

Winter camping workshop planned at HVNC

Winter camping is all about equipment and mental attitude. Without a good selection of either, cold weather camping is nothing more than cold. But with the proper outlook and the right gear, winter camping can offer solitude and wilderness beauty unmatched throughout the seasons.

Join Registered Maine Guide



Try building and sleeping in a snow quinzee at HVNC.

Contributed photo

David Butler on Saturday, January 28 (repeated on February 25) from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., at Hidden Valley Nature Center (HVNC) in Jefferson for a day-long workshop, Winter Camping Skills. Learn how to enjoy all that winter has to offer while staying warm, dry and comfortable in the outdoors.

Participants should plan on being outside for the entire course. The workshop will be interactive and participants can expect to be active throughout the day. Topics include trip planning, clothing, gear, safety and meal preparation. If snow conditions are right, the group will build a quinzee, a snow shelter suitable for sleeping in.

This is not a survival course, but rather is geared toward the pure enjoyment of the outdoor experience and building confi-

SOLON & BEYOND Continued from page 5

Lief and I decided to take Roland's advice about letting Mother Nature take care of the Woolly Bear caterpillar that we found in the garage. Percy was not happy when we took Woolly Willy from his spot in a jar in the kitchen and put him back out in the garage...just hope we didn't kill him with kindness!

Percy has been sitting here talking to me, trying to get me to print his words of wisdom, so here they are: Learn from the earliest days to insure your principles against the perils of ridicule. If you think it right to differ from the times, and to make a stand for any valuable point of morals, do it, not for insolence, but seriously, and grandly, as a man who wears a soul of his own in his bosom, and does not wait till it shall be breathed into him by the breath of fashion. (words by Sydney Smith)

Percy wants to remind you of the Special Town Meeting at the Solon Elementary School on Thursday, January 19, at 7pm. Hope you will take the time and interest to attend.

dence. David, who runs Maine Path and Paddle Guides, also teaches a three-day course at HVNC for more in depth exploration of winter camping. HVNC's 1000 acres and frontage on Little Dyer Pond make campers feel as if they are in the wilds of northern Maine.

The fee for the class is \$50 per person, \$40 for HVNC members. Pre-registration required. Please register early by contacting David at canoemaine.com. For more information, visit hvnc.org, contact Gary at gary@hvnc.org or 586-6752.

Help requested to rebuild burned Thorndike church

The beautiful Thorndike Congregational Church has been destroyed by fire on December 28. We plan to rebuild as soon as we can, but we are asking for your help. We will need to replenish all of the needed items so family and friends can again worship together. If there is a church that has extra hymnals and/or Bibles that you would like to donate, we would appreciate having them.

We are also setting up a rebuilding fund if you wish to make monetary contributions. They can be sent to the Bangor Savings Bank, 2 Clifford Commons, Unity, ME 04988. Please note that it is for the Thorndike Congregational Church Rebuilding Fund.

Blue Belt



Tyler Bard, of Fairfield, recently earned a blue belt at Huard's Martial Arts in Winslow.

Photo by Mark Huard

Area students on St. Anselm's dean's list

Rev. Augustine Kelly, O.S.B., dean of the college announces the dean's list for the first semester at Saint Anselm College, in Manchester, New Hampshire.

Local students who achieved the grade point average of 3.0 or better to qualify include Hannah Wiley, of Augusta, a Business major and member of the class of 2013; Zachary Wormell, of Augusta, a Psychology major and member of the class of 2013; Rebecca Marie Sirois, of Winslow, a Nursing major and member of the class of 2015; and Jessica Boucher, of Oakland, a Communication major and a member of the class of 2013.

Dance of the leaf

by Danny Howard

It was a dark and stormy night...Not really, I just wanted to use that line in a story. Actually, it was a cool, clear, windy day, when I decided to go for a walk.

I had gone about a mile when I noticed a leaf that had been caught up in the wind.

Now, the wind wasn't an ordinary wind. No, it was what we call a dust devil - a small tornado, if you will.

The leaf didn't just blow away. No, it just seemed to dance, as if in a ballet. It waltzed back and forth, then stood on the very tip of the leaf as a ballerina would, and spun.

I believe the leaf would have

continued its dance all day long, as long as it was caught up in the dust devil and had a clear path. But alas, it was not to be. As it did what seemed like a tango



(but, it takes two to tango), it soon turned into the cha-cha-cha, or the Lindy, as it did the two-step to the left, and then the moon walk over a snowbank.

And its dance was over.

I felt a little sad because the leaf was no longer doing its dance for me. Yes, its dance for me, for there was no one else to witness the dance. Sad, but at the same time, glad that this leaf allowed me to witness her dance.

Danny Howard resides in Augusta.

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