristwatch that my family had given me. They cut fingers off the married guys to remove wedding rings. I was left with an overcoat and galoshes."

On the morning of the 17th they walked until nightfall to a bombed-out schoolhouse in Prun. There they spent the night. The next day they marched 25 miles to Gerolstein where they were herded into empty boxcars, 60 to a car. "They nailed us in without food or water, and we didn't see daylight until Christmas Eve." To keep from being dehydrated the men scraped away the thick ice that formed on the sides of the boxcar, condensation from the breath of the men jammed in unheated space. The cars began to move, and temperatures dropped below 0°. There was no stopping to unload the dead.

"People ask, 'Where did you go to the bathroom?'" Wilkerson laughs. "First of all, there wasn't enough space to move." He says, "No input, no output."

On Christmas Eve they pulled into the railroad center at Limburg where they were to be unloaded. The night was filled with sounds of bombs. The railroad was the target for RAF pilots that night. The boxcar rang to the sounds of men in panic. "You'd be surprised at what people said during the raid. There was crying, and what many were doing was making



Wilkerson family photograph
Bud Wilkerson was a young man of 22 when he was captured by German soldiers and spent four months as a prisoner of war.

confessions," he says.

Then his boxcar was hit, it rolled over an embankment and broke apart. "We were so stiff from sitting in one position we could barely move." Their captors prodded them, and the prisoners managed to stand upright by leaning against each other.

On Christmas Day, they traveled by train to Stalag B, their prison camp in Bad Orb. The Americans sang carols and hymns as they pulled into the train station. After the war, Wilkerson was to learn that his mother saw a newsreel of the Battle of the Bulge, and heard one G.I. say, "This is a heck of a way to spend Christmas."

The subhuman conditions in their prison camp were deplored by a Swiss delegate, who reported

December 15
Passumpsic Savings Bank
Customer Appreciation Day

The one bank holiday we stay open.

Customer Appreciation Day is the special holiday when we celebrate our customers. Join us on Friday, December 15th at your local branch for free giveaways, light refreshments and a generous helping of appreciation from our entire staff.

Passumpsic Savings Bank
Your Partner in Financial Success
www.passumpsicbank.com

Vermont: St. Johnsbury • Lyndonville • Danville • Island Pond • Newport
New Hampshire: Littleton • Lancaster • Groveton

Member FDIC

New, Used & Rare Books

A store filled with treasures for everyone.
Gift Certificates available
Open Sundays 10-4

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOOKS
Local Street, Lyndonville, VT 05851 802-426-5051 Open Mon-Sat 9-5

37th ANNUAL BURKLYN ARTS

Holiday Market

Saturday, December 2, 9-4
Sunday, December 3, 10-4
Lyndon Town School
Off Route 114, Lily Pond Road, Lyndonville, Vt.

Seasonal Entertainment
Homemade Lunches Served Daily • Huge Raffle
Cookie Sale • Children's Activities
Over 60 Juried Vermont Artists & Craftspeople
All Proceeds Benefit Burklyn Arts Council Arts-In-Schools Program



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Wilkerson lives in Lyndonville where he takes great pleasure in the landscaping and seasonal decorations of his home.

Pennsylvania, who was a mess sergeant. He talked about food.

"You sat around freezing, and all you talked about was food. In the States, most of what the guys talked about was women, but in prison the big issue was food. This was not like Hogan's Heroes."

After a month, Wilkerson and the other non-commissioned officers were issued a half loaf of bread and a tube of liquid cheese, their only sustenance for a seven-day march to another prison camp in Ziegenhain. Wilkerson remembers the poignant sight on that march of old Germans, kneeling and praying at the graves of American soldiers.

One night planes raced over the camp, machine gunning the barracks, cutting it in half and killing 28 Americans. "We knew none of the barracks were marked, so we went out, took off our shirts and formed a big 'POW.' A fighter plane came, and the pilot signaled that he got the message. The old guys guarding us thought we were exercising."

Liberation Day in April saw the arrival of a *Baltimore Sun* correspondent, who asked if anybody was from Maryland. When Bud Wilkerson introduced himself as a Rockville boy, the reporter gave him a Butterfinger candy bar and offered to add to his cable back to the paper that the Wilkerson family should be notified. As a result, the Wilkerson family learned that their son was not "Missing in Action," as they had been

informed.

Following a hospital stay in Le Havre, Wilkerson was shipped back home on a hospital ship. At the time he was a Staff Sergeant with a bronze star, 5 battle stars and an expert combat infantryman's badge to his credit.

In Maryland he met his future wife on a blind date. Kitty Wilkerson was from Lyndonville, the daughter of Mary Jenne, who happened to be my favorite teacher in graded school. Following their marriage in 1946, Kitty's husband heard much about the beauty of Vermont. They vowed together that someday they would return to her birthplace.

Bud Wilkerson followed a family tradition, working for A. Gude Sons and Company. His father worked for the company, and his grandfather, before him, was its first employee. Since Wilkerson's retirement, the Gude Company property has been cleared to make way for a six-lane highway. Kitty Wilkerson pursued a successful career in real estate after their six children grew up.

In 1988, the Wilkersons retired and moved from Maryland, as they once vowed they would, to Lyndonville.

To my question have the battle and prison camp memories faded over the years, Wilkerson answered with firmness, "No."

His permanent disability includes circulatory problems from frostbite (resulting in loss of a finger on his right hand) and

trouble with his nerves. Over the years, with persistence, he has learned to control the hand tremors that bothered him for a long time. Nightmares, though, still disturb his sleep.

"There's hardly an hour that goes by that I don't remember being a prisoner of war," he says.

Nine years ago, Wilkerson's grandson Zachary Czapko interviewed the old soldier about his memories of World War II and received an A+ and high praise from his teacher for the paper. Wilkerson is proud of Zachary's highest standing in his senior year class at St. Joseph Catholic School in Amherst, NY. The illustrated paper, "The Battle of the Bulge," is a treasure among his grandfather's memorabilia.

Wilkerson's work in horticulture following the war inspired him in his retirement years to beautify his home and six acres with flowers and plants.

A few years ago illness made it necessary for Kitty Wilkerson to be moved to a nursing home in Barton. Knowing her devotion to Lyndonville, LI and her friends from class of 1943, former POW Wilkerson started a tradition of hosting a party at their home during alumni day each June.

"I knew it would have meant a lot to Kitty," he says. And it means a lot to Bud Wilkerson as, today, he concentrates on the pleasant memories of their time together instead of the time he was in captivity as an army prisoner of war. ★

to the U.S. War Department, "It is most strongly felt that the camp commander with his staff have no interest whatsoever in the welfare of the prisoners of war." A representative of the International Red Cross reported, "By March, the majority of men were absolutely broken in spirit, crushed and apathetic."

Wilkerson describes the daily allotment of food - breakfast was half a mug of something called coffee, which was mostly sawdust and water, and half a slice of bread; lunch was a cup of "soup," which was really sawdust and water, and in the evening there was a half slice of bread with a small portion of soup with pieces of rutabaga or potato. On top floated worms, which he ate as well. To exercise their gums, they broke off bits of tar from the barracks roof and chewed it. In his

three months of imprisonment, his weight dropped from 182 to 122 pounds.

How did a man keep his sanity? One way, he says, was by forming impromptu classes. "One guy was a schoolteacher, and his class lasted maybe half an hour. Another was a motor pool sergeant, so he taught a class on how to maintain your vehicle. There was a candy maker from Hershey,

Mill River Furniture
SLEEPSOURCE MATRESS GALLERY

Open Monday - Friday 10 - 5
Saturday 10 - 4
49 Main Street, Littleton, NH 03581
(603) 444-7378

River Garden Cafe
 ROUTE 114 • EAST BURKE VILLAGE
802.626.3514

Lunch 11:30-2 • Dinner 5-9 • Sunday Brunch 11-2 closed Mon.
 - fresh ideas...fresh ingredients -
 Holiday Parties • Gift Certificates
 Our Own Gift Boxed Salad Dressings

Friday Afternoon Tea Room

North Danville Baptist Church
 2-4 p.m. on Fridays
 November through March
 By Donation to Church Renovation Fund
 All Welcome
 (802) 748-4096

NORTHEAST Collision Center
802-748-4292

We Are Your FULL SERVICE Vehicle Repair Center

From bodywork to mechanical repair, our highly trained professionals can get you **BACK ON THE ROAD!**

684 Portland St. • St. Johnsbury, VT
OPEN Mon.-Fri. 8am to 5pm

This Danville Math Teacher Has Found What Many Teachers Are Looking For

ADRIAN DUCKETT

At first sight, Sharon Fadden's classroom appears to be like any other in a high school. There are desks and chairs and two white boards at opposite ends of the room. The smell of markers clings to the boards like some students cling to their calculators. What most don't realize is that this is the room where miracles happen nearly every day.

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Superintendent John Bacon says, "It's all about believing in kids and having them believe in themselves."

Fadden is an interesting and highly motivated teacher. When she arrived at Danville School three years ago to teach math, she was determined to turn the school's math program around. She wanted her students to appreciate and understand mathematics, but just about everywhere she turned, the opposite seemed true.

Few students at Danville put forth considerable effort in their math classes, and even fewer knew the meaning of calculus. Fadden worked from the ground up and established her own curriculum. Pieced together from the most important aspects of mathematics, including derivatives, geometry, algebra and trigonometry, the curriculum combined the best ideas and brought them to Danville.

The result was an amazing change with the students. Grades and the overall interest in mathematics rose, standardized testing scores climbed and, most importantly for Fadden, the majority of the student population formed a new attitude toward mathematics.

As a result, Fadden was selected from all the Vermont nominees as the "American Star of Teaching" for the state. After the No Child Left Behind act was put into place, the award was established by the US Department of Education to honor educators who make a difference in their community.

Nominated by Danville's Principal Meg Powden and Vice Principal Roger Boyington, she was selected for her teaching style as well as the statistical improvement in standardized test scores for math at Danville

School.

Boyington says, "She is a person who, based upon documented results, has had a positive impact on student achievement."

Powden says, "The change in test scores is a result of a combination of things - effort on the part of the teachers and that of the student body. Math has been one of our strengths as a school. When Mrs. Fadden joined our faculty, she brought a lot of enthusiasm to the math department. She always pushes her students to excel."

Fadden says her interest in mathematics can be traced to her grandfather. She says he was an intelligent man, especially in the field of mathematics. It was his dream to pass his knowledge on to his granddaughter. By the time she was 3, Fadden was reading numbers and letters, and, a short while later, practicing calculations in her head. As she got older, her interest in mathematics increased, as did her desire to pass the knowledge on to others, just as her grandfather had to her.

A native of New York, Fadden moved with her family to New Hampshire, and she was accepted to Plymouth State College planning to major in biology. It wasn't long before she switched to mathematics, she says, to give her more opportunities as a teacher.

Her professors realized her potential and encouraged her to learn independently and create her own syllabus. Despite the more difficult course load, she excelled in college.

Fadden's teaching ability has taken her across the map as a curriculum consultant. She has taught in middle schools, high schools and K-12 schools in New Hampshire, and served as a math curriculum consultant for schools in the Bronx and Ohio.

One of the biggest reasons Fadden says she came to Danville School was the potential she saw in its students. With its first-name basis between teachers and students, it was a great fit for this teacher, who likes to work closely with students, and is quick to notice if there is anything wrong among her pupils. It took the students a little while to accommodate Fadden's teaching style, but as soon as they were used to it, they realized they were learning more than expected.

I asked Fadden what she thought the perfect math class should be like, and she answered, "It's you guys." Despite the seemingly cliché response, what she says is true from her point of view. Teaching in an environment as active and eager as Danville is everything she could want. There are plenty of intelligent minds



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Danville School Math Teacher Sharon Fadden challenges her students to work harder and to find new applications for math problems. She tends to stay away from textbooks and instead she uses models, contemporary films and discussion as a means to teaching math. When comparing standardized test scores in Danville with those in the rest of the state, the results are striking.

interested in success.

Fadden says she constantly employs new ideas in her curriculum, which come not only from local schools but from around the world. The technology in her room is always being updated as well, whether it's new geometric manipulatives or an overhead projector installed to give demonstrations. She explains that she always wants kids to have what they need to solve a particular problem, and sometimes the problem becomes very hands-on, not something one normally expects in high school mathematics.

After taking the AP exam in May, students in our calculus class watched movies, expecting we were done for the year. But Fadden had other ideas. One of the films we watched was *October Sky*, which is about a young man and his high school friends who live in a small coal-mining town. The boys get inspired to become involved with the space race and try to develop their own rockets to launch. The first few trials were disastrous, as were the next 10 or so.

But gradually these young rocket scientists decide that they have to use mathematics, specifically calculus and geometry, to develop the design for their rocket. Finally there is a successful launch, but an explosion near the mine is attributed to their rocket tests, and the likelihood of criminal prosecution spells disaster. Once again using calculus, they determine the trajectory and distance that their rocket must have traveled, and they find it in the woods far from the site of the explosion.

After watching the film our

class attempted the same experiment and, despite losing one rocket, we utilized the same skills and concepts we had learned. How many other math classes in the state do you think are approaching math this way? The ideas Fadden brings to her classes involve all students while keeping them interested. The rocket experiments are just one of the many examples of how she demonstrates an active style of teaching.

Aurora Adams is a senior at Danville School. Adams says Fadden is "A challenging and creative teacher. She has us work together instead of by ourselves, and we do work that is progressively more difficult." This same approach to teaching is one that is evident at higher levels of math, where professors and colleagues openly discuss complex problems together to find their solutions.

It is rare for a mathematician to work alone, an idea that is followed closely in Fadden's classroom. Fadden's teaching style rarely involves textbooks. She chooses not to give students long lists of problems that will take hours or more to solve, but instead she assigns only a few problems, which students will have to think about and discuss to solve.

Fadden is an amazing teacher, and it's no wonder that her students are learning so much at Danville. The math department and high school standard overall has improved since she arrived, as standardized testing scores show from the past two years. One set of test scores was so high that the students were suspected of cheating. The school set a record for the highest percentage

of students meeting or exceeding the standard for problem solving. Last year the test scores for 10th graders in Danville were the highest test scores among all high schools in the state for problem solving. This year the scores for a different group of 10th graders in Danville were the highest in the state for problem solving and for math concepts and the sixth in the state for basic skills.

School Superintendent John Bacon says, Fadden "brings out the best in the kids. They are confident as learners, and they are excited about it, and that is spilling over into other classes as well." Bacon says, "It's all about believing in kids and having them believe in themselves."

One of Teacher Fadden's biggest wishes is that all students challenge themselves after they graduate from high school, and she constantly reminds us of SAT test dates and other criteria needed for entrance to college. She always pushes students to work just a little harder and to find other applications for mathematics while encouraging them all as they succeed.

As I leave the classroom after conducting our interview, I look back at the desks and chairs and white boards, and I realize that the skills and instruction I am receiving from Mrs. Fadden are timeless. They will last longer than any soccer skills I have learned and longer than any story I have been told. They are skills I will have for life.

Adrian Duckett is a senior at Danville School writing for The North Star as part of his senior project requirement for graduation.

Shop in Hardwick for The Holidays



Store Hours:
 Mon - Fri 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.
 Sat 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Sun 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
 Closed December 25

Buffalo Mountain Food Co-op

Stock Up for All Your Holiday Needs

- Local Produce • Baked Goods
- Local & Fair Trade Gift Items

Take a break from shopping in our Co-op Cafe.

Shop Local, Buy Local

Buffalo Mountain Food Co-op, Main Street, Hardwick

(802) 472-6020 www.buffalomountaincoop.org



December

- 3 Spaghetti Dinner to benefit Close-Up 2007, Student Government Studies Trip to Washington DC and 2008 trip to France, 5 - 6:30 p.m. Hazen Union Cafeteria.
- 2-3 Contrary Mary's Arts & Crafts Open House, Main Street, Hardwick.
- 3 Holiday Appreciation Meal, Noon, Knights of Columbus Hall. Call (802) 472-5721 for information or arrangements for take out.
- 3 Hardwick Rescue Memorial Tree Lighting, 7 p.m. Memorial Park, Hardwick.
- 3 Holiday Open House, The Flower Basket, 156 Daniels Road, Hardwick.
- 10 Music for a Sunday Afternoon, 4 p.m. St. Marks' Episcopal Church, Newport.

Come to Hardwick and join us in our celebration of the season.

Happy Holidays from all of us.

OLD FRIENDS SHOP

Be sure to stop in while you are in downtown Hardwick doing your Holiday shopping!

Carl LOVES Christmas (and antiques). What a combination. Come see how much.

Gaie has a unique selection of winter clothing, household items and other fun stuff.

Linda creates beautiful candles and jewelry and offers many other treasures.

We also have a wide variety of pre-owned books, tapes, CDs and even LPs to help you through the winter.

Monday-Friday 11-5; Saturday 10-2
 35 South Main, Hardwick, VT

Red Barn Gifts

We Are Worth the Trip!

Our shop is proud to sell items all made in Vermont. We have a nice supply of Stained Glass, Quilted Items, Quilts, Embroidery and Monograms.

Open: Wed - Sat 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Showing in Hardwick on Main Street in Nov & Dec

404 Main Street, Greensboro Bend VT 05842

(802) 533-2502 spinnery@vtlink.net

The Hardwick Village Restaurant



Open 7 Days
 Breakfast • Lunch
 Dinner



Come Join Us for Dinner Today

74 South Main Street, Hardwick VT

(802) 472-5701

Morning Glory Essentials



GIFTS: Exquisite Jewelry, Crystals, Minerals, Herbal and Aromatherapy Products and More. Located at 138 South Main Street, across from Hardwick Elementary School and in the special Hardwick "Craft Shop" on Main Street during the month of December.

Tues - Sat: 11-6

Janet A. Rymarski (802) 472-5511

One Shear Art & Day Spa

Tanning

Infra-red Sauna

Facials

Pedicures

Manicures

Barber Cuts

Organic Products

Holiday Specials

Gift Certificates

Body

Bikini Waxing
 Massage/Moisturizing
 Body Brushing
 And More...

X-tras

On Site or In House

- Private Parties
- Wedding Parties
- Bridal Showers
- Fashion Shows
- Custom Gift Baskets

Hardwick Hairport Inc.
 73 South Main Street Hardwick, Vermont
 (802) 472-6040

Janifer Vaughan Lynne Beaudry

DVD RENTALS

"Catalog Titles" \$2.00 for \$7 Days!

"New Releases" Only \$2 per Day!

Gagnon's

28 Mill Street, Hardwick, VT

(802) 472-5285

Mon.-Thurs. 12-8

Fri.-Sat. 12-9

Sun. 12-5

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

DISCOUNTS • PRIZES • GOOD CHEER

FLOWERS, PLANTS, GIFTS, BALLOONS,
 YANKEE CANDLES AND OTHER MAGICAL THINGS...

THE FLOWER BASKET

156 DANIELS ROAD, HARDWICK, VT

(802) 472-3397 www.theflowerbasket.biz



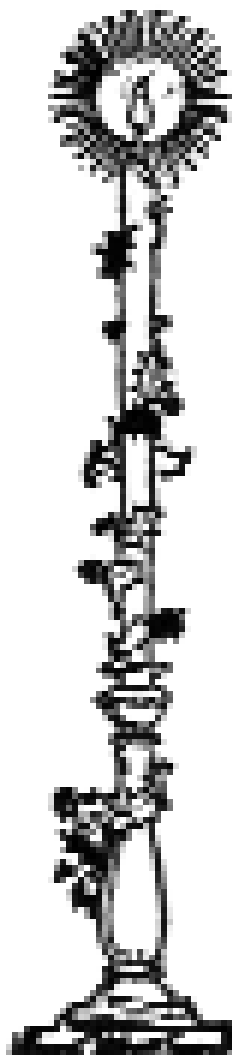
Contrary Mary's Arts & Crafts

156 Daniels Road, Hardwick, VT, 472-6200

Over 50 Vermont Artists & Crafts People!
 Redheart Yarn; Craft Supplies & Gifts
 Open in December; Monday-Friday 10am-5pm
 Saturday & Sunday 10am-3 pm

Sponsoring the Holiday Craft Co-op
 Main Street in Hardwick
 Gifts, Jewelry, Clothing and much more!
 Future Home of Contrary Mary's in 2007!

Bring this ad into Contrary Mary's
 and receive 20% off
 any 1 item in December!



Standing on Top of Kilimanjaro was One of the Dreams of his Lifetime

extinct volcano, which the Swahili named Kilima Njaro for "the mountain that glitters."

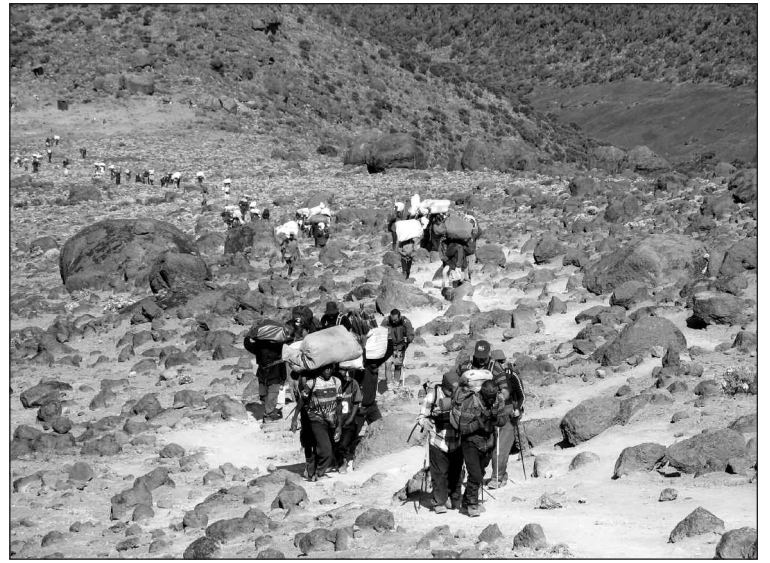
There are six main routes leading approximately 45 miles to the 19,340 foot summit. Guides and porters are required as are permits

for campsites, but each year between 15,000 and 20,000 people set out for the top. Farina describes the hike as a long walk with no shortage of scrambling and climbing, but the biggest unknown and his greatest concern

was altitude sickness, the debilitating physical response by some people at some times to thinner air and its lower level of oxygen at high elevations.

For five days the group of nine with 31 guides, porters and cooks plodded onward and upward. On the morning of the sixth day the hikers were roused in the dark shortly after midnight. Farina says, "It was about 10 degrees, and the wind was blowing, but our porters had breakfast ready and waiting. It had been overcast and cloudy with the summit socked in since the day we left Moshi. Everyone was hoping for a break in the weather.

"There was a long line of us, our group and several others, and you could see this almost endless string of head lamps creeping along in the distance. At about 3:30 we could make out the first light of dawn coming over the clouds. By 4 o'clock we could see shadows, and in another hour the sun was up, and we could see the edge of the volcano crater. You could feel the warmth of the sun



For five days Farina's group plodded onward and upward with a staff of 31 porters, guides and cooks.



Photos Courtesy of Stuart Farina

Kilimanjaro rises above the flat plain in eastern Africa and is known by the Swahili as "the mountain that glitters."

on your back and on this huge mountain rising alone above the flat plains of Africa."

Farina says, "We were taking hourly breaks for granola bars and water, but by 6 o'clock we could see the summit, and then we were there. The fear of altitude sickness was gone, and it was clear. We could see clouds below at about 12,000 feet, but the summit was open, and our guides in the most beautiful display of professionalism and courtesy stepped aside. They were chanting for us and

saluting our group. There we were with the summit to ourselves for half an hour. You could see villages, grasslands and the dust and almost imagine the Indian Ocean in the distance. Except for human sounds it was silent. It was beyond wonderful."

Farina says, "It's true that 20,000 people a year is a huge

"If you don't get a chance to travel and see other parts of the world there is a terrible risk in thinking that your own place is the center of the universe. And it's not."

DANVILLE VIDEO

- New Releases every week
- Our Gift Certificates make great stocking stuffers!!

Betty Chamberlin
Owner
23 Hill Street
Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-2245

"We care what you watch!"

Tasty Treats Candies

"Keeping the North Country sweet for 44 years"

We would like to take this time to thank our customers and to wish you and your families a **Very Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**

Serving you since 1961



May your home be filled with warmth and happiness during the holidays.

Five Star Autobody

★★★★★

George C. Mudge, Jr.
Certified Collision Repair Center

604 Lapiere Drive (Off I-91 Exit 22)
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

(802) 748-5321

Stebbins Bradley Harvey Miller & Brooks, PA

Estate Planning and Trust & Estate Administration Practice Group

From left to right: Gary T. Brooks, David H. Bradley, Willemien Dingemans Miller, John S. Stebbins, Nicholas D. N. Harvey, Jr., and Catherine Richmond

Wills, trusts, powers of attorney, advance directives

Property preservation and management

Minimize gift and estate taxation

IRA and pension beneficiary elections

Planning for U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens

Charitable giving strategies

Business organization and succession planning

Trust and estate administration

Serving Clients Since 1946 in New Hampshire and Vermont

www.stebbinsbradley.com

Hanover, New Hampshire • 603 643 3737
Norwich, Vermont • 802 649 1200
St. Johnsbury, Vermont • 802 748 6367

TENOR JOHN THADE
Sings Beloved Songs of the World

ENGLISH • FRENCH • GERMAN • ITALIAN
• SPANISH •

with pianist **Dennis Buck**

"Superb."
THE WINDY CITY ENTERTAINMENT POSTER

"One of Vermont's premier entertainers."
THE WINDY CITY ENTERTAINMENT POSTER

"A true crowd pleaser."
THE WINDY CITY ENTERTAINMENT POSTER

FREE CONCERT • ONLY AREA APPEARANCE!

Sunday, December 17th at 3:00 pm
Danville Town Hall

FREE ADMISSION • DUE TO LIMITED SPACE, RESERVATIONS ARE ENCOURAGED
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE • ELEVATOR AVAILABLE

www.JohnThade.com 1-800-559-7070

Old North Church Honors Anna McFarland and Shirley Langmaid

During a celebration on November 13, two very special people were honored for their years of dedicated service to the Old North Church. At a gathering sponsored by the Old North Church Committee, friends, family and members of the Danville Historical Society gathered to celebrate the service of Anna McFarland and Shirley Langmaid.

These two began taking care of the Old North Church over 45 years ago, and their dedication, service and volunteerism are unmatched. The following proclamation was read to them after which they received gifts and hearty congratulations:

Whereas it takes a village to say thank you to two wonderfully generous, giving, dedicated ladies ... Anna McFarland and Shirley Langmaid are to be honored at a tea on November 13, 2006 at 2 o'clock at the North Danville Baptist Church.

For many years, since the early 1960's, loving care has

been taken to preserve the tradition of summer lamp-light services at the Old North Church. Many hours of toil involving sweeping, dusting, scrubbing, polishing, mopping, shining, filling lamps with oil, trimming wicks, cleaning the "Little House in the Woods," washing windows, landscaping, arranging for worship, scheduling weddings, music, making cookies, sandwiches, lemonade, hosting Baccalaureate, Old Timer's Choir, repairing vandalism, arranging flowers, keeping peace among volunteers, scheduling, telephoning, manning the treasury, playing the organ, repairs, opening up, closing down, etc. etc. The list just goes on and on, but Anna and Shirley never wavered in their steadfast dedication and loyalty.

They will be greatly missed by the Old North Church

Committee, but we all know that they will remain active and regular in their attendance at monthly worship.

Hard work, unwavering commitment and the spirit of volunteerism will forever be remembered when we think of Anna McFarland and Shirley Langmaid.

The community cannot thank these two enough for the years they have dedicated to preserving and maintaining this historical treasure. God bless you both.



Stuart Farina says, "Except for human sounds it was silent. It was beyond wonderful."

number, but Kilimanjaro is still a special place. The guides in our party had great reverence for it. One was at the summit for the 156th time, but to him there seemed to be nothing old about it. In their own way they are highly educated about the flora and fauna and geology. They were interested, and they were interesting. They take huge pride in their backyard and their knowledge and ability to present it. It was a privilege to be in their presence."

Farina hasn't given up on the idea of climbing one of the other high peaks on the globe, but Kilimanjaro has changed his outlook on a lot of things. His respect for Africa and her people has grown in ways that he still is discovering three months later. "I found the people to be friendly and proud, and none of us have too much of that.

"There is unbelievable poverty and political conflict in the

world, but even surrounded by that there can be pride and contentment. If you don't get a chance to travel and see other parts of the world there is a terrible risk in thinking that your own place is the center of the universe. And it's not."

Stuart Farina lives in St. Johnsbury, but he is convinced that "home" is a much bigger place than that.



Tues.-Sat. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Jan Nutting, Owner

FABRICTOWN

yarns, decorator fabrics
LOTS of new quilting fabrics & much more!
We've got to start thinking "Christmas."
Remember ~ a handmade gift is a gift from the heart.

61 Depot Street Lyndonville, VT 05851  (802) 626-9367

Peacham Library

Monday, Wednesday,
Friday and Saturday
10 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday and Thursday
1 - 7 p.m.

Thank You and Happy Holidays

Mark Fixter



Peter Hopkins
13 Raymond Street
Lyndonville, VT
05851

Phone (802) 626-5555
Night (802) 626-8042

SUPPLIES

Pewter Keepsake Ornaments

Featuring St. Johnsbury's historic buildings

North Congregational Church

The gray North Church, designed by Lambert Packard, was built in Mediaeval Gothic style from Isle La Motte limestone.



Summer Street School

This historic brick schoolhouse with its distinctive bell tower served the community for more than 140 years.



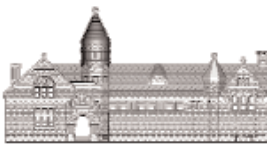
Valler Hall

St. Johnsbury Academy's auditorium, built in 1930, is a brick Neoclassical building with massive white Tuscan columns.



Fairbanks Museum

The museum's Richardsonian Romanesque building is the centerpiece of St. Johnsbury's historic Main Street.



The Athenaeum

St. Johnsbury's public library and art gallery was built in the Second Empire style. It is a National Historic Landmark.



Just in Time for Christmas !

If you have one, you need them all! \$10.00 each

Available at Secondhand Prose & the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Friends of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

Belly Rufuse 748-9746 or Cynthia Waldner 748-3607



Joe's Pond Craft Shop

Look for the handcrafted shutters on the outside and enter the barn to find a pleasant shopping experience. All local fine handcrafts with a theme of country and folk art; quilting, rughooking, woodworking, pottery, weaving and so much more.

Tues - Sat: 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sun: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Closed Mondays (802) 684-2192

Rt. 2 & 15, West Danville, VT

See www.joespondcrafts.com for more information

Some Schools Have Turned to Wood Chips

(Continued from Page 1)

gy has evolved, and other schools, including the Lyndon Town School, Blue Mountain Union and Hazen Union have installed biomass systems, which burn chipped

wood in furnaces and provide less costly heat for the schools.

The Danville proposal is based upon a system estimated to use 444 tons of wood chips each year in order to be capable of delivering

the same total heat as that currently provided by oil. With the cost of wood chips projected at \$51 a ton, the cost of the fuel supply for the school would be slightly less than \$23,000, a savings of some \$45,000 per year.

Because the capital cost of such a system is based upon estimates of costs for equipment and costs of construction, the total actual cost is just that - an estimate. In Danville the School Board says the estimate for installation of a new biomass system to be connected to the existing boiler and hot water circulator is \$1.2 million and that retrofitting the existing nine-boiler system and adding a small utility building next to the furnace building will add another \$60,000 to the total estimated cost.

The State Department of

Education is offering, until December 31, 2006, 90% construction grants to systems of this kind. If approved by the towns before that date schools will get 90% construction aid for the project. After that date the level of construction aid drops to 75%. Thereby lies the reason for getting the project planned and approved and, in Danville's case, construction underway next summer.

Using these figures and the assumptions they represent, how long will the system take to pay for itself? Each system and every installation, not to mention every winter, are slightly different, but that's why projections are projections. Members of the Danville School Board are not expecting to use the system for 100% of the building's heating needs. Anyone familiar with wood heat understands that there are some days, maybe in October and April, on the "shoulders" of the heating season when a quick burst from the oil furnace makes sense and getting a wood fire going and up to speed is

just not an efficient use of the woodpile. Heating a school building is no different.

The school's feasibility study presumes that 2/3 of the winter heat will come from the wood chip system and 1/3 will come from oil. Using the same estimated costs for oil and for wood chips, the projected combined cost of heat in the future will be \$29,000, still less than the just-oil cost of \$68,000 and an annual savings of \$39,000.

Danville School Board Chair Fred Kitchel says, "It is the right thing to do. We'll all be going this way [seeking the means to get away from fossil fuels] eventually."




**Porter & Craige
Vintage**
397 Railroad Street
St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Mon.-Sat. 10:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m. or by Appt. 802-748-5369

Everything Christmas!

- Eccentric to Traditional
- Feminine to Rustic

Feel Christmas at its best at Porter & Craige



Holiday open house at Kingdom Books, Saturday-Monday, December 9-11, Noon to 6 p.m., with 10% off all purchases. Mysteries, poetry, lovely copies of regional authors' books for children, and many poems-as-prints for framing. Mostly first editions, many signed. Still a few Bentley Farm Cookbooks!

**KINGDOM BOOKS
Holiday Shopping SALE**

Kingdom Books, 283 East Village Rd, Waterford (from Route 2 in East St. J, cross the cement bridge and go uphill half a mile, look for the BOOKS flag) We thank our 2006 authors for signing so many books! Reserve yours at (802) 748-5488, KingdomBks@aol.com See www.KingdomBks.com for the latest reviews!

All About Flowers

**Dazzling... Fragrant...
Glimmering...
Magical... Blessed...**

'Tis the season to gather the ribbon, the garlands, the greens, and stars... the fresh holly, orchids, boxwood, and more!

All you need to bedazzle your home for the holidays.

Plus
We've gathered a unique assortment of fine gifts for the season to make your holiday shopping fun!

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m., Sat. 9:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
196 Eastern Avenue, St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
Phone/Fax (802) 748-5656 or (800) 499-6565

World-wide Wire Service

With the school's share of the new system expected to be \$180,000 (That's the 10% local share of the \$1.1 million plus a 70% local share of the \$100,000 for the boiler retrofit and the utility building, neither of which are eligible for the higher level of state aid.) the investment will pay for itself in less than five years.

The objection expressed by voters at the town vote was not about wood chip heating or its cost. All seemed to agree that shifting to a heating system that produces less in the way of airborne pollution than oil and one that costs less to operate than one using imported oil is a fine idea. School Board Chair Fred Kitchel says, "It is the right thing to do. We'll all be going this way [seeking the means to get away from fossil fuels] eventually."

The debate that took place at the November 8 school district meeting was about the uncertainty as to when the state aid, the 90% reimbursement, would arrive. The cost of borrowing the sum to be reimbursed, prior to its distribution from the Department of Education building fund, is estimated to be approximately \$48,600 per year. How long might that cost be a part of the annual cost of the new installation. No one knows.

Caledonia Central Supervisory Union Superintendent John
(Concluded on next page)

Happy Holidays


from all of us at...

Gauthier's Pharmacy, Inc.

Only Independent Pharmacy in St. Johnsbury

"Dedicated to your good health"

415 Railroad St. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 • (802) 748-3122



'TIS THE SEASON TO SHOW HOW MUCH YOU CARE.

The holidays are the perfect time to express your feelings with a gift of fine jewelry.

And because fine jewelry is a gift whose beauty lasts forever, they'll remember how much you care long after the holidays are over.

Fine Jewelry.
When your feelings are for real.

Kennedy's
Diamonds & Fine Jewelry
Jim Kennedy, Jeweler

Holiday Hours
Monday-Saturday 9-5 (11/24-12/23)
Sunday 11-5 (12/3-12/24)
Evenings until 8 (12/11-12/22)

Member
Jewelers of America, Inc.
© 1985 Jewelers of America, Inc.

Come to Downtown St. Johnsbury on Sat., December 9 to celebrate

All Day Roasted chestnuts, cookies and cider will be available at the Railroad Street Marketplace. Carolers from local schools.

10-12 Noon Santa arrives at Railroad Street Marketplace.

9-12 Noon Children can make a holiday craft at Railroad Street Marketplace. Parents: enjoy shopping while your child is supervised making a holiday craft!

10-2 Horse-drawn wagon rides through downtown St. Johnsbury.

10-2 Holiday Food Drive at Dunkin' Donuts.

12 Noon-1:30 St. Johnsbury Town Band concert at Piccolo's.

12:45-1 Santa arrives at Piccolo's.

11-1 Bill Tobin plays the harp at Uniquity.

1-3 Lawrence Holtz plays the acoustical guitar at Uniquity.

1-4 Holiday Fete at the Fairbanks Museum.

2-4 Victorian Tea at Catamount Arts and the 'Bells of Grace' bell ringers from Grace United Methodist Church.

4-5 Holiday Traditions from Around the World at The Athenaeum.

5 Tree lighting at Arnold Park.

A Classic Victorian Holiday

Danville School Board Says *Free Concert with Tenor John Thade in Wood Heat is the Way to Beat Dependence on Oil* Danville Town Hall Theater

Bacon says the timing depends on the size of the allocation for funding from the State Legislature and the number of schools that may be scrambling to get their systems planned, approved and into the pipeline by the first of the year.

In Danville there were 85 who voted on November 8, and all but 15 agreed that the risk was worth the potential for reward. Construction planning for the system will resume with construction of a furnace building and installation of a biomass system to take place as early as next summer but not until final design and the system specifications are finalized and competitive bids are considered.

Perhaps by next fall, the Danville School will have its biomass system on line, and like schools in Lyndon, Wells River, Hardwick and others, we will see a soft cloud of water vapor from a chimney as wood chips delivered to the school are burned and the virtually renewable resource is heating its classrooms and hallways.

At the other end of the spectrum are whole-tree chips from logging operations and land clearing. These chips include bark, twigs and leaves, and they are not screened. As a result there is vast variety in size and frequently long pieces of slender twigs, which may not flow smoothly through automated storage conveyor systems. These are described as dirty chips in stark contrast to the papermaking grade or clean chips.

In between are "bole" chips which are similar to whole tree chips. However, they come from the tree's bole or trunk, and there are no small branches - only chips from the trunk and big limbs. These chips aren't screened, but there are few if any stray twigs.

To date, schools in Vermont have enjoyed a bountiful supply of bole chips, and foresters and those familiar with the extent of our forest cover say the supply, if it's well managed, will last forever. Kurt Zschau is a forester in Danville. Zschau, arguing in favor of the project at the town vote in Danville, said that, as unlikely as the scenario may be, a system of this kind will consume no more wood than the constantly renewing supply in Danville alone. ★

Tenor John Thade will perform *Beloved Songs of the World* with pianist Dennis Buck on Sunday, December 17 at 3:00 p.m. in the Danville town hall.

The Danville town hall theater, after many years of being unusable for events of this kind, was completely renovated with flooring and wainscoting saved during the long project. Finally, just in time for Danville's October Autumn on the Green, the second floor space was certified for full use by state inspectors.

Thade's music will feature

treasures from Viennese Operetta, Italian evergreens and Broadway all-time favorites - performed in English, French, German and Italian.

This is Thade's only area appearance - an afternoon for music lovers across the gener-

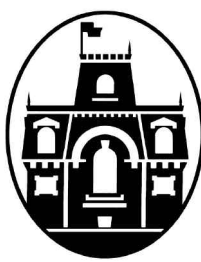
ations.

The concert is free and handicap accessible. Doors open at 2:00 p.m. Reservations are encouraged. For reservations or further information please call (800) 559-7070 or visit www.johnthade.com

IT'S ALL IN THE WOOD CHIPS

Wood chips come from two sources: 1. sawmills and 2. mobile chippers, which are moved to a log landing.

The highest quality chips come from a sawmill, where hardwood logs are stripped of their bark and cut into lumber. The slabs and edgings are processed by a chipper and then screened to ensure uniformity in size. The result are clean pieces of hardwood about the size of a bottle cap. Paper mills buy these chips to be used in making paper products, and biomass furnace operators know them as the cream of the crop.



St. Johnsbury Athenaeum
 Mon. & Wed.
 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Tues., Thurs., & Fri.
 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
 Sat.
 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.



SUNSHINE
 JEWELERS • BOUTIQUE • GALLERY

Giftwrapping Beautiful and always free

17 EASTERN AVENUE, ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 748-2933 VISA/MC/AMX

Unique Gift Giving Ideas at **Uniquity**

Clocks and Weather Instruments, Twig Wreaths, American Girl Doll Clothes, Soaps and Candles, Lamps, Unique Jewelry & Barrettes, Yarn & Yarn Accessories, Framed Prints, VT Calendars, Large Assortment of Beautiful Handblown Glass Ball Ornaments, Children's Books, Puzzles, Calendars



(802) 748-1912 442 Railroad St., St. Johnsbury, VT

Winter Fun Begins at Caplan's... Open weeknights until Christmas

Where you get toasty warm Clothing

- Socks • Hats • Toques • Long Johns • Mitts • Gloves
- Winter Boots for the Whole Family • Fleece Wear
- Camping & Backpacking Supplies

Remember our *Gift Certificates*
 One Size Fits All

- Columbia
- Johnson Woolens
- Woolrich
- Carhartt
- Duofold
- Wigwam
- Merrill
- Kamik
- Lacrosse



Official Boy Scout Supplier

Caplan's

457 Railroad Street • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 • (802) 748-3236

Pōdō SHOES

This holiday season... Wrap your feet in comfort and style

- ✦ Euro-Comfort footwear for men and women.
- ✦ Hard to find sizes, widths and brands.
- ✦ Handbags and wallets by Ameribag, The Sak and Sven.
- ✦ Luxurious hosiery by Kunert and Smartwool.
- ✦ Brooks running shoes.
- ✦ Red Wing work boots.
- ✦ Ariat Western boots.
- ✦ Cozy slippers by Haflinger, Daniel Green and L.B. Evans
- ✦ Beautifully wrapped gift certificates.
- ✦ Test your shoes on our in-store treadmill.
- ✦ Personal attention, professional fit and great customer service.



Pōdō SHOES

418 Railroad Street, Suite 1 St. Johnsbury, VT
 Hours: Mon.-Sat. 10 AM-5 PM*
 Closed Sundays *Open late by appointment
 (802) 748-4500

Beautiful

NORTHEAST KINGDOM ARTISANS GUILD

A fine craft cooperative featuring gifts from more than 100 Vermont artisans



Holiday Hours: 10:30-5:30
 (802) 748-0158

In the Backroom Gallery Members Holiday Show THROUGH JANUARY 8TH

Under the Purple Lining at 430 RAILROAD STREET, ST. JOHNSBURY 802.748.0158

First Night St. Johnsbury: Spectacular New Year's Eve

First Night St. Johnsbury will be a total celebration of the arts this year as more than 40 artists and 80 performances are planned for Sunday, December 31, 2006. That's a full afternoon and a jam-packed evening of entertainment at 14 venues, ending with the fireworks finale and other surprises at midnight.

The First Night curtain opens to Professor Marvel's matinee magic shows and the Red Wing Puppet Theater. Stephen Richard Lindholm will delight children with songs, and Steddy the Clown will bring his Ringling Brothers name-brand clowning to the First Night stage. Further frivolity is available at the Family Fun Fare, with a giant inflated obstacle course and other entertainment like face-painting, balloon animals and custom T-shirts.

Audiences will laugh with Mike Agranoff who peppers his folk songs with hilarious material. Humor and drama, as well as music, come together in the tandem storytelling of Jennings and Ponder and the humor of Kingdom County Comic Theater. Marko the master magician and hypnotist will reappear this year to confound, astound and amuse.

The hallmark of First Night is always music. Catamount Arts

will present, from northern Ireland via a live concert film, one of the best-loved Irish folk music groups of all time, the Clancy Brothers and Tommy Makem in their last concert together. Those who enjoy silent films can see the antics of Laurel and Hardy, Harold Lloyd and Charlie Chaplin, while listening to organ soundtracks improvised live by Robert K. Legon, who will also present concert performances of more modern show-tunes.

Two venues will offer dancing to live music. In the Streeter Hall dining room the swing sounds of the Slant Six Swing Band will be sandwiched between the Academy Jazz Band and the Maple Leaf Seven. Across the green the contradancers will hear tunes by Carpenter, Hardy and Mackenzie. The golden oldies of The Belaires in the Academy Gym, will follow a square dance session with the Country Corner Squares. Those who prefer to watch will enjoy modern dance virtuosity of the Thrive Dance Company.

Music lovers will hear Celtic rock of Prydein, the folk rock of the Bob Amos Band, the modern rock of The Manix, the blues of the Nobby Reed Project, country

sounds of Mark Legrand and His Lovesick Bandits, the bluegrass of Gopher Broke, the pounding rhythms of the Afro-Caribbean Drum Ensemble and the ever-popular bagpiping and drumming of the Graham Highlanders.

Singer-songwriters this year are Val Davis, Mike Fortier, Rose Gerber, David Maguire and Linda Warnaar and Micah Carboneau.

There will be something for everyone in the eclectic mixes of Windrose, Academy Hilltones, Pumpkin Hill Singers and cover

tunes by Andre' Geoffrey and Bobbie and Me.

Pina Antonelli will dazzle her audiences with piano performances, and appearing together for the first time, Bill Tobin on the harp and Cody Michaels on the piano will offer original contemporary sounds.

During the 20-minute intermissions between each 40-minute show, First Nighters can find food at local churches and the St. Johnsbury House, while other venues offer hot dogs and other

snacks and drinks. The late-night free Maple Grove pancake supper will be in Streeter Dining Hall.

A button purchased before New Year's Eve is only \$9. The price for adults is \$14 on December 31, but the student price remains at \$9. Pre-schoolers are always free. First Night buttons are on sale now at most area banks and other local businesses. Phone orders can be made through Catamount Arts at (802) 748-2600 or toll-free at (888) 757-5559.



December

- 1 RAQ, Higher Ground, South Burlington.
- 1-7 *The Science of Sleep* (2006, France) [R] Director: Michael Gondry. A romantic fantasy set inside the topsy-turvy brain of an eccentric young man whose dreams constantly invade his waking life. Unable to find the secret to the heart of the girl in the next apartment while awake, Stéphane sets off to search for the answer in his dreams.
- 1-3 Twilight Players, Three One-Act Plays, Alexander Twilight Theater, LSC. (802) 626-6426.
- 1 Christine Lavin, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 2 Hot Tuna, Opera House, Lebanon, NH.
- 2 Hunger Mountain Boys, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 2&3 *A Trial In Prague* (2000) Directed by Zuzana Justman. The infamous political show trial in Czechoslovakia at the height of the Cold War in which 14 leading Communists were tried on charges of high treason and espionage. Although they were innocent, they confessed and were convicted. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-2600.
- 3 Paul Winter Consort with jazz gospel vocalist Theresa Thomason present Winter Solstice Celebration, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 6 Pilobolus, One of the world's most popular dance troupes, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 8 Gordon Stone Band, Bluegrass and Jazz, Morse

- Center for the Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 8 Ellis Paul with Flynn, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 8-14 *Jesus Camp* (2006, U.S.) [PG-13] Director: Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady. A startling exposé of the charismatic/Pentecostal movement in the U.S. The film centers on the experiences of three children at a summer camp in North Dakota where a genial Pentecostal minister turns children into foot soldiers in America's culture war. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 9 Gopher Broke, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 10 Nebraska Theater Caravan presents A Christmas Carol, Flynn Center, Burlington.
- 10 Gandalf Murphy & Slambovian Circus of Dreams with Sloan Wainright & The Kennedys, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 10 Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 14-16 *Somewhere Beyond the Barricades: The Making of Les Miserables* (2006, U.S.) Director: Jason Scherer. Filmed & Edited by members of the St. Johnsbury Academy videography program. A rare and honest peek behind the scenes as students & faculty come together and form an uncommon bond through impossibly hard work, dedication, and love of theater.
- 15 David Mallett, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 16 The Scewtops, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.
- 15-21 *Factotum* (2005, France)

- [R] Director: Bent Hamer. Henry Chinaski considers himself a writer, and on occasion he does put pen to paper. Mostly, however, the quest for booze and women sidetrack and seduce him as pursuits he continues to believe will inspire the creative genius he believes is percolating in his soul. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 16 LSC Community Chorus, Alexander Twilight Theater, LSC. 7 p.m. (802) 626-6426.
- 22, 23, 26-28 *The U.S. vs. John Lennon* (2006, U.S.) [PG-13] Director: David Leaf. A compelling look at the U.S. Government's campaign to silence John Lennon's message of peace during the Vietnam war. The period is 1966-1976 as Lennon is wiretapped, followed, harassed and eventually threatened with deportation. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 29 Trey Anastasio, Palace Theater, Albany, NY.
- 29, 30 & January 1-4 *Riding Alone for Thousands of Miles* (2005, China) [PG] Director: Yimou Zhang. A fisherman living in a village on the northwest coast of Japan is summoned to Tokyo when his long-estranged son is diagnosed with terminal liver cancer. This is the deeply touching human story of a man who rides alone for thousands of miles not only to reconnect with his son but to find a lost part of himself. Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury.
- 31 First Night ~ St. Johnsbury.
- 31 Jeremy Lyons and The Deltabilly Boys, Middle Earth Music, Bradford, NH.

Danville United Methodist Church
"The biggest little church on the Green"

Sunday, December 24
9:30 a.m. Worship with Communion
7:00 p.m. Candlelight Service of Lessons & Carols



Sunday Worship and Fellowship 9:30 a.m.
Sunday School During Worship Service

Rev. Henry E. Cheney
684-3389 office
Need a ride?
Call Steve 684-3484

Take Your Pick ...



Choose from the largest selection of Lyndon Furniture Factory Specials in the country. Our stock of tables, chairs and more in a variety of hardwoods is updated weekly to ensure you will find a piece to compliment any home. Savings of up to 60% ensures that you can afford them.

Stahler Furniture
American Quality - Vermont Values
Route 5, Lyndonville, Vermont 05851
phone: 1 802 626 5996 / 1 800 439 5996
hours: Mon. thru Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3, Sun. Closed
email: info@stahlerfurniture.com



"We Get The Point! Do You?" **95.7**

Creative and Distinctive Marketing Works in Retail

TERRY HOFFER

In 1998 Lallie Mambourg found herself working as the administrator of a regional non-profit agency but sorely missing direct contact with clients and the day to day association with people. She says, "There was a St. Johnsbury flower shop closing at the time, and I realized that life is just too short to do what you don't want to do." Mambourg and her husband, St. Johnsbury's Economic Development Director Joel Schwartz, bought the business, and she says "it was a leap of faith."

Since then the business, known as All About Flowers, has become a fixture on Eastern Avenue. Across from the county courthouse, and with its fragrance of fresh flowers and an array of brightly painted furnishings, some even outside on the sidewalk, it is tempting to say the business is blooming - with vigor. And it is.

For sale inside are, of course, cut fresh flowers and silk ones and a wide array of items for the home decor in various eclectic descriptions.

Mambourg is quick to credit her business partner, Sandy Lazerick, for the interior of All About Flowers, but however credit is divided, these women work together well.

Mambourg likes to say, "I found Sandy at the circus." Both were parents of school age children and sitting together at a performance of the Greensboro-based Circus Smirkus. "She had seen my help wanted ad for a floral designer, and she asked if I was still looking for someone. Two years later we were partners."

The interior of this shop is striking for its distinctiveness, for

the imaginative reuse of materials and for the combination of bright colors. Lazerick has a keen eye for color and design, but she says they are not at all afraid to study mail order catalogues. "We look at them all," she says reaching for a stack of catalogues with names like Crate & Barrel, Pottery Barn, J. Crew and Martha Stewart. "We figure if it works for those companies, which probably spend fortunes on marketing studies and focus groups to determine customer preferences, then it's worth looking at carefully ourselves - and from that we draw inspiration."

The shop is colorful as are the bright Adirondack chairs on the sidewalk and the striking trio of painted raised-panel wooden doors mounted on the wall high above merchandise on display. The effect is imaginative and perhaps even uniquely - inspiring.

Lazerick says, "I think of places like Wal-Mart as sterile and antiseptic. Miles of aisles and endless product choices probably have their place, but we sell flowers and home furnishings. If you see a wall clock in Wal-Mart or Home Depot it takes a heck of an imagination to visualize it in your own place. We have one-of-a-kind or nearly one-of-a-kind things, and here you can see how they'd look in somebody's home."

Mambourg says, "I want people to come in and look around, and I want to hear them thinking 'Whoa I've got to tell people about this place,' and when they leave that's what they are saying."

Lazerick says, "You have to start with your own favorite things." She laughs, "Some of my best stuff I got out of a dumpster or somebody's burn pile." She points to a pastel green corner cupboard display case. "I pulled that out of a burn pile, cleaned it up and put a coat of paint on it. All kinds of people have asked to buy it, but it's not for sale." She points to a square wooden table with heavy turned legs. It's painted moss green. "People always are asking about buying that, but it's part of what sets the tone in this place, and that's what makes it fun for us."

Mambourg says, "People seem to appreciate this is a place in that it's not always the same. They come in to see what's new. Things are always changing, but the constant is that it's colorful, distinctive and it's fun."

Lazerick says, "I think people agree with the idea, and I guess it appeals to them just as it appeals to us." She points to a heavy shelf covered with merchandise. "That's an old wooden door," she says, "mounted on a pair of brackets that once held a real estate sign." With a coat of bright paint the home-made shelf is very much a part of the distinctive nature of the shop not an industrial display rack that would be better off hidden from view.

"There was a time," Lazerick says, "when everyone stripped paint from their woodwork and stained it. The trend is back to cleaning and repainting, and the bright colors work for us in our homes as well as in the shop."



Photo By: North Star Monthly

Sandy Lazerick (left) and Lallie Mambourg have created a distinctive display space for their flowers and home decor using bright colors and recycled furnishings. The result at All About Flowers is both satisfyingly creative and inspiring for their customers.

"We love to see people take risks and try something from their own inner eye. It's interesting that some colors make you just cringe, but sometimes the most unlikely combinations prove exciting."

Mambourg says, "If it works for us and we laugh and a customer likes it too, then that's a good thing."

Lazerick says, "I think St. Johnsbury could use a few more

places that are distinctive, imaginative and inspiring - and for those reasons no less successful and profitable. It would be good for them, good for the neighborhood and good for us all."

If you haven't ventured into All About Flowers and seen its colorful displays, and the momentum derived from its creative distinctiveness, consider yourself invited.

Kix 105.5 FM
Hot New Country WKXH

LISTEN TO JOSH THOMAS
WEEKDAYS FROM 6:00 - 9:00 A.M.
AND HEAR GREAT MUSIC,
LOCAL NEWS, SPORTS AND
TONS OF CHANCES TO WIN PRIZES.

McKay's
Christmas Trees

BALSAM & FRASER FIR
Cut Your Own: \$15 - \$25
Open Weekends in December
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Hot Chocolate to warm the kids.
2113 Thaddeus Stevens Road in Peacham
2 miles from Greenbanks Hollow covered bridge
or 2.2 miles up Thaddeus Stevens Road
from East Peacham
(802) 592-3366

PARTS PLUS
CarCareCenter
The Next Generation of Automotive Service

Wes Ward AUTO REPAIR
Complete Car Care Services

Happy Holidays
Wes Ward Auto Repair is here to ensure your vehicle is ready for the Holidays.

1193 Portland Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-3636
www.wesward.com

Frosty Air by WILB MOSES

Serigraphs, Prints, Christmas Cards, 2007 Calendars
Puzzles, Books, Framed Mirrors, Conservation Framing

The Framing Format & Gallery
485 Lafayette Street * St. Johnsbury, VT
802-748-3964 * 800-699-3964

The Creamery Restaurant

Lunch
Tues.-Fri. 11:30-2:00
Dinner
Tues.-Sat. 5:00-closing
Pub
Opens at 4:00
Closed Sundays & Mondays
(802) 684-3616

Make Plans for our New Year's Eve Day Brunch
11 am - 1 pm



String Worth Saving

Bill Christiansen

Here we are again in the darkest time of the year. In the morning we go to work in the dark, and it's dark again when we come home in the late afternoon. The saving grace is our artificial light.

We light the interiors of our homes as well as our streets and yards. It seems to be our duty to push back the darkness. This proves our adaptation as diurnal

Stargazing is one activity that fits the season.

animals.

There are places in Europe where winter nights are even longer than ours. We are about half way from the Equator to the North Pole, and at the top of the globe darkness in winter is a full 24 hours.

With the nights long and dark, we need to pursue new activities to make this darkness an opportunity. With cold clear

air and some of the brightest stars we can see, this is the ideal time to become familiar with the night sky. There is no need for any equipment to start. Just looking around and becoming familiar with a few bright stars is the place to begin. If you can get out and see the same stars several nights in a row, you are on your way. Once the sky is familiar, you can start putting stars together into patterns or constellations. In the beginning, your patterns need not match anyone else's, but to repeat the siting is the important task.

Over the years my wife and I have acquired all kinds of star maps, charts and other devices that represent the stars and constellations. All have the same drawback, you can't see them in the dark and they are hard to operate with cold fingers. Mittens make them impossible.

Recently, we found a gadget that eliminates most of these problems. It is a small, handheld device, like a little telescope. However, there is no magnification. It's the Celestron

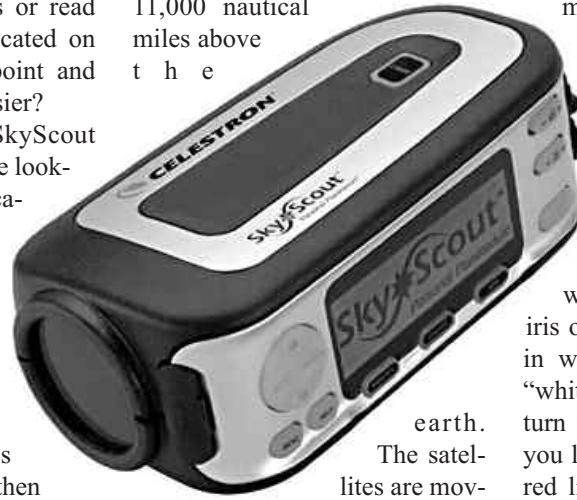
Skyscout. You look through the scope and center a star in the viewing field. Once centered, you press a button, and the device indicates what you are looking at. It can be set to identify stars, planets or constellations. The information is recovered through earphones or read from a small screen located on the instrument. Just point and press, what could be easier?

How does the SkyScout know what it and you are looking at? It's all an application of the Global Positioning System, GPS. With satellite technology, the device locates up to 15 GPS satellites circling the earth. From these satellites, it determines the time and date and then finds its position on earth. Once it knows its location, its internal programming knows where things in the sky are located.

The SkyScout will provide your position on the earth, if you want it. It gives you the correct Universal Time, your latitude and longitude to the nearest second and your height above mean sea level. With a device like this you can never be lost, you will always know exactly where on earth you are. However, it won't

tell you how to get home. You need another device with memory to do that, memory about where you started from and where you have been.

GPS consists of 24 orbiting satellites, in six different orbital paths, which are located 11,000 nautical miles above the



earth. The satellites are moving, and each makes two complete orbits around the earth every 24 hours. The orbits take the satellites to roughly the latitudes of 60 degrees North and 60 degrees South. This makes some of them "visible" to a receiver at any time, anywhere on the earth. The accuracy of the location is within about 49 feet (<15 meters) anywhere on earth. As you can see, GPS can be used to locate things on the earth's surface, but it is

just as useful in locating things in space.

The other need for sky viewing in the winter is a means to keep warm. If you are just looking at stars and planets, jackets, boots, and mittens are all that are required. If you are going to use maps and charts or instruments, mittens will be a problem. The only solution that I know is warm pockets.

You will need a light if you are going to read a chart or map. A light with a red lens will work well. When in the dark, the iris of the eye opens wide to let in weak light. If you have a "white" light, every time you turn it on, your eyes dilate, and you lose your "night vision." A red light reduces the amount of dilatation. You can make a red light with a piece of red transparent material taped over the end of an ordinary flashlight.

By the end of January, the sun will be back to such an extent that it will give light in the morning and late afternoon, and there will be other things to do. Those of us who live in northern New England have to find entertainment to match the seasons, and winter is one of the hardest to deal with. Stargazing is one activity that fits the season.

Give the gift of health

- Massage
- Personal Training
- Nutritional Counseling
- Memberships
- and more...

Gift Certificates available in any denomination



The Club AT OLD MILL 49 Perkins St. St. Johnsbury, VT 748-5313

"Our 94th Year Serving the Greater Danville and Joe's Pond Community"

Quality Groceries & Meats
Salads, Home-Baked Goods & Party Platters
Vermont Cheese, Crackers & Maple Products
(Orders Shipped Direct from the Store)

Call ahead for special holiday orders
Vermont Lottery, Megabucks, Powerball

Happy Holidays
Justice of the Peace and Notary Public
Come visit us for Friendly Family Service

Hastings Store
West Danville, VT (802) 684-3398

SANTA CLAUS PROBABLY HAS ONE HIMSELF

The Celestron SkyScout is a hand held star- and constellation-finder, which uses the global positioning system (GPS) to determine its own location and identify objects in the sky overhead.


Named "Editor's Choice" by *Popular Mechanics* magazine, the "Best of Innovations" among personal electronic gadgets at the 2006 International Consumer Electronics Show and the "Last Gadget Standing" by *PC* (See *SkyScout* on next page)

Holiday on the Danville Green

Open House
Thursday, December 21
5 ~ 7 p.m.
Join us in this Holiday Celebration.

Reid & Balivet; Pope Memorial Library; Melody Hill Farm; The Village Post; Danville Video; Shadow Box Art & Framing and Diamond Hill Store.

And at the Danville Senior Meal Site at the United Methodist Church on the Green ... with Begin Realty Associates; the CCSU Supervisory Union Staff, Passumpsic Savings Bank; *North Star Monthly* and the Sawyer Insurance Agency.





Follow the Money

by Rachel Siegel

“The More, The Merrier”

We now have 300 million people in the United States, or 300 million people that our economy has to satisfy. Until relatively recently in economic thought, population was a resource – labor – for an economy, but also a burden: more people meant, quite literally, more mouths to feed.

For most of human history, economics was about subsistence agriculture – about simply raising enough food to keep people productive enough to raise enough food, and productivity barely kept pace with consumption. When agriculture was the only production process, the valuable resources were land and water. When there were too many people in one place to be supported by the resources there – when land had been overgrazed, or waters over-fished, or wildlife over-hunted – people simply moved on, quite literally, to

greener pastures.

This experience led us to believe that the size of an economy was limited by its resources, which indeed seemed to be true. With the manufacture of goods, at first by hand and then increasingly by machine, and our expanding trade of goods came new ways to create wealth and to satisfy the needs of the population. Making things gradually replaced making food as the dominant economic activity – as agriculture, too, became mechanized and more efficient, and capital replaced land as the most valuable resource in creating economic growth and as the preferred measure of wealth.

Still, resources and commodities – like iron, cotton, coal, oil and so forth – are necessary to make things and to make and power the machines that make things. They are necessary to create and to power the transportation to distribute

goods. Although the variety of resources on which we depended expanded greatly, it still seemed that an economy’s ability to grow depended on, or was limited by, its ability to get resources. It still seemed as though an increasing population put an increasing burden on the naturally finite supply of resources, and thus that a growing population cast a shadow over an economy’s ultimate viability.

This idea was first articulated formally by Thomas Malthus, an Anglican clergyman, in 1798 in his “Essay on the Principle of Population.” Malthus foresaw a population growing faster than its economy’s ability to feed it, which was constrained by the scarcity of land, its maximum yield or productivity, and its vulnerability to the law of diminishing returns (as more resources are used, less product is produced).

What Malthus didn’t foresee, however, was that new knowledge would increase crop yields and even make barren land arable, until it would enable us to feed ourselves many times over.

As the growth sectors of our economy have evolved from manu-

The sharing of knowledge, has been recognized as an important growth factor for an economy, because knowledge, unlike other natural resources, is not consumed but is nurtured by use.

facturing goods to providing services, the most valuable resource has become the human resources – the skills and knowledge that humans can apply. While labor was always necessary to produce food and goods, even with industrialization and its increasing mechanization, in so many service sectors, labor is the only resource required, really – and not manual but intellectual labor.

In many of our fastest growing industries, it has become increasingly apparent that our important resource now is knowledge, and the humans who create it. More people means more sharing of knowledge, a faster evolution of ideas and thus faster growth of both knowledge and the economy. Networking, or the sharing of knowledge, has been recognized as an important growth factor for an economy, because

knowledge, unlike other natural resources, is not consumed but is nurtured by use. We have used up resources, and we have continued to thrive by being able to think up new ways to find more, or new ways to do without. Knowledge has always trumped other resources, and the greater the density of population, the more sharing of knowledge, and the faster it – and our economy – grows.

In 1790, according to our first census, there were 3,929,214 people in the United States, or 4.5 people for every square mile of land. Now there are over 300 million people in our country, and although our land mass has expanded over the years, our population density has grown even faster: there are now 79.6 people per square mile of land.

More people learning and working more closely means faster growth of knowledge and bigger markets for our ideas. We are not limited by our dependence on natural resources, ultimately, but only by ourselves: the more of us, the merrier.

Rachel S. Siegel, CFA, consults on investment portfolio performance and strategy, and on accounting and tax dilemmas. She has an MBA from Yale; she is a professor in the business administration department at Lyndon State College.

SkyScout Weighs in at More than a Stocking Stuffer but Is It Ever Cool

(Continued from page 16)

Magazine, the SkyScout is worth a second look. Even *Reader’s Digest Magazine* named the SkyScout among the 100 best things in America in May.

The Celestron SkyScout is a portable, non-magnifying celestial viewing device that can almost instantly identify or locate more than 6,000 celestial objects. It transforms the sky into a personal planetarium for stargazers, families, students or astronomers. It makes learning the stories of the sky – and finding your way around the sky – easier than ever before.

The AA battery-operated SkyScout is about the size of a small camcorder and weighs less than a pound, making it easy to carry and use in the field. The patented technology combines a GPS receiver and software that calculates the current positions of stars, planets and other objects from a celestial database and 3-axis

sensors that measure the Earth’s gravitational and magnetic fields to determine the actual orientation of the SkyScout to the Earth, no matter where or how you hold it. There’s no need to hold the SkyScout level or point it north to have it aligned.

When the SkyScout is turned on, its internal GPS system automatically determines its location. You don’t have to enter a location or the date and time. The SkyScout does it by means of satellites soaring overhead. User-friendly “point and shoot” technology lets you point it at any visible object in the sky and read a scrolling commentary about the target and its history on the SkyScout’s softly illuminated display.

The SkyScout comes with earphones so you can have the displayed information narrated out loud without having to take your eye from the viewfinder. Optional speakers plug into the earphone

jack and let a group of people (or the whole neighborhood) hear the commentary. The SkyScout database contains scientific data for more than over 6,000 objects, plus history, trivia and mythology associated with the 200 that are the most spectacular.

If you prefer, select an object you’d like to see (Mars, for instance) and the SkyScout’s “locate” function leads you to the target by means of illuminated arrows in its viewfinder. Once you’ve found the object, the SkyScout tells you about it.

The SkyScout offers more than any two-dimensional sky chart or star finder, and its patented technology comes at a price. You’ll find the SkyScout for \$399.95 at shops that sell telescopes or state of the art electronic gadgets. This is one we’d like to have on a dark winter night in Vermont. ★

(HISTORIC PRESERVATION)
S.A. FISHBURN
 CUSTOM CABINETRY
 FINEST QUALITY DESIGN
 THE SHERIDAN

We bring years of experience and a passion for excellence to everything we do. Exact and professional, straight forward and honest, skilled and quietly confident. Call us for a consultation.

S.A. FISHBURN, INC.
 DANVILLE, VERMONT 05829
 802 684-2524
 fish@kingston.com

The Miller's Thumb
 Greensboro, VT

Enjoy a Country Shopping Experience!
 Our Collection is stocked FULL with FUN, FESTIVE and FUNCTIONAL Accessories for your FAMILY, FRIENDS and HOLIDAY HOME

- * Lots of Free Parking
- * No Crowds; No Lines
- * We Gift Box and Ship Everyday 'til Christmas.

Greensboro Village
 (802) 533-2960
 themillersthumb.com

WESTERN AVENUE STATION

“your friendly full service station”

Specializing in

- ♦ Exhaust systems
- ♦ Brakes

“See Dan the Muffler Man”
 Danny Lapierre, Mechanic

13 Western Ave. ♦ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 ♦ (802) 748-2339

NORTHERN PETROLEUM CO.
 189 RAILROAD ST. - ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 05819 (802) 748-8934 OR 1(800) 222-9276

The Family of NORTHERN PETROLEUM CO. Wishes Your Family All the Warmth of the Holidays

Cal'ol
 Morey
 Andy Hill
 Ken LaFleur
 Clarence Mitchell
 Mike Nelson, Willie Valley
 Chuck Belanger, Kendall Legendre
 Butch Cuthbertson, Howard Gadapee
 Rich Lawson, Peter Belanger, Shelia Davis
 Karen Westover, Bruce Gould, Don Osborne
 Steve Harran, Curt Utton, Kris Benoit, Sue Legendre
 Bruce Stone, Sean Somers, Steve Taylor, Arthur Dionisio

K P
 e r
 n e
 n s
 e c
 t o
 h t
 t

Terry Cromack
We Make Your Home a Better Place
 St. Johnsbury, VT
 1-800-222-9276
 December 2006



Up on the Farm Early

Lorna Quimby



This last Fall Foliage day was cool. All day we kept a fire going in the wood-burning stove in the Historical House. Our visitors appreciated the chance to sit, drink hot coffee, eat Marilyn Petrie's freshly made doughnuts and enjoy the warmth from the stove. Every time someone came in or out, cold air swept across the floor. The cold air was even more noticeable when the door was held open while people visited. It was obvious they came from a warmer area and weren't used to conserving heat. "Oho," I told my sister, Pat McLam, "Were they brought up in a barn?"

How many times we heard that from Maw. Like cats we were always on the wrong side of

the door. In summer as we ran in and out we let in houseflies. In winter we brought in cold air. The longer we held the door, the more warm air escaped, the more cold air slid across the floors and the more Maw yelled "Shut that door! What were you, brought up in a barn?"

There was no cellar under the kitchen. Even with the wood-burning cook stove, the kitchen floor was always cold. A door between the living room and kitchen kept warm air in the living room, although cold air moved over the floor to the intake around the hot air register. There was always a draft under a heavy drape in the doorway, by the kitchen sink, that led to the dining room. The doors into the

downstairs bedroom and the hall were kept shut, for Maw intended to keep the warm air in the living and dining rooms. We did not open doors unless absolutely necessary. It was all right if we went once to the stairway to get a magazine. A second trip would bring "Keep that door shut! What were you ..."

I knew what the barn was like on a cold winter day. When Maw sent us out to play, to get us out from under foot, we girls had climbed up a ladder, stood on a beam, then jumped in the hay. Leggings, hats, coats and mittens kept us warm enough while we were scrambling around. When we sat down on the hay to rest, the chilly air soon cooled us off. Imagine living in such a drafty place.

Maw used many expressions we understood because we lived on a farm. "Independent as a hog on ice with his tail froze in" was a favorite. I puzzled over how independent one could be if one couldn't move. "Mad as a wet hen" needed no explanation, but "scarce as hen's teeth" caused me much head scratching.

If Maw's chiding failed to catch our attention, it "slid off

our backs like water off a duck." "Taking the bull by the horns" was not one of Maw's phrases. She rarely mentioned the bull. It sounded like a dangerous proposition to me as did "Grabbing the bull by the tail."

At school we heard "Tattle-tale! Tattle-tale! Hanging on a bull's tail!"

"The tune the old cow died on" meant Maw did not enjoy whatever song one was singing. When Maw was snowed under with work, she was "all behind like an ole cow's tail."

A saying we used to describe an ill-fitting garment came from Helen Jennison. She had ordered a dress from either Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward. She brought the package to the Corner post office to return to the mail order company. "Oh, Mr. Somers," she told the post master. "I was so disappointed. It fit just like a saddle on a sow."

Someone Maw thought stingy was "tighter'n bark on a tree." The person who was "meaner'n scat" was really bad. "Slippery as an eel" meant little for a small girl who had never seen an eel. But I could picture "the high Mucky-mucks" at the

Corner [whoever they were] strutting around with their noses in the air. I've forgotten how Maw used "old dog Tray."

Like cats we were always on the wrong side of the door.

When we were all dressed up, our hair combed, our shoes polished, we looked "slick as a w h i s t l e ."

When Maw said a person "didn't know enough to lick alum and drool," we knew the person so designated was intellectually challenged—as they say in these enlightened days. It was not until years later, when I made thirteen-day pickles, that I had a chance to lick alum and discover the meaning of the phrase.

"Hell to pay and no pitch hot" was one of Dad's sayings. I imagined someone giving spruce gum [the only pitch I knew came from a spruce tree] to a black devil with horns and a forked tail. Why the devil wanted chewing gum I couldn't think. Although I'd never seen the ocean, I could understand the futility of "shoveling against the tide."

We walked "round by Robin Hood's barn" when we went the long way around to get somewhere. Why "Robin Hood?"

These sayings, phrases, expressions conveyed their meanings dramatically and, usually, effectively. We'd close the door quickly, for we didn't want people to think we were "brought up in a barn."

HIGH BEAMS
CUSTOM BRASS & COPPER LIGHTING
Lighting Showroom
802.467.3943

We make wall lights, ceiling lights, table & standing lamps and outdoor lighting. Custom shades and a large selection of glass shades. We rewire, restore, polish, patina and do lighting decorating & consulting. Residential or commercial.

See us by appointment or by chance.
2 miles north of West Burke off Route 5, Sutton, VT
www.highbeams.com

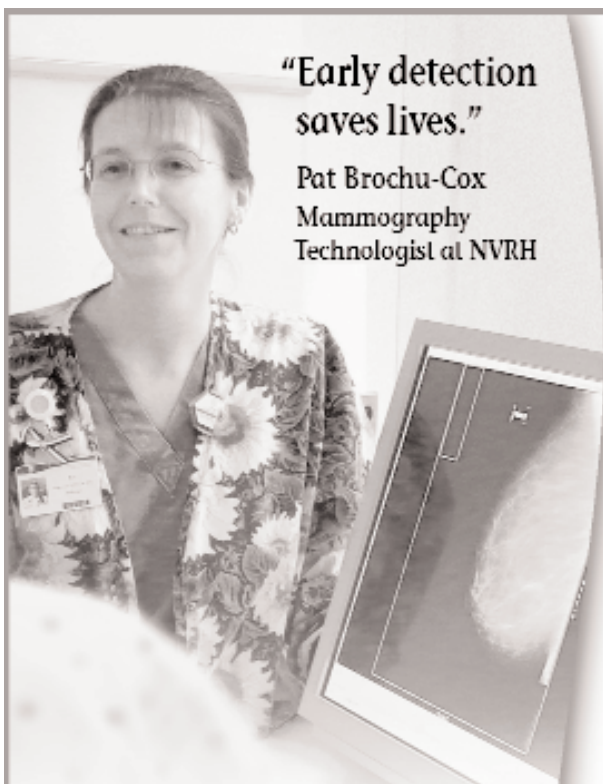
modern woodmen of america

Offering fraternal financial services to help you reach your financial goals.

David Maile
FIC
P.O. Box 88
Danville, VT 05828
802-684-3371

Deb Wallers-Maile
FIC, LUTCF
P.O. Box 88
Danville, VT 05828
802-684-3371

Teaching lives. Securing futures.™



"Early detection saves lives."

Pat Brochu-Cox
Mammography
Technologist at NVRH

COMPUTER-AIDED-DETECTION DIGITAL MAMMOGRAPHY

If you are a woman 40 years of age or older, the American Cancer Society and NVRH urge you to have a mammogram yearly.

At NVRH, we have the latest in computer-aided-detection digital mammography. **Only 12% of U.S. hospitals currently offer digital mammography.** Digital images are crisper and clearer, with greater variations of grayscale, making them easier to read. The **computer-aided-detection (CAD)** technology gives the radiologist a "second look" and provides an extra level to assist in breast cancer detection.

We know there are a million other places you would rather be than having a mammogram. But rest assured, our caring team of certified technologists work with you one-on-one to talk you through the process. And NVRH is a certified Softer Mammogram Provider. We use a foam cushion, called **MammoPad**™, to create a softer, warmer mammogram to make sure your mammogram is as comfortable as possible.

Consider it part of your yearly routine for peace of mind — early detection can not only save your breast, it can save your life. For more information about mammography and the services available at NVRH please contact us at 802-748-7900

We treat you like family.

NORTHEASTERN VERMONT REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Member of DARTMOUTH-HITCHCOCK ALLIANCE

HOSPITAL DRIVE, ST. JOHNSBURY | 802 748-8141 | WWW.NVRH.ORG



ST. J. FOOD CO-OP

Eat better.

- Fresh
- Local
- Organic



Fresh, Local, Organic, that's us!! Come on in and check out this fall's local VT harvest. Organic fresh carrots, cranberries, garlic, potatoes, tomatoes and winter squash. We also offer organic bacon, beef, chicken, pork, sausages and turkeys. **Join us** Friday Dec. 8, 4 - 6 pm for our **Organic Wine Tasting**. Sample

Holiday Hors d'Oeuvres while you taste!! Our **First Fridays: Health & Wellness Series** continues **Friday Dec. 1, 3:30-5:30**, with Herbalist Flower Nicole discussing Herbs for Healthy Holidays. From all our staff, we hope you had a great Thanksgiving.

Anyone can shop, member or not.

Open: Mon - Wed & Sat 9-6
Thurs & Fri 9-7; Sundays 11-4
Anybody Can Shop, Member or Not

490 Portland Street
St. Johnsbury VT
802) 748-9498

That Train Ride Was the First Day of a New Life

BETS PARKER ALBRIGHT

It was my birthday. I was 15. There were a cake and a few presents, such as clothes to take with me to my new school. My mother and I would take a taxi to Grand Central Station, where she would see me onto the "Montrealer," a swift train for the overnight trip to Canada. A teacher from the girls' school in Compton, Quebec would meet me in Montreal and shepherd me, probably with some other girls, onto the local train for Compton.

I was eager to go away to school but apprehensive about the strangeness. It was a new country and all new people. I was ill at ease about my travel outfit. It was a blue-gray wool suit, which had been given to my mother by a wealthy friend who bought clothing in Paris and soon tired of it. Unfortunately, the clothes fit me, but I only wanted to look like my friends and not like my mother's acquaintances. Oh, well, I'd soon be wearing a school uniform...

The day finally came. The train was ready to board, and I longed to get aboard and on with my new life. I kissed my mother and urged her to leave; I'd be fine settling into my sleeping car. There was no need for her to stay. She hugged me and left. She and I were not really close, but despite her avowed preference for boys I knew she cared about me.

She had been distressed, I knew, that she hadn't achieved a second son. I was to be Jonathan, and here I was Elizabeth, mostly known as Betsy. I vowed to myself that I would announce myself as Bets when I arrived at King's Hall School.

Once settled in my berth, I was excited about the trip and peered eagerly out the windows. It was dark, but I was wide awake when we reached the Canadian border where officials came onto the train. They checked out the passengers and looked at our papers.

"Going away to school, are you?"

"Yes," I said eagerly, "to a boarding school in Compton."

"Hope you have a great time. Canada is a fine place."

Asked later by a pleasant train person if I wanted anything, I shyly requested some tea. Soon I was sipping happily and feeling content and properly grown up.

The next morning, though it was quite early, I was up and fully dressed. It was light, and I looked out of the window with anticipation. I knew that the teacher meeting me was to take me to breakfast in Montreal, so I declined other offers of food. I collected my belongings - a new shoulder-strap handbag with my passport, various phone numbers and addresses and some money that I could change to Canadian in Montreal, and my suitcase, which was quite small. All my other things had been shipped to the school in a steamer trunk, which I hoped would be waiting for me when I arrived.

We pulled into Bonaventure Station, and I climbed off. The kind porter grinned, handed down my little case and wished me well. I was sure the teacher quickly (they called them mistresses in Canada) would be looking for me, but I hoped I would find her. I saw a nice-looking young woman walking towards me.

"Are you Betty Holden,

going to Compton?" she asked. "I'm Miss Kaiser. Welcome to Canada. We'll have some breakfast and then look for a couple of girls who are coming from Ontario. Then we'll find the Compton train, which will be full of girls, and off we'll go." She took my case, and I trotted after her.

We had a chatty breakfast, and it was not long before we collected the other girls and hopped on our local train. Sure enough, it was full of giggling, noisy girls who all seemed to have known each other for years. My heart sank. I'm the stranger, the odd one out. I crept into an empty seat beside a girl sitting alone by the window.

"Hello," I said. "Are you new too?"

"Yes, I'm Pat, and I'm from Toronto."

We were soon chatting happily, and the trip went quickly. A rattly old bus gathered us up, and we drove along a country road for a few miles. Some of the girls were singing, and we were all eager to have the promised "tea" (actually a nourishing meal) at the school.

After we'd been fed, we were shown to our rooms. I entered mine and saw the nearest bed was occupied by a girl with an obvious cold and red nose.

"Hullo, I'm Molly. We'll be roommates," she said. "I'm from Toronto - are you the American girl? I've never met an American, but I'm glad to see you."

I plopped my things on the other bed and saw that my steamer trunk had arrived. I started settling in, answering Molly's questions and asking some myself as I unpacked. I was beginning to feel more at home. Molly was nice, my first new friend and my first Canadian.

There was a knock on the

door. A woman with an English accent greeted us both.

"Molly, you had better stay in bed today with that cold. We'll send up some lunch. Betty, if you'll come with me I'll show you around."

"Excuse me," I said, "but would you introduce me as Bets. That's how I would like to be known."

"That's fine. Bets it shall be," she said, "and I will introduce you to Gillie. She's the headmistress. You will call her Miss Gillard, but she's Gillie to us and a wonderful person. You'll love her."

Thus began my new life away at school. I was happy and sure that I had come to a place that offered the kind of security and home-ness that I had not known in my New York existence. I could only guess at the experiences that awaited me.

The countryside was lovely, green and hilly, with huge trees all around the school. The big rambling building seemed wel-

She had been distressed, I knew, that she hadn't achieved a second son.

coming, and they were full of girls who would become my friends. I might be the only American, I thought, but I vowed I wouldn't be a stranger for long.

David Toll, M.D.

Pediatrics

1394 Main Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-2348

WSTJ
am 1340

Tune in for High School Games live on WSTJ.

PO Box 249 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 (802) 748-2345

Building & Remodeling
Painting & Wallpapering
Snowplowing & Sanding



EMMONS & YOUNG CONSTRUCTION

Jim (802) 684-3856 1154 Bruce Badger Memorial Hwy.
Dana (802) 633-3844 Danville, VT 05828

Goodrich's Maple Farm

2427 US Rt. 2, Cabot, VT 05647
(802) 426-3388

goodrichsmple@yahoo.com www.goodrichmaplefarm.com

AWARD-WINNING MAPLE SYRUP & PRODUCTS

Retail Wholesale **Mail Order**

Your Largest Local Selection of Maple Equipment

New & Used Equipment

Custom Tubing Installation & Consultation

Open Monday-Saturday 9-5, Closed Sundays & Holidays

HOLIDAY ❄️ LOAN ❄️ PROMOTION



8.9% ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE
12 EASY PAYMENTS
With an offer this good, why carry holiday gift expenses on high rate credit cards? **SIGN & SHOP!** Use the money to visit family for the holidays or to buy gifts, enjoy your own trip for yourself! **STOP BY** any of NCUA's convenient locations. Sign up for our **8.9% APR with 12 easy payments holiday loan special**...and take the stress out of your holiday shopping season!

NCUA **northern lights**
Banking with a difference.
www.northernlightslife.com

246 1/2 Bell's Road, Littleton, NH 1-800-370-6488 | 1-800-886-0026 1004 Memorial Dr., St. Johnsbury, VT

What's Happening at the Town Hall?

Barnet

Town Clerk: William Hoar
Selectboard: Ted Faris, Stanley Robinson and Gary Bunnell

November 13, 2006

Harvey's Lake Dam – Board discussed agreement submitted by Milone & MacBroom for work to be done at Harvey's Lake dam. Board has agreed to price of \$24,000. Agreement does not include clauses required by Land and Water Conservation Fund, which is providing grant funds for the project. Town clerk will contact Milone & MacBroom and see if revised agreement can be provided.

Road Sign – On request from Ken & Judy Butson Board approved installation of a sign on Jewett Brook Road, which will read "Drive slowly-watch for children." Sign will be located 18 feet from the center of the road and installed at Butsons' expense.

Former Passumpsic Village Store – Board reviewed letter from agency of natural resources with comments on site status at former Passumpsic Village Store. Board agreed to continue annual water sampling and sampling supply well at Marston residence on a semi-annual basis.

Appropriations Request – Board approved including appropriation requests in 2007 town meeting warning from Caledonia Home Health Care (\$2,300); Northeast Kingdom Human Services (\$1,774) and Northeast Kingdom Youth Services (\$1,000).

Health Insurance – Board reviewed notice from Vermont League of Cities and Towns about change in provider of municipal employee health insurance coverage.

Storm Water Discharge Permit – Board noted that the State recently issued Multi-Sector General Permit for storm water discharges, which will apply to former Barnet Landfill. Permit does not apply to town's transfer station.

Road Names – Board reported request to have private road named. Road is across from Goodwillie House and bordering property owned by Allen Fogg, Dale Hinchey and others. A request was also submitted to change the names of Bony Woods Road and Laird Road to reduce confusion. No action taken.

Cabot

Town Clerk: Chris Kaldor
Selectboard: Larry Gochey, Caleb Pitkin and Ted Domey

November 1, 2006

All Terrain Vehicles – After discussion regarding correspondence between Janet Van Fleet and Caleb Pitkin, Board agreed it has not granted permission for use of ATV's on town highways.

Legal Matters – Board discussed correspondence from Town Attorney Paul Gillies.

November 15, 2006

Constable – Ken Gokey, first constable, met with Board to report hitting a dog owned by Joyce Tomasetto in the village at 5:30 a.m. Board reviewed letter from Tomasetto and will respond to letter.

UDAG Committee – After presentation by UDAG Committee Chair Andy Leinoff, Board voted to authorize transfer of UDAG Fund brokerage accounts from Morgan Stanley Dean Witter and A G Edwards to a trust account at Union Bank; UDAG Scholarship Endowment Fund from TD Banknorth to a trust account at the Union Bank; UDAG Administrative checking account from TD Banknorth to a checking account at the Union Bank; UDAG Scholarship Endowment checking account from TD Banknorth to a checking account at the Union Bank. Board also extended deadline for submitting community grant proposals to 21 December 2006.

Plainfield Health Center – Board voted to sign letter of support for Plainfield Health Center.

Cabot Skylighters – Board voted to sign Cabot Skylighters Landowner Permission Form.

Town Highways – Board discussed information from the VT Agency of Transportation regarding laying out, discontinuing and reclassifying highways. Board will procure maps to identify town highways and trails before completing survey.

Danville

Town Clerk: Virginia Morse
Selectboard: Marion Sevigny, Larry Gadapee, Rick Sevigny, Marvin Withers and Michael Walsh

October 30, 2006

Personnel – After executive session to interview candidates for town road crew no action was taken.

November 2, 2006

Ward Cemetery – On request of Louise Lessard Board approved tree work at Ward Cemetery and approved quote of \$1,650 from Tracy St. Louis of North Country Tree Care in Greensboro using \$500 from cemetery budget and balance from cemetery restoration fund. Lessard asked to have at least an additional \$1000 for cemetery mowing added to 2007 budget.

Speed Limit – On request of Joe Hallowell to lower and post speed limit on Morrill Road, Board agreed to consider lowering speed limit on all class 3 roads.

Tax Sale – On recommendation of Toby Balivet, Board voted to authorize Reid and Balivet to conduct tax sale scheduled for November 27 and appoint Mert Leonard to act as its agent to place first bid at auction, including total taxes due plus attorney and tax collector fees, and establish minimum bid for other bidders.

Access to Town Road – Richard Despina met with Board to determine status of TH #76, which connects to Demaio Lane in Barnet. Residents on Barnet end of the road have complained that 4-wheelers and ATV's have been using the unimproved class 4 road at all hours of night and day. Merton Leonard will investigate procedure for closing road to motorized traffic.

Town Garage Wood Furnace – Barb and Gary Fontaine met with Board about procedure for filling wood furnace at garage. Kevin Gadapee reported road crew had filled furnace on weekends in exchange for use of garage to work on their vehicles. Then members of crew were paid two hours of overtime per weekend for the filling, but now he does it himself.

Road Conditions – Coutures met with Board showing photographs of conditions on Cormier and Morrill Road and unfinished work. Kevin Gadapee agreed to finish work within the week.

Zoning Bylaws – On recommenda-

tion of planning commission Board approved \$10,000 quote from Municipal Resources of Meredith, NH for consulting work in rewriting town zoning bylaws. \$9,348 will be paid from grant received from Vermont Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

Antique Roads – Board discussed state grant funding for researching antique roads. On recommendation of Leonard and Kevin Gadapee Board agreed to document known roads and any others that might show on a mid 1900's map.

Road Work – Kevin Gadapee reported seasonal road maintenance is underway and they are working to minimize water drainage problems.

Personnel – After executive session to discuss candidates for road crew Board voted to hire Scott Cromac of Concord and Royce Masten of St. Johnsbury.

Development Review Board – On recommendation of development review board, Board voted to appoint Ed Hebebrand to development review board.

November 16, 2006

Wastewater Treatment – Board met with Lee Houghton of Earth Tech to review contract for operating town's wastewater treatment plant for next year. Contract represents a 3% increase over past year for increases in wages, testing and insurance for a total of \$46,504.50. Board voted to approve contract as presented including a \$116.84 surplus from maintenance expenses in 2006.

Personnel – Board met with Scott Palmer who protested town's letter sent to labor relations board following union vote, maintenance and inspection schedule of town vehicles, photographs of town workers taken without hard hats, his not being assigned to operate town's backhoe last summer, workers standing in loader bucket piling wood, chain of command procedure, not receiving certain emails as requested, reprimand of employees and the continuing harassment of town employees. Board responded but took no action.

Highland Avenue – Board met with Barb and Gary Fontaine to clarify situation with one way streets in the Highland Avenue area as discussed by Board. Board is seeking a traffic study and professional opinion about remaining Act 250 permit condition for Sugar Ridge development.

Road Work – Kevin Gadapee reported on road work including work on Cormier Road and Morrill Road and other areas of town. Tim Ruggles will estimate repairs on the Harvey's Hollow bridge for bridge grant application.

Antique Roads – Merton Leonard reported he has submitted a \$5,000 antique road grant application and that state documentation of town roads was first started in 1931 and that would be a good base map to compare with current roads.

Planning Commission – Board approved purchase of map case for \$600 for planning commissions.

Conservation Commission – Board voted to hire Brent Engstrom for \$500 to assist town conservation commission.

Road Crew – Board approved paying for updated pagers for road crew members and require that they be used.

Town Insurance – Board agreed to stay with Vermont League of Cities and Towns insurance trust.

Personnel – After executive session Board voted to appoint Bill Bailey to position of lead worker.

Lyndon

Town Clerk – Lisa Barrett
Selectmen: Martha Feltus, Bruce James and Rob Elmes

October 30, 2006

Highway Report – At 81% through the year, the highway budget is 67% expended.

Police Department – Town Clerk administered oath of office to new full-time police officer, James Hemond.

Access Permits – After discussion Board tabled applications for three access permits from Caledonia County Fair Association for access onto Lily Pond Road pending further information.

Perpetual Care – Board approved perpetual care agreement for Pearsons Funeral Home.

Peacham

Town Clerk: Bruce Lafferty
Selectmen: Richard Browne, Tim McKay and Gary Swenson.

October 18, 2006

Planning Commission – Gib Parrish presented 2007 budget for Peacham planning commission. Board discussed newly proposed regulations and distribution of information to residents.

Town Clerk's Office – Bruce Lafferty presented 2007 budget for town clerk's office. Board discussed merits of lease or purchasing a new copier for the office and asked for a preliminary 2006 revenue projection in the near future. Lafferty reported that 2007 budget summary will include all budget information in a format similar to that of 2006.

Other Budget Reviews – Board noted budget proposals will be available soon from fire department and cemetery association.

Transfer Station – Board discussed report regarding purchase of trash compactor from Casella Waste Management to be used at transfer station with waste management district representative Paul Tomasi. Board discussed financial advantages of having trash compactor, installation of concrete pads and a

Aunt Dee's
Country Store & Deli



All of us at Aunt Dee's wish all of our friends and neighbors a Happy Holiday Season. We look forward to serving you in the New Year. George, Dee, Maegan, Verna, Becky, Anjo and Jesse.

Gas ■ Groceries ■ Grinders ■ Pizza ■ Megabucks & Lottery
Fried Foods ■ Weigh Station ■ Bait ■ UPS Agent

Come check out our new gift shop!

(809) 633-2624 ■ 113 West Main St. ■ West Barnet, VT
Minutes from Harvey's Lake

LITTLETON BIKE & FITNESS

COME SEE ALL THE LATEST FITNESS EQUIPMENT

TRUE FITNESS
VISION FITNESS
LEMOND & DANSKIN

WE SELL, SERVICE AND DELIVER

28 COTTAGE STREET
LITTLETON
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
(603) 444-3437
WWW.LITTLETONBIKE.COM

"Your Clear Choice in Auto Glass Replacement"

Windshield World
"We Come to You"

- FREE COURTESY CAR OR MOBILE SERVICE
- INSURANCE APPROVED FOR DIRECT BILLING
- WRITTEN WARRANTY
- ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT SAFETY GLASS
- LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

BARRE 479-0666
HARDWICK 472-5554
WHITE RIVER JCT. 295-9903
NEWPORT 334-1348
GORHAM, NH 752-1414

DIAL TOLL FREE
800-639-0666
"PROMPT FRIENDLY SERVICE"

ST. JOHNSBURY
371 Memorial Drive • 748-3310

Excerpts from Selectboard Minutes from Area Towns
See your Town Clerk for complete minutes of the meetings

roof and a preliminary contract for the purchase.

Road Work – Administrative Assistant Phil Jejer reported Old Cemetery Hill Road project was completed, and further work on ends of the road will be done in the future. Backhoe needs a hydraulic pump. Gravel work on Mack Mountain Road continues.

Village Intersection – Jejer reported he has contacted StanTech Engineering regarding its proposal for the village intersection concept.

Town Vehicle – Board discussed leasing or purchasing a midsize pickup truck for use by road department because town's insurance provider finds that use of any personal vehicle on a regular basis for town business does not conform to town's insurance. Board discussed mileage reimbursement of 44.5 cents a mile, as well as higher additional cost of using a town dump truck for short errands, trips to training seminars and meetings, to pick up parts and to inspect the town's roads, it was estimated that the total present vehicle costs amount to over \$10,000 a year. Board determined that the town would be no worse off financially by acquiring a vehicle than it would by continuing the present practice. Board asked Jejer to instruct Gilmour Ford to present a purchase agreement at next meeting. Jejer will draft a written policy for the use of the vehicle.

Peacham Cemetery – Board discussed cemetery funds and written input from residents about balances in restricted and unrestricted funds. Swenson will contact auditing firm hired in 2003 and investigate procedures for auditing the cemetery accounts.

November 1, 2006

Transfer Station – Board discussed roof for compactor at transfer station with Dale Roy Sr. and Dick Blair. Design of roof and timetable for installation will be determined soon.

Village Plan – Tim McKay presented report for Peacham Economic Committee. Committee members include Charlie Browne, Barry Lawson, Tim McKay, Gib Parrish and Ed Stretch. Committee is seeking grant funds for town projects and has been working on village intersection design concept and town hall.

Fire Department – Fire Chief Jeff Berwick presented department budget and emphasized need for a source of water on East Hill, capital funding for additional hydrants as water supplies, replacement of current rescue vehicle and maintenance work required on town's forest fire vehicle.

Road Crew – Administrative Assistant Phil Jejer reported seasonal road work continues. Board discussed maintenance needs at town garage and Jejer's drafting policies

for use of town vehicles and public use of town sandpile. Board voted to authorize Jejer to sign contract with Pike Industries for paving village section of Bayley Hazen Road.

Town Vehicle – Board approved agreement with Gilmour Ford for town pickup truck.

Cemetery Funds – Board discussed cemetery funds.

Town Budget – Board discussed town budget and asked town treasurer to provide preliminary budget report at December 6 meeting.

St. Johnsbury

Town Manager: Michael Welch
 Town Clerk: Sandy Grenier
 Selectboard: Dale Urie, Bryon Quatrini, Dale Urie, Reg Wakeham, Gary Reis and Jerry Rowe.

October 23, 2006

Grand List Amendments – Board reviewed and approved several changes to 2006 grand list.

County Budget – Associate Judge Bill Kennedy and Sheriff Bergeron reviewed proposed county budget totaling \$379,962. Previous year budget was \$363,035. Kennedy said increase will be offset by projected year-end surplus. Proposed budget for sheriff's department is \$132,094 compared with current year budget of \$132,202.

Recycling Committee – Board appointed Ed Magnus, Lauren Jarvi, Tara Robinson-Holt and Teija Huntunen-Green to Recycling Committee.

Downtown Improvement District – Linda Fogg, from St. J Works, provided Board with information regarding proposed expansion of St. Johnsbury's downtown improvement district. St. J Works is requesting that Board approve charter amendment for vote at March town meeting and consideration by state legislature. Fogg described various budgets including a full time executive director, marketing plans for St. J Works and fees associated with larger downtown improvement district. Board discussed costs and various benefits of proposal and agreed to consider more specific information about proposed expansion at its next meeting.

Three Rivers Transportation Path – Project Manager Kevin Russell and Jeffrey Trucker of Dubois and King Engineering met with Board to review status of Three Rivers Transportation Path. Russell reported there are 32 parcels of land with 30 different property owners. Tucker said that with remaining design, permitting and state funding availability project will probably begin in 2009. Board asked to have property owners contacted sooner rather than later to determine whether there are additional problems along proposed route.

Breezy Hill Subdivision Request – Following presentation by town manager about proposed subdivision off Breezy Hill and Board's recent requirement for access for recreational purposes, Board voted that applicant for Breezy Hill subdivision needs to provide evidence of access to land for recreational purposes or pay prevailing \$500 per lot fee.

Downtown Improvement Commission – Board appointed Scott Beck and Loren Phelps to Downtown Improvement Commission.

Village at North Slope on New Boston Road – Manger reported Act 250 Commission has asked to see plan for sidewalks in Village at North Slope subdivision. Following discussion, Board voted in support of narrower travel lanes with a 4' paved area on either side of road for pedestrian/bicycle use.

Parking Meters – Board confirmed that parking meter adjustment should be for 5 cents, 10 cents and 25 cents as recommended in St. J Works proposal.

Parking Meter Fund – Bruce Corrette advised Board that Downtown Improvement Commission should review charges to parking meter fund as he believes excessive costs for town clerk office and streetlights are being charged to fund.

Health Insurance – Manager provided Board with information about proposed dramatic increases in costs of health insurance.

Act 60/Act 68 Repeal – Board agreed to not take a position on repeal initiative for Act 60/Act 68.

November 13, 2006

Downtown Improvement District – Town manager reported that St. J Works has withdrawn its proposal to have a charter amendment before voters for downtown improvement district expansion in 2007. St. J Works will work with Board before resubmitting its proposal.

Fraud Policy – Town Clerk Sandy Grenier provided Board with draft fraud policy. Following discussion Grenier agreed to revise the draft for reconsideration.

Grand List – On recommendation of town clerk Board approved various amendments to 2006 grand list.

Audit Report Management Letter – Town Clerk reviewed her written response to audit report management letter outlining steps taken to address

items identified.

Property Tax Due Date – Board noted November 17 as last day for payment of annual property tax. Delinquent Taxes – Sandy Grenier reported total delinquent property taxes for the town are approximately \$50,000.

Capital Improvement Plan – Town Manager referred to a draft copy of capital improvement plan. Jerry Rowe said plan is an attempt to prioritize major capital improvements. Further discussion and public hearings will take place.

Housing Code – Board discussed copy of draft ordinance amendment that would be incorporated within 2003 Life Safety Code and into the existing municipal ordinance related to fire prevention and protection. Manger suggested that Fire Chief Ruggles will make a presentation to Board about associated plans for inspection. Board would need to warn public hearing if it chooses to move ahead on amendment to the ordinance.

Health Insurance – Town Manager provided correspondence from Vermont League of Cities and Towns regarding a change in providers of health insurance in order to contain the rising costs of employee coverage. Manager will schedule meeting with town employees. Board discussed proposed change and its concern for cost and coverage.

Utility Easement – Board approved two pole permits for Verizon.

Liquor Permit – Board approved liquor license for Wine Gate.

Response to Weight Limit Letter – Town Manager provided Board with letter from VTrans Secretary Neale Lunderville in response to Board request that trucks be allowed to use Interstate as a truck route for Route 2.

Burke Mountain Impact Planning – Jerry Rowe suggested that planning commission may want to participate in Burke Mountain impact initiative being coordinated by NVDA.

Arlington Woods – Board acknowledged Bruce Johnson's forestry students from St. Johnsbury Academy and their trail work in Arlington Woods. Dale Urie suggested creating a connection between Arlington Woods and the town forest. Urie also inquired about resources to address overgrowth of buck-thorne in Arlington Woods.

Veterans Parade – Board noted

organizers of successful Salute to Veterans parade on November 4.

Walden

Town Clerk: Lina Smith
 Selectboard: David Brown, Perley Greaves and Douglas Luther

November 14, 2006

Board of Listers – Following presentation by Lister Diane Banister describing difficulty in filling lister positions and high turnover, Board discussed possibility of establishing position filled by a professional appraiser. After discussion Board appointed Julie Gallivan as a lister until March town meeting and agreed to hire New England Municipal Consultants to help listers meet deadlines this year at a cost of approximately \$1,800.

Emergency Management Coordinator – Butch Greaves, emergency management coordinator, has proposed having a generator at the school for its use as the town's emergency shelter. Board agreed and will research possibilities for funding the equipment.

E-911 Road Name – Greaves also notified Board of need for a name on a new road off of Hines Place. Camp owners on the road and Board agreed to name, Ole Ray Road.

Road Matters – Road Foreman asked to use \$2,000 in budget earmarked for stone on gravel because town has used up gravel budget. Board agreed.

School Bus – On request of school bus driver for a key to town garage to refuel when road crew is not there Board agreed to put a lock on the fuel pump and provide driver with a key.

FAIRBANKS MUSEUM
planetarium

Open Tuesday - Saturday
 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Open Mondays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
 mid-May through mid-October

Planetarium shows:
 Saturday & Sunday at 1:30

Acupuncture
 in the Northeast Kingdom

Call Us!
 Because You Deserve To Be Well

Amy Wheeler & Barry Fudim

Licensed & National Board Certified

Offices:
 Barnet, VT and Hanover, NH
 By appointment: (802) 633-2876

Dussault's Heating

Sales Service Installation

- ◆ Thermo Pride Furnaces
- ◆ Peerless Boilers

Box 301
 St. Johnsbury, VT 05819

(802) 748-4945
 24 hour service

Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

from Dick, Janette and Amy

For all your insurance, call
Richard P. Barrett
 309 Portland Street, Suite 102
 St. Johnsbury, Vermont 05819
(802) 748-5224

- ◆ Savings
- ◆ Service
- ◆ Satisfaction

REPRESENTATIVE

CO-OPERATIVE INSURANCE COMPANIES

- ◆ Convenient Payment Plans



No Small Potatoes

Vanna Guldenschuh

December is upon us again – bringing a myriad of ethnic and family holiday food traditions. Celebrations of Christmas, New Years, Hanukkah, Ramadan and Kwanzaa all feature a varied array of food and festivities too numerous to mention here.

This year I opt to choose the regal British tradition of a standing rib roast for the Christmas or New Year's celebration. It is elegant in simplicity and needs no more enhancement than its own juices. It creates a meal fit for a king or queen.

Forgive me for the great detail here because you want to do every thing possible to properly cook prime rib. It is a significant financial investment and you want it to be perfect.

Although there are different ways to prepare this roast, there are certain points that most all cooks agree upon for a successful outcome.

HELPFUL HINTS

1. Buy at least a three rib roast (about 6 lbs.) for proper cooking, and make sure the

chine/backbone is cut out. This makes it possible to carve the roast without having to cut through bone. You can buy a boned roast, but it will not have the deep flavor of a roast cooked with the bones attached. Purchase your roast at a market where there is someone knowledgeable to talk to about how the roast was cut. At the same time be careful of advice on time and temperature and overall cooking of the roast. Often times the butcher is not a chef and can err in recipe directions.

2. Bring the roast to room temperature before cooking. This usually takes about an hour and a half to achieve – so plan ahead. A roast that is refrigerator cold in the center will not cook properly.

3. Cook uncovered for the whole time. The marbling and fat on prime rib will self baste the roast all through the cooking process creating a succulent crispy outer layer. Yum, I can

smell it now.

4. Put the roast in a 450° oven for the first ½ hour. This seals in the juices and browns the beef. Turn the oven to 350° for the remainder of the cooking time.

5. **DON'T OVERCOOK!** The most important moment in this process is when you take the roast out of the oven. I use a meat thermometer. After 1 hour insert the thermometer in the center of the roast. When the needle starts to edge toward 120° take it out of the oven. It will be rare in the center and well done on the very ends. If you want cook it to medium rare in the center let the temperature on the thermometer reach 125°. Remember it will continue to cook after it is out of the oven. There are recipes that tell you to cook the roast to 140° for rare meat. Don't believe it!!! You will end up with a well done, thoroughly overcooked roast, and it will be ruined. If you want

well done meat cook a pot roast or a brisket. It will cost you a lot less.

There are recipes that tell you to cook the roast to 140° for rare meat. Don't believe it!!! You will end up with a well done, thoroughly overcooked roast, and it will be ruined. If you want well done meat cook a pot roast or a brisket. It will cost you a lot less.

6. Let the meat rest for at least a half hour before carving. The meat muscle relaxes, tenderizes and the roast can finish its cooking process.

7. Carve the meat with a long sharp knife. Cut medium thick slices. Every rib will yield two slices – one with the bone attached and one without. Carve this roast on a board that lets you save the juices for adding to the defatted pan liquid for a delicious *au jus*.

TRADITIONAL STANDING RIB ROAST

You can put a number of dif-



Appalachian Supply Inc.
Wholesale - Retail
Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Supplies

4581 Memorial Drive Rte. 302
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 Littleton, NH 03561
(802) 748-4513 **(603) 444-6336**

Danville Restaurant & Inn

Casual Dining • Lodging • Fully Licensed


FRIDAY NIGHT SPECIAL
Chicken Pie Buffet \$8.95

SATURDAY NIGHT BUFFET: \$10.95
Breakfast: Tuesday - Saturday 7:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Lunch: Tuesday - Friday 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.


Dinner Reservations are a must.

Main Street, Danville VT
(802) 684-3484
Steve A. Cobb, owner
Justice of the Peace & Notary Public
Weddings/Civil Unions
By appointment or by chance






Give the Gift of Hearing this Holiday Season




Sandi
Diane Louise
Isabelle

- ❖ Gift Certificates Available ❖
- ❖ Free Hearing Screenings ❖ Batteries, Accessories ❖
- ❖ Digital Hearing Instruments ❖ No Sales Tax ❖
- ❖ All-make Repair Service ❖



ARMSTRONG'S
Better Hearing Service, Ltd.

198 Eastern Avenue ❖ St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-4852 / (800) 838-4327
Hours: M-T-W 9-4 / Th-F by appointment



Are You Having Trouble Affording the Prescription Drugs You Need?

Our Health Centers May Be Able to Help

Our offices offer discounts on many of the most common prescription drugs. This discount is **available to all our patients**. In addition, for those with limited incomes, we apply an additional discount if you qualify for our sliding fee program. For more information, call for an appointment.


Concord Health Center (802) 695-2512
Sarah Berrian, MD (Pediatric, Adult and Obstetrical Care)
Mary Ready, MD (Family Medicine and Obstetrical Care)
Susan Taney, Nurse Practitioner (Adult Care)
Donna Ransmeier, Behavioral Health Counseling

Danville Health Center (802) 684-2275
Tim Tanner, MD (Pediatric and Adult Care)
Sharon Fine, MD (Pediatric and Adult Care)
Mariel Hess, Nurse Practitioner (Pediatric and Adult Care)
Betsy Fowler, Behavioral Health Counseling

Caledonia Internal Medicine (802) 748-5174
Frank Meierdiercks, MD (Internal Medicine)
Thomas Ziobrowski, MD (Internal Medicine)
Elaine Robinson, Nurse Practitioner
Betsy Fowler, Behavioral Health Counseling

St. Johnsbury Family Health Center (802) 748-5041
Dana Kraus, MD (Family Medicine and Obstetrical Care)
John Ajamie, MD (Family Medicine)
Cathleen Besch, Nurse Practitioner
Carey Brodzinski, Nurse Practitioner
Gabrielle Rebbe, Behavioral Health Counseling

These Health Centers are units of Northern Counties Health Care, Inc. - established in 1976 to bring health services to those in need in the Northeast Kingdom.



restaurant and bar www.elementsfood.com

"The most celebrated dining in the Northeast Kingdom." Yankee Magazine, Editor's Choice, 2006

"A stellar addition to the Green Mountain scene." Burlington Free Press

"One of Vermont's best new restaurants... A great space for this hip hideaway." Boston Globe

"A top-shelf, night-on-the-town spot." Times Argus

"The smoked trout and apple cakes are a perfect celebration of what's good about Vermont." Condé Nast Traveler's Concierge.com



Creative and comfortable cookery served in our 150-year-old-mill.
Serious selections for vegetarians plus a children's menu. See our changing menu at www.elementsfood.com.



elements
FOOD AND SPIRIT
You can't have this much fun at home.

Serving dinner Tuesday – Saturday at 98 Mill St., St. Johnsbury. 748-8400

ferent seasonings and herbs on the outside of a rib roast. I keep this version very simple, but you can get creative.

I like to serve peas with small onions and oven roasted potatoes with prime rib. A green salad is a nice accompaniment. If you are having wine with this roast, I suggest a robust red – as good as your pocketbook allows.

Three or four rib roast (6-8 lbs)

- Salt, pepper and sugar
- 4 carrots – sliced diagonally
- 6 ribs celery – sliced
- 2 onions – coarsely cut
- 1 bunch scallions – trimmed and left whole
- 6-8 cups cooking liquid (beef broth and red wine)

Make a ¾ cup mix of equal parts of salt, pepper and sugar. Set aside. Put the mix of vegetables in the bottom of the roasting pan you will be using for the beef and pour in about 2 cups of the cooking liquid. I prefer to use boxed beef broth mixed with a little red wine.

Settle a rack for cooking the beef over the vegetables. Season the roast by rubbing the salt, pepper and sugar vigorously into the meat. Rosemary, thyme, chopped garlic or even cinnamon and nutmeg can be used depending on your taste.

Place the roast, uncovered, in a 450° oven. After ½ hour add 2 more cups of the cooking liquid and turn the oven down to 350° and cook for 1 hour (three ribs), 1½ hours (4 ribs). At this point you should check on the temperature of the roast. Pull out the beef and insert a meat thermometer into the center of the roast. If it does not move the needle at this point it probably needs another ½ hour to 45 minutes.

If the needle starts to move it is nearing completion and you

have to start paying attention. If it does not reach 120° you need to put it back in the oven for about 15 minutes to ½ hour. When it reaches 120° (rare in the center) or 125° (medium rare in the center) it is done. Keep checking the thermometer because you absolutely do not want to overcook this wonderful roast. I know this sounds a little retentive, but think of your investment and you will want to get this part right.

When the roast is done remove it to a shallow pan to rest and add the remainder of the cooking liquid to the bottom of the roasting pan. Take the vegetables out and set them aside. If they are not too overcooked you can serve them with the beef. Put the roasting pan on top of the stove (medium heat) and stir up the bits from the bottom of the pan. Strain the liquid into a measuring cup and let sit until the fat floats to the top. Skim off the fat and you will have an au jus to use when you serve the roast beef.

Let the roast rest and carve it as detailed in the helpful hints above. Catch the juice to add to your au jus. Ladle a little of the au jus over the sliced beef at service.

SAUCES

The following sauces go well with prime rib. These sauces are especially tasty with leftover beef slices.

Mustard, Horseradish Sauce

- 6 tablespoons Dijon or whole grain mustard
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 3 tablespoons horseradish
- 3 tablespoons sour cream
- Salt and pepper

Whisk the mustard, mayonnaise, horseradish and sour cream together in a bowl and then stir in salt and pepper to taste. Serve on the side.

Bleu Cheese Sauce

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons butter
- 2-3 cups half and half – heated
- 3 cups crumbled blue cheese

Make a roux from the flour and butter. Cook it for about two minutes. Whisk in the hot half and half and let it thicken. Stir in the bleu cheese and cook until it has melted.

Serve in individual small bowls for dipping.

This bleu cheese sauce has me thinking that you could do a “Buffalo” prime rib for a Sunday football watching meal. Rub your roast with a mix of hot sauce and butter and pepper. Prepare as above and serve with bleu cheese dip and oven fries.

I think that would be good enough for New Year’s Day or even Superbowl Sunday. ✦

REID & BALIVET
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

ERNEST TOBIAS BALIVET
JUDITH A. SALAMANDRA CORSO

DANVILLE GREEN ♦ DANVILLE, VT ♦ (802) 684-3666

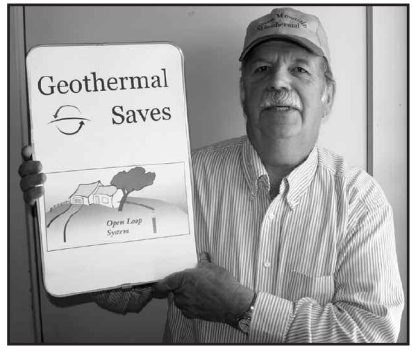
Thin waif
of snow
blown off a branch
made a ghostly
apparition
the wind held
and carried
high
above my head
suspended
until it dizzied down
a spiral dance
into my hair
my eyes
and it felt like
being christened
with joy.

Paula LaRochelle

PAUL'S FARM SERVICE
Sales • Service • Parts

Paul D. Bergeron
Phone (802) 695-2500 • Fax (802) 695-2900
514 West Main Street (US RT 2) • Concord, Vermont 05824
Serving Agricultural Needs with Integrity Since 1976

- **Save on your heating costs**
Annual costs are half of that for oil or propane.
- **Control your humidity**
- **Air condition your home**
- **Get hot water free**



Contact Jim Ashley at
Green Mountain Geothermal
for a free analysis of the costs and benefits for your home.
Green Mountain Geothermal
(802) 684-3491

Happy Holidays!
...from all of us
at
Union Bank

St. Albans | Fairfax | Jeffersonville | Johnson | Hyde Park | Montpelier | Stowe | Hardwick | Lyndonville | St. Johnsbury | Littleton

Hardwick Wolcott Street 802.472.8100	St. Johnsbury Railroad Street 802.748.3131	St. Johnsbury Portland Street 802.748.3121	St. Johnsbury Green Mt. Mall 802.748.2454	Lyndonville Depot St. 802.626.3100	Littleton Dells Road 603.444.7135
--	--	--	---	--	---

Union Bank
Banking. Simplified. www.unionbankvt.com Member FDIC

Memory Tree of Barnet

Return to: Merle Fitzgerald, 520 West Main Street, Barnet, VT 05821

Name: _____

Address: _____

In Memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Please print, thank you!
Make Checks Payable to: Presbyterian Church of Barnet

**10th Annual Memory Tree
to be lit in memory of
Dr. John Stetson**

**at the Presbyterian Church of Barnet located in
West Barnet and serving members and friends in
Barnet Center, West Barnet and Beyond.**

Anyone may purchase a bulb by donation in memory
of a friend or loved one.

Funds raised will be used for the purchase of a new furnace.

Tree Lighting, November 26 at 6 p.m.
Memorial Service, December 24 at 10 a.m.

Refreshments will be provided following the
Lighting of the Tree and the Memorial Service

Come to the Table

Denise Brown



During my first year of Northeast Kingdom life, I taught a freshman composition class at Lyndon State College. Each student was instructed to write an essay based on personal experience. While they were busy revising their first drafts, I walked around the room taking a quick look at their work, asking a question or two of the writers along the way.

One young woman, a petite and delicate blue-eyed blonde, showed

Gather ye pork chops while you may, one might say.

me her paper, entitled simply, "My Deer." I glanced at the first page, thinking, What an unusual pet.

"Does your deer have a name?" I asked.

The student looked at me as if I'd parachuted down from the dark side of the moon, or perhaps had

grown a second, very unattractive head. "I shot it," she said, her voice underscoring just what a complete idiot she believed me to be.

Talk about your culture shocks. We weren't in Connecticut anymore, Toto.

It's true, I'm a flatlander. I've not made peace with dirt roads in mud season, and I've yet to buy an item of clothing from Farm Way. I didn't, however, arrive in the area equipped with the progressive's standard-issue outright opposition to hunting.

The appeal, nonetheless, alludes me. I've never felt the need to don peculiar weatherproof gear and spend the better part of a day — or week, in some cases — in the wild tracking down splendid if not outright beautiful animals, who, of course, are guilty of nothing more than merely minding their own business.

I've always thought the desire to hunt was a gender thing, and I have happily limited myself to a few seasonally sanctioned hours of the more commonly accepted

female version: clothes shopping. While there's generally no bloodshed or gratuitous gutting involved, every gal knows that shopping requires a similar physical endurance, keen aim and nerves of steel.

Is there a more dangerous creature than a budget-conscious woman slicing through the madding crowd, elbowing aside the competition in pursuit of the perfect tweed blazer in heather gray or pair of slim-toed Italian-made alligator embossed black stilettos?

But I digress.

I was raised around guns. On a farm plunked down in the middle of endless soybean fields in rural Delaware, keeping a gun on hand was just done. A smart precaution, or so it was thought. We had rifles hanging on the beams and a handgun in the top dresser drawer hidden in a walk-in coat closet. Probably loaded. I don't remember giving them a second thought.

So it didn't seem odd when my father taught me how to handle a shotgun before the age of puberty. He positioned a half-dozen tin cans on the back fence of the horse pasture. I hoisted the gun to my shoulder, squinted hard and pulled the trigger. I was surprisingly good.

The men folk in my family hunted, though rarely and only after

a fashion. My husband jumping out of bed in his underwear one mid-Atlantic dawn to accost a March hare munching on tender garden greens probably doesn't count, though it's a colorful fragment of the family lore and the only use of his prized Browning I ever witnessed.

But my brother hunted, in his youth. There's a photograph of him attesting to this. He's 14 or so, big smile on his face, down on one knee, leaning against an air rifle on his left, holding up a dead gray squirrel by the back feet. A glorious moment. And yes, we ate the squirrel. Pellets and all, my brother recalls.

My father's hunting record escapes me, no doubt for good reason; his most memorable bounty was caught not on land but at sea. One hot summer day he went fishing with an old buddy. He came home late in the evening with an odiferous aquatic monster that he and my mother proceeded to fillet on the kitchen floor. They wrapped huge chunks in brown paper and stashed them in the freezer in the shed.

My mother broiled a steak. It was inedible. She baked another with butter. Equally awful. Maybe she fried a third. Maybe she didn't bother. In the end, she took a

garbage bag back to the shed and threw the lot of it out.

Except for that gravely squirrel and a few lamb chops we consumed when we pretended we were the sort of farmers who could slaughter and eat the adorable beings who roamed the same earth upon which we ourselves tread, our meat and fish stuffs came to our home neatly secured on Styrofoam trays, thanks to my mother rifling through the refrigerated counters at the local grocery store.

Gather ye pork chops while you may, one might say.

You might understand my surprise then, given the half-hearted and ultimately pathetic hunting scenarios I knew of firsthand, upon learning that the angelic student in my class, who looked as if porcelain dolls could be fashioned in her image, had of her own accord stalked like a Mafioso a living, breathing if less loquacious version of Bambi.

Something, in my mind, was wrong with the picture.

That first year we lived in the Northeast Kingdom, a wonderful new neighbor brought us some venison steaks. I seared them quickly in butter and served them to the kids. Getting beyond that mental picture was tough, too, but the meat itself was quite good, if foreign, with an agreeable, hearty wildness.

I'd be willing to try again. Though, if it's all the same, I'll stick to gathering the accouterments of the meal, and leave the art of hunting to others.

Roast Haunch of Venison

The Star Cook Book: A Monitor for the American Housewife in the Dining Room and Kitchen, published in 1894, suggests serving for an adequate December luncheon, "Roast haunch of venison, currant jelly, mashed potatoes, tomatoes, apple sauce, celery, fig pudding, cranberry tarts, oranges, grapes, raisins, nuts, coffee." Such a menu, of course, begs the question: What, no bananas?

Regardless of the constituents of the fruit course, roasting a haunch of venison, or a haunch of anything for that matter, at the turn of that particular century was no easy trick. It meant slathering the meat with butter or lard and then coating it with a thick paste of flour and water - something like a culinary glue. A sheet of heavy paper covered that, and into the oven the roast went, for multiple basting over multiple hours. At last, the paste and paper were removed, the roast browned in butter before serving with a gravy spiced with, *The Star* advises, cloves, nutmeg, peppers and mace, and perhaps sweetened with currant jelly.

Currant jelly, by the way, seems to have been the saving grace of many a meal.

For those who'd like to skip both the jelly and the tedium of haunch roasting, Lyndonville resident Annie Guyer, whose husband and sons are hunters *par excellence*, suggests the following: Mix together ¼ to ½ cup flour, pinch of salt and pepper, some sage and thyme in a large plastic bag. Place the roast in the bag, seal and shake until well covered.

(See *The Best* on Next Page)

(Continued from Page 24)

Community National Bank

Then ...and Now



In 1851...

We needed horse-drawn sleighs to get around.

We used gas-powered lamps to light the night.

In 2006...

We have cars, trains, and airplanes to get around.

We have lights and so much more running 'round the clock.

Some things don't change...

CNB was thankful for the spirit and generosity of its customers.

CNB is thankful for the spirit and generosity of its customers.



www.communitynationalbank.com

Happy holidays and best wishes for a safe, healthy and prosperous 2007.

Member FDIC

Equal Housing Lender

Derby • Ferris • Harston • Derby Line • Island Pond • Montpelier • Newport • St. Johnsbury • Troy

Serving Vermont Communities since 1851



Ask the Shrinks

Alice S. Kitchel and Burton Zahler

Dear Shrinks,

My mother is 71. Dad died eight years ago. A year ago Mom sold their apartment and bought a

small home in the country. My sisters and I were puzzled, but we thought a change of scene might help her grieving. In three

The Best Venison Ever

Over a medium-high flame, heat a little olive oil in the bottom of an ovenproof roasting pan. Brown the roast well. Pour into the pan 1 can of French onion soup, ½ to ¾ cup water or red wine, a few crushed bay leaves, and the remains of the flour and seasoning in the plastic bag (use some or all of the flour mixture, depending on how thick you'd like the resulting gravy to be). Mix together and bring to a boil. Cover and place in a preheated 350° oven for about 1½ hours. Add carrots, potatoes and onions as you like. Cover and continue roasting until the vegetables are cooked

through.

For venison steaks in need of tenderizing, Annie turns to a long-standing favorite recipe, Mickey's Marinade, courtesy of the Guyer's good friend, Mickey Murphy: Measure into a bowl 1/3 cup tamari, 1 T sugar, ½ cup chopped onion, 2 cloves minced garlic, 2 crushed bay leaves, 1 T basil, 1/3 cup olive oil and 1 T ginger. Mix well and pour over the steaks. Cover, refrigerate and marinate for 8 hours or overnight. Steaks will be great grilled or cooked in a hot frying pan.



months Mom had a dog and two cats (we grew up in a petless household). Now, a year later, Mom has three chickens, a goat, a donkey and six geese living in the small barn behind her house.

I stayed with her last weekend. To my surprise she went to bed each night by 9:30 p.m. She'd always been a night owl, ready to sit and talk to all hours. By 5:30 in the morning she was up feeding the animals, walking the dog and cleaning out the barn. I worked with her for a couple of hours. Over breakfast I tried to talk with her about this dramatic change in her life style. She smiled, shook her head and proceeded to tell me in excruciating detail about each of the animals.

Does this seem normal to you? We are worried. On the other side, Mom has lost some weight and is looking fit. She is not completely

isolated. She still drives to her old church every Sunday. My sisters and I visit as often as we can.

Dear Son,

Your mother's behavior is not normal, in the statistical sense. We suppose very few widowed folk move from an apartment to be the caretaker of a menagerie. The question we'd like to address (the question we imagine you wanted to ask) is, "Does this behavior sound healthy?"

There is quite a bit you've told us that makes us lean toward thinking that your mother has made a good, healthy choice for herself, at this time. It certainly sounds as if she has plenty of energy. You report she looks well. We would guess she is fulfilling a long held fantasy or wish. It is probably good for her to be absolutely needed (by the ani-

mals) and good to feel in control of her life. And to be living an adventure.

We think it is loving and natural for you and your siblings to be worried. It seems important to us that your mother welcomes you all into her new home. We suspect that if the work got too hard or she felt too isolated, your mother could (and would) adjust her life to make it be more satisfying. Asking her about this might ease your worries.

Also, consider what a great role model your mother is for you. She has the courage, at 71, as well as the energy, to do something new and meaningful in her life. Our culture needs more role models like her, who demonstrate that life is worth living, at any age.

Alice S. Kitchel & Burton Zahler who each have a private practice in St. Johnsbury.

Treasure Chest Crafts

Hand Crafted in Vermont

Ken & Cheryl Munding

451 Peacham Road, Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-2569 KKM4807@aol.com

The Village Post

Fine Apparel Home

Decor

Located across from the Danville Green

Tuesday-Friday 10 - 5:30

Saturday 10 - 4

Closed Sunday & Monday

(802) 684-3305

15 Hill Street

PO Box 245

Danville, VT 05828

Merry Christmas

VERMONT
Liquor Outlet

Phone
802-684-9797

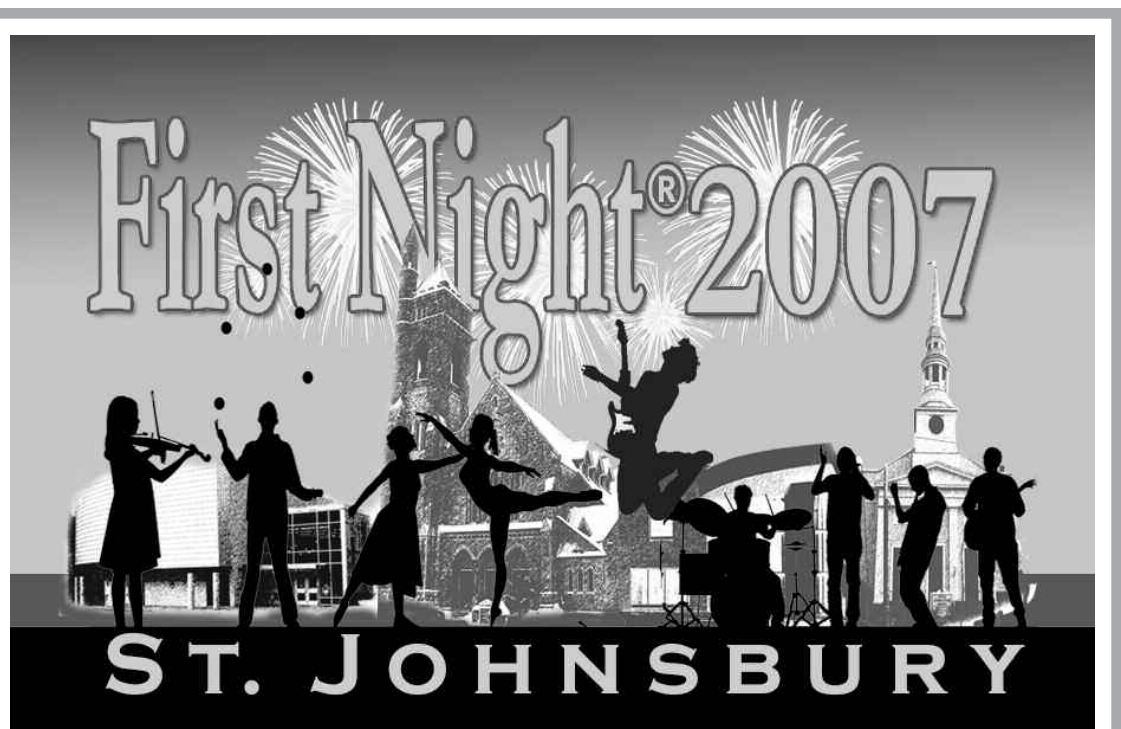


DIAMOND HILL STORE
On The Green In Danville



Your local Wine and Cheese Shop
Gifts and Specialty Foods

Open Monday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Sunday, Noon to 4



OUR 14TH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S EVE
CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS

Sunday, December 31

1 PM TO MIDNIGHT

MATINEES TO FIREWORKS FINALE

COMEDY! DANCE! MAGIC! MOVIES!
AND MUSIC! MUSIC! AND MORE!
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

All First Night® Buttons Only \$9
before New Year's Eve

On December 31 - Adults \$ 14 ■ Students \$ 9
Pre-schoolers and Volunteers* FREE

* Come to the Volunteer Round-up on Thursday, Dec. 14, at 6:30 pm
at North Church, Main Street, St. Johnsbury

First Night buttons are on sale at most area banks and
many other local businesses.

Order by phone through Catamount Arts at 748-2600.

To order buttons online, volunteer, or get other information
about First Night St. Johnsbury go to

www.firstnightstj.com

All First Night events are family-friendly and alcohol-free.

Not Your Typical Saturday Stroll in the Suburbs

VAN PARKER

It wasn't exactly a stroll. It was more purposeful than that, but November 4 was sunny, and I was walking in an attractive neighborhood. It was good exercise.

Actually I was doing some canvassing for a political candidate in our "winter home" of West Hartford, CT. It's the town where we live when we're not in Danville. The route I was assigned consisted mainly of one long, winding road. The main access to the road was marked by its own sign, different from other road signs in the area. It looked from a distance as though it were

carved out of wood. I found that as I progressed on the road and turned either right or left I was still on the same road, which circled around and went back on itself. Another feature of the road was that it was quite steep as were many of the driveways. I thought that the residents must get a great deal of exercise just walking up and down their driveways.

On this Saturday I discovered that a lot of people weren't home. That entailed leaving a piece of literature with the candidate's name and sticking the leaflet in the door. In one instance the home was guarded

by at least three dogs. One had to be about the biggest dog I'd ever seen. It had a bark to go along with its size and a good set of teeth, as well. Fortunately it was behind a solid glass door preceded by another door. I managed to slip a leaflet through the first door and beat a quick retreat. Another dog literally ushered me into her house, barking every step of the way.

The people who were home, with a few exceptions, were welcoming to this stranger. They didn't all agree with my candidate, though many expressed their support. One young man said he hadn't really thought about the election yet. Another family lived in a huge, virtually indescribable house. I walked down the driveway and knocked on the massive door, feeling a little like some kind of delivery person. The woman who came to the door assured me that she and her husband were voting for my candidate. Wishing to make a little conversation I said, "You have a very nice house, here."

"Thank you," she said as I turned to go back up the driveway.

Another older couple were raking leaves at the bottom of their driveway. When I offered

the woman a pamphlet she pointed to her husband and said that he took care of things like that. They said that it was a good day to work and they needed the exercise. I wondered how often they walked up and down from their house to the road.

It was nearly 4:30 and starting to get dark. Time was running out as I finished my route. It was time to turn in the list of

voters I'd seen or tried to see. It was a rewarding day. I'm writing this on the day before the election so I don't know if my candidate won or not. But I felt good, tired but good. Talking face to face with people is so much more satisfying than calling strangers on the phone. When I pass the entry to that road next time I'll think of the people I met that day. ✦

Colors

Deep winter gray of falling snow,
Fading light and shortening days,
Revive my need for colors
Stored deep in memory.

All summer long my mind,
In secret, cached rich tones
Emboldening my spirit
To last the winter out.

The misty rose and blue
Of berries ripened in the sun,
The vibrant blaze of summer flowers,
Join nurturing leaf and blade.

But winter too adds colors of its own,
That raise my spirits, cheer my soul.
Cardinals and cranberry, bright against the snow,
Goldfinch and blue jay, countless shades of green.

Until, at last, the sight that takes my breath away-
Amazement, satisfaction, joy! -
The glorious blue of winter's sky,
Above a sparkling field of snow.

Isobel P. Swartz

MICHAEL K. WALSH & SON, Builders

New Construction • Remodeling • Renovations
Finish Work • Decks • Wallpapering • etc.
♦ Call Now for Winter Projects

Solid reputation of quality workmanship,
reasonable rates and dependability

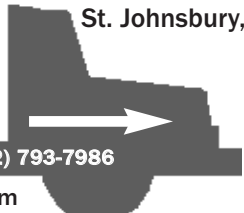


Over 25 years of experience (802) 684-3977 Danville, VT

LITTLE MOVER

Local & Regional
and
Contract Trucking
Since 1967

KAP Enterprises, LLC
838 Keyser Hill Road
St. Johnsbury, VT



(802) 748-9112 or cell (802) 793-7986

Jphelps@kingcon.com



Happy
Holidays

Trout River Brewing

Route 5, Lyndonville, VT
(802) 626-9396

Mayo's Paint Store

20% off all California Paints & Stains



For all your
interior needs...

Season's Greetings from everyone at Mayo's

OPEN
7 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
8 a.m.-Noon Sat.

802 Railroad Street
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-8826

VPR Program Schedule

MONDAY - FRIDAY		SATURDAY	SUNDAY
6 A.M. BBC World Update (5 to 6 a.m.)		Classical Music	
Morning Edition with Mitch Wertlieb		Only a Game	Sunday Bach
9 A.M. Classical Music with Walter Parker		Weekend Fill-in	
Midday Report with Steve Delaney at noon		11 A.M. Car Talk	On the Media
(Wednesday) Weekend Edition		Noon Wait, Wait... Don't Tell Me!	Studio 360
Performance Today with Fred Child		1 P.M. Interlude	A Prairie Home Companion
Fresh Air with Terry Gross		2 P.M. Saturday Afternoon at the Opera with Peter Fox Smith	All The Traditions with Robert Hesnik
All Things Considered with Neal Chamoff		All Things Considered	
Musical/peace		7 P.M. A Prairie Home Companion	From the Top
(Monday) Monday at 10:30	(Tue-Fri) 11:30	8 P.M. Trivia & Showback	Cross to Hang In There
Living on Earth	Specials with George Thomas	10 P.M. My Place	Say Yes
Classical Music		11 P.M. Hearts of Space	This American Life
		Midnight	Sound and Spirit

Classical music overnight

Set your dial to Vermont Public Radio

WVPA 88.5 FM St. Johnsbury

WVPR 89.5 FM Windsor; WRVT 88.7 FM Rutland;

WBTV 94.3 FM Bennington or WVPS 107.9 FM Burlington

SAMADHI STORE
Unique Gifts • Elegant Jewelry
Home Decor • Incense
Greeting Cards
Accessories for Body and Mind
And our Signature Cushions for Meditation and Yoga

Mon. to Fri.: 9-5
Saturday: 10-4

802.633.4440
800.337.7751
www.samadhistore.com

30 CHURCH ST., BARNET, VT 05821

Matt Pettigrew

ELECTRIC

"Quality comes first."

Residential Commercial

Providing all aspects of electrical work in excavation for underground wiring and service

Insured and licensed in Vermont and New Hampshire.

For prompt professional service call:

Matt Pettigrew (802) 751-8201
Danville, Vermont



Danville Boys Soccer 2006 State Champions



Seniors: Thomas Blackmore, Justin Chamberlin, Derek Morrison, Julian Kempton, David Trudeau, Adrian Duckett, Darrell McLaughlin, Greg Morrison (Co-Capt.), Jordon White (Co-Capt.), Weston Brisco and Jesse Murray.

Others: Bruce Melendy, Nate Woods, Evan Rapoza, Michael Newman, Patrick Rainville, Derek Fenoff, Jared White, Mikael Willis, Logan Calkins, Andre Coutu and Richie Benoit.

Coaches: Steve Genco, Kirt Adams

Photos By: Jim Ashley

Danville Coach Steve Genco says, "With eleven seniors on the team I figured early on that we should do well. Eleven is a big group for a single class in any Division 4 school, and these guys have all played together since they started the Saturday morning soccer program in 5th grade. They played as freshmen on the JV team, and they understand the game."

"Everybody knows everybody, and it's been a pleasure for me as head coach. There are two teams that I always see as benchmarks for the season ahead: Rivendell and Hazen Union. When we beat Rivendell twice and Hazen once I told the team that they really had something. I went on this big positive reinforcement approach, and what I said to them as we started the playoffs is that 'You will not be denied.' They bought into that, we had some fortunate moments and they always found a way."



Schedule

Danville @ Rivendell	3-2 W
Danville @ Concord	4-0 W
UCA @ Danville	4-1 W
Rivendell @ Danville	3-2 W
Hazen @ Danville	1-0 W
Danville @ Williamstown	1-1 T
Danville @ Richford	3-1 W
Williamstown @ Danville	6-1 W
Danville @ Winooski	4-0 W
Danville @ Hazen	0-2 L
Richford @ Danville	5-1 W
Danville @ UCA	8-3 W
Concord @ Danville	1-0 W
Winooski @ Danville	5-1 W
Concord @ Danville	4-0 W
Arlington @ Danville	2-1 W
Sharon @ Danville	1-0 W

Walden Hill Journal

ELLEN GOLD

December 3, 2005 - We're back to winter with a fresh snow cover, temperatures in the 20's and gusting winds. The trees are clear of a thick powdering of snow. We took advantage of a window in the weather to take an overnight trip to Montreal. On Thursday we heard the Montreal Symphony including an inspiring virtuosic performance of the Mozart Flute Concerto. On Friday we visited the *Musee des Beaux Arts* for an exhibit of paintings of Provence from 1750 through the early 20th century. That brought a splash of color to an otherwise dreary day. What was predicted as partly cloudy in

Montreal became rain turning to snow. And a 40% "chance of snow" showers in Vermont with 1-4 inches accumulation proved to be blizzard conditions on Sheffield Heights on I-91 and a whiteout on Walden Hill. Fortunately we had on our snow tires and made it back to our driveway.

December 8, 2005 - We're looking out on a pristine winter scene this morning; fresh snow, bright blue sky, full December sun and crystal clear air. The thermometer shows a nippy 5°, but that goes with the territory. After several gloomy days, it's wonderful to see Mother Nature taking a rest. We'll let the snow thrower and wood stove do the

same. A little shoveling should take care of the snow.

December 11, 2005 - Lots of performances keep us hopping this time of year. Between yesterday and today, there are three concerts down with four more to go before the year comes to a close. Jeff even donned his tails to simulate Victorian garb as we provided some recorder and guitar music for the Athenaeum's Victorian Christmas. We'll have to get snowshoes out if we can find a minute or two for a walk through the snow. I did manage a hike through our woods several days ago with just my winter boots and one ski pole, but we've had more snowfall since. My outdoor exercise has been limited to shoveling the stairs and keeping the bird feeder full. Fortunately the suet basket keeps the birds supplied when the seed feeder is empty. A striking downy woodpecker has joined the chickadees at the suet.

December 13, 2005 - I stepped outside this morning to the sound of squeaky snow, a certain indication that very cold weather has set in. The thermometer was hanging around 0° and climbed a bit in the sun; but



Photo By: Jeff Gold

"Water is just beginning to ice over with beautiful intricate patterns of ice crystals forming in the wetlands."

tonight found the minus side as stars shimmer and a nearly full moon lights the sky. At least we have a few inches of snow to give a blanket of insulation as January weather visits us a month ahead of schedule. Mother Nature doesn't pay much attention to the calendar. It looks like the winter solstice is approaching however, with night appearing early and abruptly by 4 o'clock.

December 15, 2005 - We're stuck in an Arctic "high," which has settled over Vermont, pushing temperatures well below

zero. The plus side of this unseasonable weather has been no more snow to contend with and crystal clear, deep blue skies. It's 7:20 and the sun has just crested Mt. Lafayette, sending a sparkling pinpoint of light before it. Bright orange spreads into a turquoise sky, stretching deep blue shadows across the snow. The sun is approaching its shortest day and southernmost rising point. We waited until early afternoon for the sun to warm things up a bit and took a walk in the woods. Water is just beginning to ice over with beautiful intricate patterns of ice crystals forming in the wetlands. Grouse were on the wing, leaving their distinctive trail through the snow. There were several small canine tracks, possibly fox judging by the size of the impressions and distance between them.

December 17, 2005 - A major snowstorm yesterday left an additional foot of snow on the ground and plastered the trees in white. The normally beautiful drive down I-91 to Hanover was even more spectacular with heavily laden trees, enhanced by the slowly emerging sun, sending rays of light through the thin-

Union Bank

www.unionbankvt.com Member FDIC

St. Johnsbury Academy Winter 2006-2007 Sports Schedule

Boys Basketball ~ Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game			
December			
5	North Country	H	5-6:30
12	Spaulding	H	5-6:30
19	@ Essex	A	5-6:30
21	@ Brattleboro	A	5-6:30
28	@ Hartford	A	5-6:30
January			
4	Brattleboro	H	5-6:45
6	@ Rutland	A	1-2:30
9	CVU	H	5-6:30
12	Mt. Mansfield	H	5-6:30
16	@ North Country	A	5-6:30
19	@ So. Burlington	A	5-6:30
23	Hartford	H	5-6:30
26	@ Spaulding	A	5-6:30
30	@ Mt. Mansfield	A	5-6:30
February			
2	@ CVU	A	5-6:30
6	Colchester	H	5-6:30
9	Rice	H	5-6:30
12	Essex	H	5-6:30
16	So. Burlington	H	5-6:30
20	Burlington	H	5-6:30

Girls Basketball ~ Varsity and Junior Varsity Varsity Game follows JV Game			
December			
5	@ Mt. Mansfield	A	5-6:45
8	@ Bellows Falls	A	5-6:45
12	@ So. Burlington	A	5-6:45
18	Spaulding	H	5-6:45
21	@ Rutland	A	5-6:45
27	Essex	H	5-6:45
January			
3	Rice	H	5-6:45
5	@ North Country	A	5-6:45
8	Brattleboro	H	5-6:45
11	@ CVU	A	5-6:45
13	Rutland	H	1-2:45
19	@ Burlington	A	5-6:45
23	@ Spaulding	A	5-6:45
25	Essex	H	5-6:45
29	@ Rice	H	5-6:45
February			
1	North Country	H	5-6:45
5	Mt. Mansfield	H	5-6:45
8	CVU	H	5-6:45
10	@ Brattleboro	A	5-6:45
13	Burlington	H	5-6:45

Girls Basketball ~ Freshmen			
December			
4	SHS	H	5:00
7	Essex	H	5:00
9	@ Mt. Mansfield	A	1:00
13	@ SHS	A	6:00
16	BHS	H	1:00
18	@ Hartford	A	6:30
20	@ Lyndon	A	5:00
28	@ Essex	A	5:00
30	CVU	H	12:00
January			
6	North Country	H	5:00
11	@ Burlington	A	5:00
15	@ CVU	A	4:00
17	Hartford	H	5:00
18	Lyndon	H	5:00
20	Mt. Mansfield	H	12:00
23	@ North Country	A	5:00
25	MMU Tournament	A	6:00
	SJA v BFA (St. Albans)		
27	MMU Tournament Finals		6:00
29	Lyndon	H	5:00

Hockey			
December			
2	Milton	H	7:00
6	@ Lyndon	A	6:00
9	@ North Country	A	4:00
13	Hartford	H	6:00
16	@ Woodstock	A	7:30
20	@ Montpelier	A	8:00
23	@ Northfield	A	8:00
27	Lyndon	H	6:00
30	Mt. Mansfield	H	6:00
January			
3	Stowe	H	6:00
6	@ Colchester	A	6:20
13	Burr & Burton	H	4:30
17	@ U-32	A	6:00
19 & 20	Woodstock Tourney	A	7:30
27	@ Brattleboro	A	4:45
31	Mt St. Josephs	H	6:00
February			
7	Middlebury	H	5:00
10	Harwood	H	7:00

Gymnastics			
December			
15	@ Middlebury	A	2:30
16	@ So. Burlington	A	12:00
	Holiday Invitational		
20	CVU	H	6:00
28	U-32	H	2:00
January			
6	Randolph	H	3:00
10	@ Randolph	A	7:00
18	@ Essex	A	7:00
February			
3	South Burlington	H	6:00
9	@ Milton	A	7:00
17	State Championships at Essex	A	2:00

Wrestling			
December			
2	North/South Duals @ Spaulding	A	11:00
6	Middlebury, Colchester	H	6:00
9	St. Johnsbury Early Bird	H	9:30
14	Essex, Randolph	H	6:00
16	Bow, NH	A	9:30
20	CVU, Harwood	H	5:30
29,30	Middlebury Invitational	A	2:30/9
January			
4	Mt. Abe, Vergennes	A	6:30
6	Newfound	A	10:00
10	White Mt. & MMU	H	6:00
13	TBA		
19,20	Essex Classic Invitational	A3:30/10:30	
23	Randolph	A	7:00
27	Colchester Invitational	A	10:00
February			
3	Mt. Anthony Duals	A	10:00
6	Spaulding	A	6:30
10	NVAC Tournament @ Vergennes	A	10:00
18	JV States @ Spaulding	A	TBA
23,24	Varsity State Tournament @ St Johnsbury	H	6/10:00

Nordic Skiing			
December			
12	Peoples Academy @ Peoples		4:00
16	Essex @ Smuggs		2:00
29	North Country @ Mt Hor		11:00
January			
4	Montpelier U-32 Relays @ Montpelier		3:30
6	CHS @ Trapps		10:30
11	Stowe @ Stowe		3:00
16	Middlebury @ Breadloaf		10:00
20	Lamoille @ LUHS		11:00
26	So. Burlington @ Sleepy Hollow		4:00
30	BFA @ Sleepy Hollow		4:00
February			
4	North Country @ Newport		10:00
10	Lyndon/St J @ Burke		10:00
13	North Country @ North Country		5:00
17	BHS @ Bolton Valley		10:00
22	BFA/BFAF @ Bolton State Championships		10:30
26	MAU @ North Country State Championships		10:30

Go Hilltoppers!

We've been protecting businesses and families in Vermont and New Hampshire for over a century.

Kinney Pike

Kinney Pike Insurance, Inc. Insurance Specialists
Crafting Insurance Since 1904

- Commercial Lines - Contractors Surety Bonds, Worker's Compensation, Property & Casualty, General and Professional Liability, Umbrella.
- Personal Lines - Home, Automobile, Recreational Vehicles.

Bill Daley and Doug Spaulding are located at 459 Portland Street, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-1010 or (800) 639-1010

www.kinneypike.com

Six offices statewide: Burlington, Poultney, Randolph, Rutland, St. Johnsbury & White River Jct.

DANVILLE SELF STORAGE

26 units from 5X10 to 10X30
Route 2 West, Danville, VT
Clean, Dry, Inside Storage
Your Own Lock & Key

Carmen Calkins
PO Box 96
Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-3865

LET US HELP YOU ENJOY THE SNOW!

...everyone deserves to have as much fun outdoors as we do.

- Professional Service & Equipment Repair
- Friendly, Helpful Service

Equipment, Clothing & Accessories from:

Oakely ♦ Scott ♦ Giro
Karhu ♦ Atomic ♦ Alpina
Tubbs ♦ Salomon ♦ Fox
Solstice ♦ Columbia
Trek ♦ Garmont ♦ Swix

Your Complete ATOMIC Demo Center

Service & Tune-ups that you will not find anywhere else!

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Happy Holidays

RENTALS

- Shaped Ski Rentals - \$18
- Telemark - \$25
- X-Country - \$15
- Demo Skis - \$30
- Snowboards - \$25
- Snowshoes - \$15

(802) 626-3215
Rt. 114, East Burke, VT
skibike@charterinternet.com
www.eastburkesports.com

ning clouds. We were headed to Dartmouth for their annual Christmas Revels. Russian dancers, Balkan singers and a wonderful mime to play the fool complete with colorful Russian costumes made for a joyous solstice celebration. The ride home through the moonlit Connecticut River Valley was a perfect end to a beautiful day.

December 21, 2005 - A very cold but sunny start to the Winter Solstice. The thermometer shows -8° as the sun peeks over Mt. Lafayette to begin the shortest day. At 1:35 p.m. the sun will appear to stand still as the earth shifts towards a renewed longer contact with the sun. The low angle of the sun as it travels across the winter horizon is perfect for flooding our SE facing windows with solar warmth but doesn't do much to warm the outside air. Meanwhile the rising sun is spreading its orange glow across a bright, clear blue, frigid winter sky. Sparkling fresh snow greets the day.

December 22, 2005 - We greeted the winter solstice at Essex Cinema watching the latest Harry Potter movie. It was worth the trip. The scenery along the way wasn't bad either. Mist rising from the Winooski River had frozen onto the feathery-branched, stream-side willows, decorating them in a frosting of lace. Being backlit by the low angled sun, gave them a delicate magical quality. Then of course there's always Camel's Hump, which has its winter coat firmly attached. There too, the disappearing sun was spotlighting the distinctive mountain peak against an dark gray sky.

December 24, 2005 - Jeff got

his morning exercise clearing the glacier that had cascaded off the roof. I helped to chop it up into bite-size pieces for the snow blower. It was several days worth of snow that had collected up there, the latest being wet and heavy. I continued my aerobic workout opening up our snowshoe trail. Unfortunately I hadn't packed it down earlier while the snow was soft and fluffy, so I was breaking trail through deep, heavy, slushy snow. Snowshoe hare had been out and about as was some low-to-the-ground animal that left a trough about 6-inches wide with small tracks within. Whatever it was, it made quite an extensive journey through the woods. A flock of red polls was visiting the bird feeder earlier today and a hairy woodpecker discovered the hanging suet. The smaller downy perches comfortably on the basket, but the larger hairy woodpecker envelopes the cage, tuck-

ing his tail under for better balance. He really hogs the suet and puffs out a warning challenge to the occasional chickadee that tries to get seeds from the nearby feeder.

December 27, 2005 - Providing a bird feeder may be good for the seed-eaters that winter over but also occasionally benefits the vigilant hawk. This morning our chickadee population is diminished by one, and a small hawk has satisfied his hunger. I only caught a brief glimpse of the hawk holding the chickadee to the ground and pecking it senseless before flying off to consume its meal. We received a few inches of snow last night while Maine is measuring snowfall in feet. High winds are pushing clouds in and out, giving us brief periods of welcomed sunshine.

December 29, 2005 - A quartet of elegantly plumed evening grosbeaks and a large

flock of red polls are brightening up this very fogged-in, gloomy winter day. Waiting their turn at the feeder, the red polls perch like bobbing ornaments on the slender branches of the nearby shad trees. Some invisible signal sends the flock swooping and diving en masse in a magnificent aerial ballet. The thermometer is showing 40° which no doubt accounts for the melting, misting and very low cloud layer. Our usually sweeping vista has totally disappeared.

December 31, 2005 -

A winter glow sunrise spreads its soft, pink, orange and finally yellow across the morning sky. The sun still waits until close to 7:30 before finally cresting the horizon. Any perceived additional length to the days is found at days end not the beginning. It's 5° above zero with a fresh coating of snow on the ground. High winds yesterday have kept the trees bare. A serigraphed Mt. Moosilauke crowns the morning view; long blue shadows stretch across the sparkling snow. ★

WHEELER True Value Building Materials

29 Church Street Lyndonville, VT 05851 (802) 626-5102 or 626-5040

Wheeler Sports Team Sports Products

Images Of Vermont Silkscreening and Embroidery 246 Church Street Lyndonville, VT 05851 (802) 626-8235 Fax: (802) 626-6180 Email: wheel56@together.net

Lyndon Institute Athletic Events Winter 2006-2007

Athletic Director: Paul E. Wheeler (802) 626-9164

BOYS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

- December 1 Lyndon @ Hazen, 6:00/7:30 4 Peoples @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 7 JV Lyndon @ Montpelier, 6:00 9 V Lyndon @ Bellows Falls, 7:30 12 V Lyndon @ Bellows Falls, TBA 14 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 6:00/7:30 18 JV Lyndon @ Montpelier, TBA 21 Lyndon @ Randolph, 6:00/7:30 28 Hazen @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 January 3 Lyndon @ U32, 5:30/7:00 5 Hartford @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 12 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 19 Lyndon @ Oxbow, 6:00/7:30 24 Lyndon @ Thetford, 6:00/7:30 26 Harwood @ Harwood, 5:30/7:00 31 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 February 2 U32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 7 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6:00/7:30 9 Randolph @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 14 Oxbow @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 16 Lyndon @ Hartford, 6:00/7:30 20 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7:00

GIRLS BASKETBALL (JV/V)

- December 5 Lake Region @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 7 Lyndon @ Rivendell, 6:00/7:30 9 Hazen @ Lyndon, 1:00/2:30 13 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 16 Lyndon @ Enosburgh, 1:00/2:30 19 Lyndon @ Hazen, 6:00/7:30 21 U-32 @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 27 Lyndon @ Montpelier, 6:00/7:30 29 Oxbow @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 January 3 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 6:00/7:30 5 Lyndon @ U32, 5:30/7:00 9 Lyndon @ Harwood, 5:30/7:00 13 Stowe @ Lyndon, 1:00/2:30 23 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6:00/7:30 27 Randolph @ Lyndon, 1:00/2:30 30 Rivendell @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 February 1 Montpelier @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00 6 Lyndon @ Oxbow, 6:00/7:30 8 Randolph @ Lyndon, 6:00/7:30 13 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30/7:00

FROSH BASKETBALL Boys

- December 2 Missisquoi @ Lyndon, 12:30 7 Lyndon @ Peoples, 7:30 11 Harwood @ Lyndon, 5:30 16 Randolph @ Lyndon 12:30 20 SJA @ Lyndon, 7:00 22 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 7:30 27 Lyndon @ Hazen, 6:30 30 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 12:30 January 4 U32 @ Lyndon, 7:00 6 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 12:30 8 Lyndon North Country, 6:30 13 Lyndon @ Harwood, 3:15 20 Spalding @ Lyndon, 12:30 22 Lyndon @ U32, 7:00 24 Peoples @ Lyndon, 7:00 29 Lyndon @ SJA, 6:30 February 3 Lyndon @ Randolph, 2:30 5 North Country @ Lyndon, 7:00 9 Lyndon @ Missisquoi, 6:30 12 Hazen @ Lyndon 7:00

FROSH BASKETBALL Girls

- December 2 Missisquoi @ Lyndon, 11:00 7 Lyndon @ Peoples, 6:00 16 Randolph @ Lyndon 11:00 20 SJA @ Lyndon, 5:30 22 Lyndon @ Lamoille, 6:00 27 Lyndon @ Hazen, 5:00 30 Lyndon @ Lake Region, 11:00 January 4 U32 @ Lyndon, 5:30 6 Lamoille @ Lyndon, 11:00 8 Lyndon North Country, 5:00 20 Spalding @ Lyndon, 11:00 22 Lyndon @ U32, 5:30 24 Peoples @ Lyndon, 5:30 29 Lyndon @ SJA, 5:00 February 3 Lyndon @ Randolph, 1:00 5 North Country @ Lyndon, 5:30 9 Lyndon @ Missisquoi, 5:00 12 Hazen @ Lyndon 5:30

NORDIC SKIING

- December 12 @ Peoples, 2:00 p.m. 16 @ Smugglers (Essex), 10:00 a.m. 29 @ Mt. Hor (NCU), 10:30 a.m. January 4 @ Montpelier Relays, 3:30 p.m. 6 @ Trapps (Colchester), 10:30 a.m. 13 @ Breadloaf (Middlebury), 10:00 a.m. 20 @ Cricket Hill (Lamoille), 11:00 a.m. February 3 @ North Country, 10:00 a.m. 10 @ Burke Trails (Lyndon), 10:00 a.m. 13 @ North Country Relays, 5:00 p.m. 17 @ Bolton (BHS), 10:00 a.m. 22 @ Bolton (BFA), State FS, 10:00 a.m. 26 @ Prospect Mt. (MAU), 10:00

ALPINE SKIING All meets start 8:30 a.m.

- December 18 @ Burke Mt. (Lyndon) 22 @ Bolton (SBHS), 5:00 p.m. January 4 @ Burke Mt. (SJA) 12 @ Stowe (Spaulding) 22 @ Smugglers (BHS) 25 @ Jay (NCU) February 2 @ Smugglers (Essex Invite) 3 @ Smugglers (Essex Invite) 9 @ Mad River (Har) 14 @ Jay (NCU) 16 @ Bromley (B&B) 20 @ Smugglers (Essex) Girls Dist. 23 @ Mt. Ellen (Har) Boys Dist. March 5 @ Burke Mt. (LJ/SJA) Girls State 8 @ TBA Boys State

GO VIKINGS!

Marty's 1st Stop

US Route 2 ▶ Danville, VT ▶ (802) 684-2574

Mon.-Thurs. 5:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m. Fri. & Sat. 5:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sun. 5:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.

DELI

Megabucks Tickets Mobil Speed Pass

PIZZA served everyday

DANVILLE SCHOOL 2006-2007 Schedule

Athletic Director: Merlyn Courser CAA

Boys High School Basketball

- December 1 Friday Concord @ Danville 7:00 6 Wednesday Danville @ Blue Mountain 6:00/7:30 14 Tuesday Hazen @ Danville 6:00/7:30 16 Saturday Danville @ Stowe 1:00/2:30 19 Tuesday UCA @ Danville 7:00 28 Thursday Blue Mountain @ Danville 6:00/7:30 January 2 Tuesday Danville @ Whitcomb 6:00/7:30 5 Friday Danville @ Williamstown 6:00/7:30 9 Tuesday Richford @ Danville 5:30/7:00 13 Saturday Northfield @ Danville 1:00/2:30 19 Friday Pine Ridge @ Danville 7:00 22 Monday Danville @ Lake Region 6:00/7:30 24 Wednesday Winooski @ Danville 5:00/6:30 3 Wednesday Danville @ Peoples 6:00/7:30 February 7 Wednesday Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30 9 Friday Danville @ Hazen 6:00/7:30 12 Monday Danville @ Northfield 6:00/7:30 14 Wednesday Danville @ Richford 5:30/7:00 17 Saturday BFA Fairfax @ Danville 1:00/2:30 20 Tuesday Williamstown @ Danville 6:00/7:30

Girls High School Basketball

- December 2 Saturday Thetford @ Danville 1:00/2:30 5 Tuesday Concord @ Danville 6:00/7:30 7 Thursday Danville @ Blue Mountain 6:00/7:30 13 Wednesday Danville @ Richford 5:30/7:00 20 Wednesday Danville @ BFA 5:30/7:00 22 Friday Danville @ Stowe 6:00/7:30 27 Wednesday Richford @ Danville 5:30/7:00 January 3 Wednesday Winooski @ Danville 5:00/7:00 5 Friday Lake Region @ Danville 6:00/7:30 12 Friday Northfield @ Danville 6:00/7:30 17 Wednesday Enosburg @ Danville 5:30/7:00 23 Tuesday Danville @ Peoples 6:00/7:30 25 Thursday Danville @ Williamstown 6:00/7:30 27 Saturday Blue Mountain @ Danville 1:00/2:30 30 Tuesday Hazen @ Danville 6:00/7:30 February 1 Thursday Danville @ Enosburg 5:30/7:00 3 Saturday Danville @ Northfield 1:00/2:30 6 Tuesday Williamstown @ Danville 6:00/7:30 8 Thursday Danville @ Hazen 6:00/7:30 13 Tuesday Stowe @ Danville 6:00/7:30

Middle School Basketball

- January 4 Thursday MSG Danville @ Stowe 5:00/6:15 10 Wednesday MSB Stowe @ Danville 5:00/6:15 10 Wednesday MSG Danville @ Hazen 4:30/5:45 12 Friday MSB Hazen @ Danville 4:30/5:45 15 Monday MS 8th Danville @ Barre Town G 5:00/B 6:15 15 Monday MSG Danville @ Williamstown 5:00/6:15 15 Monday MSB Williamstown @ Danville 5:00/6:15 23 Tuesday MSB 8th St. J @ Danville G 5:00/B 6:15 26 Friday MSG Twinfield @ Danville 5:00/6:15 31 Wednesday MSB Danville @ Twinfield 5:00/6:15 31 Wednesday MSG Stowe @ Danville 5:00/6:15 31 Wednesday MSB Danville @ Stowe 5:00/6:15 February 1 Thursday MSG Williamstown @ Danville 5:00/6:15 5 Monday MSB Danville @ Williamstown 5:00/6:15 5 Monday MSG Hazen @ Danville 5:00/6:15 9 Friday MSB Danville @ Hazen 5:00/6:15 9 Friday MS 7th Barre Town @ Danville G 5:00/B 6:15 14 Wednesday MSG Danville @ Twinfield 5:00/6:15 21 Wednesday MSB Twinfield @ Danville 5:00/6:15 21 Wednesday MSB 7th Danville @ St. J G 5:00/B 6:15 7th precedes 8th 17 Saturday MSG/B Hazen Tourney 24 Saturday MSG/B Hazen Tourney March MSG/B 7th & 8th Rotary Tournament

Internet HOLIDAY SPECIAL! Unlimited Hours \$99 One Full Year! Offer Ends 12/31/06 FREE 24/7 Live Technical Support Instant Messaging - keep your buddy list 10 e-mail addresses with Spam Protection Custom Start Page - news, weather & more! Surf up to 6X faster! just 13 more per month Sign Up Online! www.LocalNet.com Call Today & Save! LocalNet 748-8188 Reliable Internet Access Since 1994

Danville Congregational Church United Church of Christ An Open and Affirming Congregation Rev. Douglas Carter Interim Pastor Please Join Us for Worship at 10 a.m., and bring your family. Just north of the Danville Green on Hill Street (802) 684-2176

Sometimes the Sound That Goes Thump in the Dark is Your Own

DAN ZUCKER

At about 11 p.m. on October 13, Steve Mattera and his brother-in-law, Paul Beliveau, stopped at my house in Danville en route to an early morning hike around the Pemigewasset Wilderness.

Stars were visible through the trees, the moon was rising over the mountains to the east, and the sound of the wind came and went, first high up and far away, then close and chilling.

Within the 125,000 acre Pemigewasset region (named for the Pemigewasset River that flows through it) is the 45,000 acre Pemi Wilderness, designated in 1984 by Congress. It had been logged and criss-crossed with roads but now has grown back into a vast, rugged area.

The trails are so numerous and the ridges and summits so scenic that it is both wild and accessible to hikers for day and multi-day hikes.

The "Pemi," as it's called, is a horseshoe-shaped valley, open to the south and bounded by a circle of ridges and summits. Owl's Head mountain rises in the middle. Interstate 93 and NH 12 (Kancamagus Highway) border the region to the west and south respectively, and US 302 forms an edge to the north and east. Some of the more well-known features are the Franconia Ridge (visible from I-93 and opposite the cliffs where the "Old Man" used to be), Garfield Ridge and the Twinway Trail.

At the opening of the horseshoe to the south is the Lincoln Woods campground on NH 12, just a few miles outside of Lincoln. There are trails into the area from all the major roads and a series of trails that circle the ridges and highpoints known as the "Pemi-Loop."

When Mattera arrived, my car was loaded with gear for a variety of weather conditions because it had rained and snowed in the White Mountains, and forecasters at the Mount

Washington Observatory were reporting sleet and accumulated ice and blowing snow. We were taking two cars because I was only hiking the first 16 miles and needed to leave mine at a convenient spot. It was cold and clear. The stars were bright, the wind was light, and a third-quarter moon was due up in a few minutes.

I've hiked extensively with Mattera but never met Beliveau. They drove in from Richmond, VT, and our plan was to meet another hiking companion, Garvin Louie, driving up from Exeter, NH, at the trailhead at 2 a.m. We were only driving to the Lincoln Woods access on the Kancamagus Highway just over an hour away, but we were leaving my car on I-93 at the Lafayette Campground and planned to stop for coffee, take a few minutes to hang out, decompress from the work-week, assemble our gear and enjoy the dark. (Packing and re-packing of gear is a time-honored tradition where we compare notes, weather forecasts, remove unnecessary items, put them back in and try to anticipate everything we need but no more.)

Back in the first week of



Photos Courtesy of Dan Zucker

Dan Zucker (left) and Garvin Louie in the first rays of sunrise, five hours into their hike on the Pemi Loop, the trail that circles the Pemigewasset Wilderness in northern New Hampshire.

August, I had made a solo and non-stop 37-mile circuit around the Pemi, starting at 2 a.m. I ended at 9:20 p.m. (not quite 17½ hours later) the same day. My goal on that day was to make the huge loop through this astonishingly beautiful scenery all in the same calendar day. The route included three side trips to three additional peaks. I don't recall when I first heard about "doing the Pemi loop," but for aggressive hikers it's near the top of the list of personal challenges, certainly of those in New Hampshire.

Mattera, Beliveau and Louie planned to do the loop, too, but when we set a date I was torn. I was getting ready for the Green Mountain Marathon on Grand Isle the following weekend and didn't want to risk an injury, but my regular hiking pals were heading on an adventure, and I couldn't bear not going.

As a compromise, I opted to hike the first 11-miles along the Franconia Ridge and then leave them. I would take a 5-mile side trail to my car, while they continued on around the loop. This first stretch up to Franconia Ridge is a personal favorite. It starts at the Lincoln Woods Campground, and after a mile or so along an old railroad bed, the trail works its way upward, ever steeper, up the back of Mt. Flume – then heads due north along Franconia Ridge. Several miles of the ridge are above treeline, typically above 4,000 and in spots above 5,000 feet. It is notoriously gusty as winds blow through the notch and up and over the ridge. During winter, it is not uncommon to experience situations of zero visibility in wind blown ice and snow.

We loaded up according to plan and met with Louie at the Lincoln Woods campground

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16

Amid all the rush and excitement, remember: Jesus is the reason for the season.

Merry Christmas from our families to yours.

THE CARPET CONNECTION

DANVILLE SERVICE CENTER
Route 2, Danville Village 684-3481

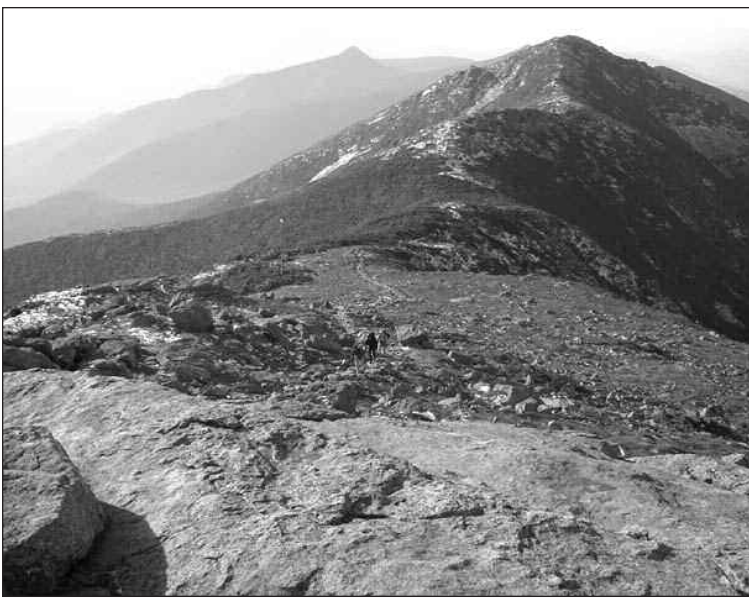
See us about **WINTER TIRES** including our complete line of: **Cooper, Remington, Hankook and Kelly tires**

Thank you for your business this year.
HOURS: 7-5 Mon. thru Fri. • 8-1 Sat. • Mechanic on Duty

wireless internet

Available for immediate installation from our Crow Hill antenna in the St. Johnsbury / Danville area.

Call us today to schedule an installation
1-802-748-5866
or visit online at
www.hinghamwireless.net



Looking back on the Franconia Ridge (Lincoln is the near peak, Flume the little pointy summit in the distance) Paul Beliveau, Garvin Louie and Steve Mattera are visible on their way up.

where there are heated bathrooms with flush toilets and running water - luxuries that are too opulent to pass up - and got our gear packed.

Our hike had a number of gear challenges worth mentioning: First, we were starting with about four hours of darkness before morning twilight arrived; that meant headlamps would be necessary. Headlamps these days are light, bright and convenient, and really the only challenge is to remember spare batteries. I actually hike with an additional headlamp in case the first one gets smashed, lost or simply stops working.

Second, we were anticipating cold and strong wind on the exposed ridges. This gets complicated, as the first five miles or so are a long and steep ascent of Mt. Flume (There are wooden steps in a number of places). We are all fast hikers, which means we'd be generating a lot of heat and sweat. Even though it was cold in the parking lot we would have to dress light for the ascent (not much more than long-sleeve sport tops and shorts or light pants) but have additional dry clothes and wind-proof outerwear for the conditions farther up, which were forecast to be about 25° with winds as high as 35 mph.

Third, there were the unknown conditions on the trails themselves. It didn't seem as though the Mount Washington forecasters were talking about enough ice to warrant crampons and ice-axes, but it was clear

there could be significant traction problems. I decided on my light-weight leather boots, and in my pack I carried a pair of Velcro-strapped rubber sandals with sharp steel screws in the sole called Stabblers.

Last, there was the question of food and water. I wanted to concentrate on getting off the mountain (I'm easily swayed and was afraid that I'd end up joining the group for the full loop) so I packed only enough food and water to make it to Noon.

The ascent of Flume in the fall and the dark is very appealing, whether solo or with friends. There are rushing brooks, steep trails, smells of fallen leaves and fungi and wet, rotting forest floor. Wooden ladders appear from time to time near the summit, and steep stony scrambles frequently appear elsewhere.

The glow of my headlamp cast a wash of bright light, which illuminated a spot from just in front of my toes to 6- or 8-feet beyond. While this seems like a very limited view, the glow washed off to the sides, and because of the constant motion, things are actually in a bobbing-up-and-down sensation, sweeping and changing, as we get our bearings, check for obstacles or footing challenges or sometimes just look around as tree trunks were bathed in soft light, and shadows cast everywhere, deep and constantly shifting.

Stars were visible through the trees, the moon was rising over the mountains to the east, and the sound of the wind came and

went, first high and far away, then close and chilling.

We split into two pairs: Louie and I took the lead with a slightly faster pace. Eventually, my own pace put me ahead, powered in part by the fact that I didn't have to conserve my energy for the long haul (with my 16 miles to their 32) and by my desire to pop out on the bare summit of Flume alone.

The summit is a crazy place at night. It is rugged. Steep cliffs fall away to I-93 down below; lights from North Lincoln and some campgrounds are sprinkled around the valley. The rocky ledges twist and turn, and the trail weaves over and around the outcroppings, even in and out of short trees that grow near the edge of the cliffs.

I stood still but looked around - bracing myself against the rocks with my hiking poles and then turned off my headlamp. I stood quietly in the brisk air. The moon was high enough to light the cliffs in a dull gray light with deep shadows, but the valley below was black. I could make out the outline of Mt. Liberty, the Kinsmen and Cannon Mountain by noting where the stars seemed to be cut off. As my eyes became better adapted to the dark, it was actually possible to continue on without a headlamp - slowly though, for the trail is narrow in spots and stays close to the edge of

what seems like empty space. I walked carefully from where the trail first reaches the cliffs for a few hundred yards to the summit where a cairn marks the top.

We were still a few hours from sunrise, and there was nothing in the east to suggest anything but night. My eyes were accustomed to the low light level, and the ridge and peaks and valleys began to take on a twilight presence - barely visible, but visible. I crouched to the side in the protection of shoulder-high trees and changed my shirt, topping off with my winter-duty hooded shell and light windproof gloves. There I waited for the others.

The last part of the trail follows the cliff around a sort of crescent shape, starting north east and turning to the northwest. From where I sat, I could look across the dark void at the spot where Mattera, Beliveau and Louie would step out of the woods. Within 10 minutes, they appeared - first as dancing lights in the distance where they came out onto the cliffs. The lights assembled one-by-one and then slowed and stopped dancing as the enormity of the view struck them as it had struck me. The lights swung left and right as the hikers got their bearings, noting the trail and the cliffs, and one by one the lights blinked out. The desire to see those surroundings in the moonlight was irresistible.

After a few minutes, the lights came on again, and soon they were close enough that I could make out voices above the wind.

We rejoined as a group and stayed together for the rest of the morning until I turned off on my separate way. We had ice on the north-facing parts of the trail, howling winds on the bare ridges and a fantastic sunrise five hours after our start, somewhere between Liberty and Haystack. It wasn't a dramatic, colorful event (the sky was clear all the way to the horizon), but the glow lit up the woods and mountain tops and cast the valleys in dreamy pastels and soft mist and shadows as the stars and planets gave way to blue sky.

The others completed their loop and were home by Midnight. I was in Danville by Noon, including a stop at Marty's for a sandwich and hot coffee.

The rest of the trip had its adventures and stories that stand on their own for another time. But when I think of that hike, and the camaraderie, the heated bathrooms and the sleep-deprivation and the woods and rocks and the ice, I return every time to the same place in my memory: stepping out onto the twilight-soaked cliffs above Franconia Notch, switching off my headlamp, and seeing in the moonlight the view I had come to see. ★

From All of Us At

**Wishing our Patients,
Friends and Family a
Blessed Holiday Season**

Dr. Hubert Hawkins and Staff

**1350 Main Street Suite 1
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-2325**

Mayo's Furniture & Floor Covering

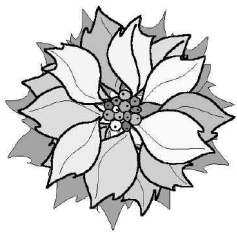
Furniture
Floor Covering
Window Treatment
Wallpaper
Paint

Monday-Friday 9:30 a.m.- 5:00 p.m.
Saturday 9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m.

802 Railroad Street, St. Johnsbury, VT 748-8725



Season's Greetings From All of Us



We hope you all have a joyous holiday season. We are very grateful for your patronage and look forward to helping you in the coming year with your real estate needs. Take time this season to enjoy your families and be safe.

Happy Holidays from all of us to all of you, and a special thanks to the local men and women serving in our armed forces. We appreciate your sacrifices.



Steve Quatrini



Susan Quatrini



Joyce Wieselmann



Sara Heft



1111 Main St. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
 email: c21qre@sover.net
 website: quatrini.com • realtor.com or AOL Keyword
 "Century 21" 
(802) 748-9543
"Real Estate for The Real World"

Click & Clack Talk Cars

Does Cruise Control Really Save Gas?

Dear Tom and Ray:

My friend and I have a steak dinner bet riding on your answer to this question. I say using cruise control on the highway saves gas. It saves gas because I am not bopping between different speeds, just going at one steady speed. He says this uses more gas. He adds there is some component that actually uses gas to run the cruise control; therefore, we are using more gas. I think that sounds a little nutty! So tell us who will be ordering the perfect steak?

- Christine

TOM: You'll be ordering, Christine, and he'll be buying.

RAY: Using cruise control on the highway does save fuel, for exactly the reason you say: It keeps you moving at a steady speed. Continuing to move at a steady speed uses less fuel than accelerating.

TOM: When you drive without cruise control, you tend to slow down, speed up, slow down, speed up and so forth. And each time you have to haul that 3,500-pound hunk of steel back up to speed, you use more gasoline than you would have used if you had just kept it cruising steadily.

RAY: Plus, cruise control keeps you from accidentally going too fast - from looking down and suddenly noticing that you're doing 80 - which is the biggest waste of gasoline. Because wind resistance increases by the square of your speed, the resistance increases by about 50 percent between 65 and 80 mph. That takes a HUGE toll on your mileage, because your engine has to push

your heap through that much more wind.

TOM: To address your friend's other point, Christine, the cruise-control is run off of engine vacuum and electricity. There's no cruise-control system that runs off of gasoline. So have him buy you a bottle of Ravenswood Sonoma County Old Vine Zinfandel to go with your filet mignon for that lame brained suggestion.

RAY: We should add that in the old days, you could make the argument that cruise control did occasionally waste fuel. For instance, let's say you had it set to 65 and you cancelled it by stepping on the brake and then slowed down to 45. When you turned it back on, by hitting "Resume," older cruise-control systems would simply floor it until you were back up to 65. That hard acceleration certainly wasted gas. Newer cruise-control systems, in contrast, are

Danville Senior Action Center

December Meal Schedule

December 5 - Vermont Baked Trout, Rice Pilaf, Peas and Carrots, Homemade Wheat Rolls with Maple Butter, Tomato Juice and Pears.

December 7 - Beef Stew with Vegetables, Whole Wheat Biscuits, Orange Juice and Banana Pudding with Animal Crackers.

December 12 - Meat Loaf with Tomatoes, Peppers and Onions, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Mixed Vegetables, Whole Grain Blueberry Muffins and Tomato Juice.

December 14 - Cream of Broccoli Soup with Saltines, Steak and Cheese or Meatball Subs, Spinach Salad with Mandarin Oranges and Fruit Cobbler.

December 19 - Chicken Divan, Brown Rice, Carrots with Honey, Banana Bread.

December 21 - Spaghetti with Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Peas and Carrots, Cole Slaw with Fruit Sherbet.

December 26 - Beef Stroganoff over Egg Noodles, Whole Wheat Biscuits, California Vegetables, Clementines, Cake, Orange Juice.

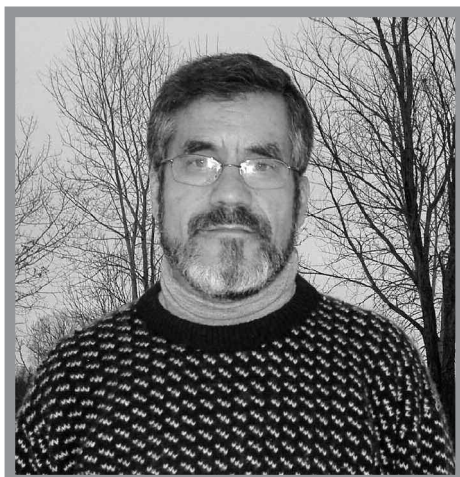
December 28 - Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, Pumpkin Bread, Mixed Vegetables, Stuffing and Tomato Juice.

Meals at Danville Methodist Church. All meals served with a beverage, homemade breads and desserts. Reservations are appreciated by calling (802) 684-3903 before 9:30 a.m. on day of the meal. A donation of \$3.50 for guests 60+ (Others \$4.50) is appreciated.



Century 21 Winn Associates

69 Meadow Street
 Littleton, NH 03561
 (603) 444-7781 or (800) 998-7781
 or call me on my cell at (802) 274-6306
 Each office independently owned and operated



Happy holidays and best wishes for a great New Year to all my customers and the readers of *The North Star*. If you are considering selling your house after the holidays and are wondering if it makes sense to put your house on the market in the middle of winter please give me a call. I can review with you the pros and cons of selling your home in the winter to help you make an informed decision. If you decide to put your house on the market I will share with you a strategy for winter selling that could make a big difference in securing that one, ready, willing and able buyer.

Enjoy your holidays. *Clif Muller*



ML#266666 Here is a 67-acre parcel of land with plenty of frontage on a town road and panoramic views. The lot is forested with some marketable timber. There are farm roads throughout. The driveway is in, and there is power at roadside. Some springs are located on the land. You can have complete privacy yet be only 2.5 miles from downtown St. Johnsbury. There is a small storage building. **\$215,000**

75 MT. PLEASANT ST.
 ST. JOHNSBURY, VT 05819
 802-748-8169 • 802-748-8855

971 BROAD STREET
 LYNDONVILLE, VT 05851
 802-626-8333 • 802-626-9342
 www.parkwayrealtyassociates.com




COUNTRY LOG HOME

This custom log home with addition was built around 1950 and has 2 beautiful fieldstone fireplaces. With 2 bedrooms plus 1-1/2 baths, a basement rec room and a great room with fireplace, it is a cozy place to observe abundant wildlife. On 3.4 +/- acres. Bordered by a trout brook. St. Johnsbury School District. Private. **MLS#2625494**

\$225,000



1111 Main St. • St. Johnsbury, VT 05819 
 email: c21qre@sover.net
 website: quatrini.com • realtor.com or AOL Keyword "Century 21"
(802) 748-9543
"Real Estate for The Real World"

smarter and accelerate much more smoothly.

TOM: But even with an old system, unless you were turning it on and off frequently, you'd still come out ahead because of the steady speed you'd maintain on the vast majority of your trip.

RAY: But if you want to throw your friend a bone (after you've finished eating the rest of the steak), tell him that under certain circumstances, older cruise-control systems could waste some gas. Generally speaking, you are completely correct. *Buen provecho!*

Do We Have to Pick Between Style and Reliability?

Dear Tom and Ray:

We are looking to purchase a used car for around \$7,000. Are we doomed to choose the utterly styleless but ultra-reliable 2000 Honda Civic or Toyota Corolla? We have two boys, 4 and 6, and we are concerned about safety. We loved the safety ratings of the 2000 Jetta and Passat but hated the maintenance reviews they

received on the Web. Of course, we are also interested in a car that gets the best mileage possible, as we drive from South Florida to Boston at least once a year. Please help us! -Lenore and Rick

P.S.: Rick waited on you guys at a restaurant a couple of years ago. How about a better tip this time? Thanks!

RAY: Oh, sorry, guys. My brother must have left the tip that night. He stopped carrying a wallet, and now just carries his cash in a pair of vice grips.

TOM: With all your needs and your price limit, guys, I'm afraid you DO have to choose between style and reliability. I mean, my wife got both when she married me, but that's really unusual.

RAY: Yeah, she got style and reliability. Early-horror-movie style and British-sports-car reliability. Actually, the Civic and Corolla are good choices, but since you list safety as a top concern, and you travel all the way up and down the East Coast every year, I'm going to suggest you go one step larger and find a Honda Accord or a Toyota Camry.

TOM: They'll give you the

same reliability as the smaller cars, but increased size and weight will give more protection in case of an accident -not to mention more comfort on those long trips.

RAY: Your mileage will be slightly reduced, compared with the Civic and Corolla. But if you buy a four-cylinder Accord or Camry (which we'd recommend), your mileage will still be quite good - for instance, a 1999 Accord is rated at 25 city and 31 highway. And a similar Camry is rated at 23/32.

TOM: If you want, you can also look at a Nissan Altima or Mazda 6 (or 626), which also fit your criteria.

RAY: The four-cylinder versions of all of those cars are great. They have all the power you need. And the slightly lower mileage compared with a compact car is worth it, in your case, for the increase in safety and comfort.

TOM: And that extra room in the back seat will come in handy. As the boys get older, there will be more room to separate them when they start actually drawing blood on I-91 South. ★

10 REASONS TO GIVE THE NORTH STAR AS A GIFT

1. It fits.
2. It flatters.
3. You can recycle it.
4. It won't get returned.
5. Award winning articles.
6. It's only \$15 - delivered.
7. Award winning photography.
8. It's good for the whole month.
9. They'll think of you all year long.
10. It comes with our legendary service.

(802) 684-1056 or (800) 286-1056

THE North Star MONTHLY

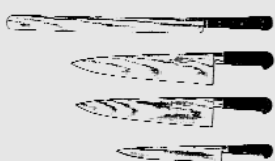
P.O. Box 319 ♦ Danville, VT 05828

West Barnet Senior Action Center

December 2006 Menu

- December 1** - Buffet
- December 6** - Cheeseburger Pie, Spanish String Beans, Assorted Breads, Potatoes, Cole Slaw, Pudding with Topping.
- December 8** - Chipped Beef with Egg Gravy, Boiled Potatoes, Beets, Biscuits, Copper Penny Carrot Salad, Cake with Frosting.
- December 13** - Spaghetti with Meatballs, Tossed Salad, Italian Bread, Tropical Fruit Cup.
- December 15** - Meat Loaf, Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Carrots, Whole Wheat Bread, Peaches with Cream.
- December 20** - Turkey Soup, Egg Salad Sandwiches, Cottage Cheese with Fruit, Grape Nut Pudding.
- December 22** - Baked Ham, Sweet Potatoes, Broccoli, Home Made Rolls, Cook's Surprise Dessert.
- December 27** - Beef Stew Tossed Salad, Biscuits, Orange Jell-O with Pineapple.
- December 29** - Chicken with Biscuits, Mashed Potatoes, Peas & Carrots, Cranberry Sauce, Ice Cream.

Meals served at West Barnet Church. All meals served with a beverage. Reservations not required. Suggested donation of \$3 per meal is appreciated. Phone (802) 633-4068.



Seasons Greetings from Kelly, Sean, Brent, Debbie and David ... your Coldwell Banker All Seasons Realty team.

#6563 BURKE

Burke Village Home
Very nice, spacious home for your family. Large yard with brook frontage. This home offers 4 bedrooms, 1 1/4 baths and a finished garage with a new heater. Nicely landscaped with many perennials. A very nice enclosed porch as well. Many updates including new boiler, vinyl siding and some new windows. Close to the VAST trail and just minutes from Burke Mountain Ski Area.



Being offered at \$139,900

#6560 LYNDONVILLE

SELLERS WILL PAY \$2,500 TOWARDS BUYER'S CLOSING COSTS!
Awesome 2-story, 3-bdrm., 2-bath home with attached garage. Fenced in yard, screened in porch, new windows, new carpeting, 1st floor laundry. Walking distance to stores in town.



Move in condition! \$138,500

#6502 BURKE

Remodeled Cape
Completely remodeled 1804 cape with 1986 addition for exceptional living. Sit beside the woodstove in the spacious family room and watch the snow fall after a day of skiing at nearby Burke Mountain. The house has a wonderful airy feel and with 3-4 bdrm, & 2 baths, this would make a great family home. This home is very close to Lyndonville and an easy commute to St. J. Large 2 story barn with 2 stalls for cars, 1 for all the toys and a workshop with overhead storage. This 6 acre parcel, which includes land on both sides of the road, has groomed berry-lined walking trails and a grass tennis court. **Being offered at \$178,000**



ALL SEASONS REALTY

**470 Broad Street
Lyndonville, VT
(802) 626-4343
Fax: (802) 626-3700
email:allseasonre@together.net**

www.allseasonre.com



Burke: Whether a primary residence or a second home, this property has it all. Two huge stone fireplaces up and down, a bath on each floor with new flooring and paint throughout. Head for the Kingdom Trails on your bike, or drive 5 minutes to ski trails on Burke Mountain. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath home is cozy and roomy and perfect for anyone. **\$275,000**

REYNOLDS Real Estate, Inc.

791 Broad Street ■ Lyndonville, VT 05851
(802) 626-9357 ■ Fax (802) 626-6913
www.reynoldsre.com
Email: reynolds@charterinternet.com



BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

WARM WISHES for a HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON

from Wendy, Barb, Robin, Ernie, Connie, Rosemary, Linda, Sharon and Tristan.



P.O. Box 68, Main St., Danville, VT 05828
(802) 684-1127

Wendy Fayen.....751-8216
Barb Machell.....748-5248
Robin Jacobs.....748-3815

309 Portland St., St. Johnsbury, VT 05819
(802) 748-2045

Ernie Begin.....748-4218
Connie Sleath.....748-0016
Rosemary Gingue.....748-8843
Linda Colby.....748-8451
Sharon Slayton748-8508
Tristan Barrett748-2240

INFORMATION ABOUT THESE HOMES AND OTHER LISTINGS CAN BE FOUND ON www.nneren.com
Providing Professional and Courteous Service
www.beginrealty.com



BEGIN REALTY ASSOCIATES

AROUND THE TOWNS



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Through January 5 - Northeast Kingdom Artisans' Guild Backroom Gallery Annual Holiday Members Show, St. Johnsbury., 10:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. daily and 11 - 3, Christmas Eve Day.

Mondays - Story Time, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum Youth Library, 10:30 a.m. (802) 748-8291.

Mondays - Story Time, Pope Library, Danville, 10 a.m. (802) 684-2256.

Mondays - Just Parents meet with concerns for drugs and kids, Parent Child Center, St. Johnsbury, 7 p.m. (802) 748-6040.

1st & 3rd Mondays "Six O'Clock Prompt," Writers' Support Group, 6 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 633-2617.

2nd Monday - Cancer Support Group, NVRH Conference Room A, 4 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Last Monday - Alzheimers Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury. 7 p.m. (802) 748-8116.

Tuesdays - Baby & Toddler Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Tuesdays - Cribbage Tournaments, 6 p.m., Lake View Grange Hall, West Barnet. (802) 684-3386.

Wednesdays - Preschool Story Hour, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays - Read 'n' Stuff, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

Wednesdays - Ordinary Magic. Meditation for Life, St. Johnsbury Shambhala Center, 17 Eastern Avenue, 6-7 p.m.

3rd Wednesday - Cardiac Support Group, NVRH, 6:30 p.m. (802) 748-7401.

Thursdays - Introduction to Computers, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 10 a.m. (802) 626-5475.

Fridays - Read and Weed Book Club, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville. 3:30 p.m.

(802) 626-5475.

Saturday & Sunday - Planetarium Show 1:30 p.m., Fairbanks Museum, St. Johnsbury, (802) 748-2372.

Saturdays - Bridge Club for all experience levels, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville, 1 p.m. (802) 626-5475.

3rd Saturday - Breast Cancer Support Group, Caledonia Home Health, Sherman Drive, St. Johnsbury, 10 a.m. (802) 748-8116.

December

1 Contradance, Danville town hall with Union Suit Hull's Victory String Band, 8 p.m. (802) 563-3225.

2 Men's Ecumenical Breakfast, Methodist Church, Danville, 7 a.m. (802) 684-3666.

2 Scrabble Club, St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, Noon - 4 p.m., (802) 748-8291.

2 Pancake Breakfast and Christmas Bazaar, 8 a.m. - Noon, St. Johnsbury House, St. Johnsbury.

2 Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sutton School, Sutton.

2&3 Burklyn Arts Holiday Market, Lyndon Town School, Sat. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. (802) 626-6210.

2 Craft Fair, 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Glover Community School, Glover.

2 Holiday Crafts & Activities, 10 a.m. - Noon, Cobleigh Library, Lyndonville.

2 Craft Fair, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lyndon Institute Cafeteria.

2 United Workers Crafts, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., East Burke Congregational Church.

2 Craft Fair, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Northwoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston.

2 Counterpoint Christmas Vocal Ensemble with Carols of the Season, 7:30 p.m., North Congregational Church, St. Johnsbury.

2 North Country Chorus performs Hodie by Ralph Vaughan Williams and A Day for Dancing by Lloyd Pfausch, 7:30 p.m. First Congregational Church, Littleton, NH,

3 North Country Chorus performs Hodie by Ralph Vaughan Williams and A Day for Dancing by Lloyd Pfausch, 3:00 p.m. Peacham Congregational Church.



Photo Courtesy of Joe Barbieri

Joe Barbieri and his wife, Rebecca Roth, of Oakland, CA and Danville, VT traveled in October to Ukraine, Romania and Bulgaria. Here at the St. Sophia Cathedral in Kiev, which is the city's oldest church and dates back to the 11th century, Rebecca turned to The North Star Monthly.

3 NEK Audubon trip to Champlain Valley north of Burlington. Meet at West Danville Park and Ride at 7 a.m. (802) 626-9071.

4 NEK Audubon informational and planning meeting; 4:30 - 6 p.m. Fairbanks Museum classroom. (802) 748-8515.

6 First Wednesday Lecture Series with General Anthony Zinni, retired Commander in Chief of US Forces in the Middle East, and "The Battle for Peace." 7 p.m. Montpelier's Unitarian Church. (802) 262-2626.

6 First Wednesday Lecture Series with Judy Norsigian and Jane Pincus, co-founders of the Boston Women's health Collective and a discussion on women's health education. 7 p.m. St. Johnsbury Athenaeum. (802) 748-8291.

6 Nearly Full Moon Snowshoe, NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 7 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

7&8 Cherry Wheel Gift Shop Holiday Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., NVRH, St. Johnsbury.

7 Holiday Wreath Making, NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 6:30 p.m. (802) 723-6551.

8 Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.

9 Christmas Craft Fair, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Lakeview Grange Hall, West Barnet.

10 Holiday Festival of Choirs, 2 p.m. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, Lyndon. (802) 626-9558

12 Quilter's Social Hour, Cobleigh Public Library, Lyndonville, 1-3 p.m.

13 Special Preschool Story Hour, 10 a.m. Sled, ski, snowshoe or ask Rudolph for a lift to the Cobleigh Library for holiday stories, crafts and songs.

13 Danville School Winter Instrumental Concert, Grades 6-12. Concert Band, Jazz Band, High School Concert Band and High School Jazz Band. Danville School Gymnasium, 6:30 p.m.

14 Film discussion, Catamount Arts, St. Johnsbury. (802) 748-8813.

16 HANUKKA
18 Danville School Winter Concert, Grades K-6. Beginning Band and General Music Classes. Danville School Gymnasium. 6:30 p.m.

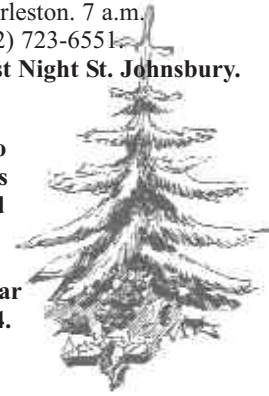
21 Holiday on the Green, Danville Green 5 - 7 p.m. Pumpkin Hill Singers concert at Danville Congregational Church. 7 p.m.

22 Sacred Circle Dance, Danville Congregational Church, 7-9 p.m. (802) 684-3867.

25 CHRISTMAS DAY
27 Island Pond Christmas Bird Count with NorthWoods Stewardship Center, East Charleston. 7 a.m. (802) 723-6551.

31 First Night St. Johnsbury.

See also the Arts Around the Towns Calendar Page 14.



"A perfect spot for lunch..."
USA Today

MILLER'S
cafe & bakery

Lunch with the locals!
16 Mill Street, Littleton, NH • 603.444.2146
NEXT TO THE COVERED BRIDGE
OPEN TUES.- FRI. 8:30 - 2:00 - SAT. 9:00 - 3:00 - CLOSED SUN. & MON.
www.millerscafeandbakery.com

FREE Wi-Fi

Warmest Holiday Wishes
from the Palmer family
Joni, Scott & Abbi

Always buying antiques and old stuff...

35 years of experience

684-2265

Boxcar & Caboose
Bookshop & Cafe

Over 17,000 individual titles on the shelf
We're open late, until 9 pm Mon - Sat and 5 on Sun.

Holiday Cards ■ 2007 Calendars
Gift Certificates ■ Stocking Stuffers ■ Educational Toys
Gourmet Espresso Bar
Now using Entner-Stuart Syrups & Ghirardelli Chocolate Sauces
Taste the difference!

Bring the kids to see Santa on Saturdays
in December, 12-2 pm

802-748-3551
501 Railroad St.
St. Johnsbury, VT