

HILLTOPPER

Ralph Perkins & Joan Ebbeson, editors Ann Paulson & Jan Hostage, photographers Fay Bronstein, Book Buzz

Send your news, views and photos to rlphprkns@yahoo.com or mailbox #1. Thanks, Linda Barnes and Nina Rogers for input this month.

COMING EVENTS

Due to COVID 19 no Hilltop social events are scheduled. Check the bulletin board regularly for news of any last-minute outdoor activities.

Friday, Feb. 5, 5:30 - 7 p.m.

The Center for the Arts' First Friday Gallery Night . Tour the micro galleries and zoom with the artists. Find the Zoom link on their website: www.centerfortheartsnh.com

Saturday, Feb 6 at 10 a.m.

New London Conservation Commission hosts a hike at Esther Currier Wildlife Management area. .One of the leaders is Hilltop resident Ruth White: (rbwhite117@comcast.net)



What's this?

See **Dress A Girl,**, page 2



Help Is at Hand

A new and successful nonprofit has been a source of help to and from Hilltoppers. Kearsarge Neighborhood Partnership's more than 170 volunteers match needs with services such as grocery shopping, call checks, advocacy, meals delivery, and much more. (For now, KNP does not provide rides, but Council on Aging still drives to medical appointments; call 526-6368 to learn more.). Among KNP volunteers are Hilltoppers Ron and Kay Clark, Karen Cooper, Jay Leavitt and Janet Royle. To learn more, call 603-317-5900 and/or check their website **KNPnh.org**.

KNP has the organization to successfully match needs and resources even in this time of crisis. Hilltop's own help network halted during COVID. By joining KNP, we can continue to help our Hilltop friends and neighbors, and others, too.

Think you know your home state? Try our quiz. Note: Some answers go to more than one question. (See bulletin board.)

1. How many species of wild bees in NH?
2. How many miles of ocean coastline?
3. How many accredited 4 year colleges?
4. Starting with the smallest, where does NH rank according to size of the state (in area)?
5. How many U.S. presidents were born in NH?
6. How many NASCAR racetracks?
7. How many thousands of gallons of maple syrup were produced in NH in 2020?
8. How many 4000-footer mountains in NH?
9. How many species of poisonous snakes in NH?
- 10 How many state parks in NH ?

ANSWER CHOICES: 154 48 200 5 1 93 18

Ralph's Field Notes: Snow Warning

Snow is and does weird things. For example: What causes avalanches? How is depth of snowfall measured? Is it true that no two snowflakes are alike? Why have some Hilltoppers heard thunder during a snowstorm? Why does road salt melt snow, and can it get too cold for it to work? The list can be much longer, but you get the idea.

It's probably true that no two snowflakes are alike. .Despite the claim of a Wisconsin scientist that she found two identical snowflakes in 1988, it's unlikely this could ever be proven as each flake has millions of water molecules (and dust, pollen, etc.), all behaving somewhat independently. 1988 technology simply cannot follow each molecule.

Snowflakes sure look pretty, but they have a weakness: in addition to melting and evaporating, flakes collapse into dense particles (and eventually ice). Over time steep hillsides become less and less stable as these increasingly dense particles simply have to pull apart until all heck breaks loose: Avalanche. They charge downhill until they can get close, then set up like concrete in seconds.

Snow can be measured, it's true, just by sticking a ruler into it, but there are better ways. The National Weather Service recommends using white boards around 2-foot square, set in a good area (no drifts, no bare areas, minimal wind), and cleaned off every six hours. Taking an average of several such measurements is advised.

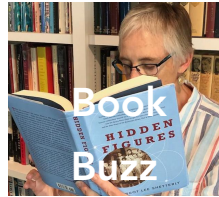
Why do some snowstorms have thunder and lightning? The most likely cause near Hilltop is the collision of several weather fronts of different temperatures. The noise of the thunder is lessened by the snow, so you might not hear it.

Thank goodness for the road crew's plowing, salting and sanding! However, there's a limit to what they can do. One problem is keeping up with really low temperatures: for instance, sodium chloride (salt)



Dress A Girl What better way to show love to a girl than to give her a brand-new dress? Dress A Girl Around the World supplies the dresses to girls of all ages in economically disadvantaged areas. It is a campaign of Hope 4 Women International, dedicated to bringing dignity to women around the world.

Volunteer sewers (including Hilltop resident Nina Rogers) from the USA and 12 other countries have made more than two million dresses that have been delivered to girls in 81 countries. Learn more at dressagirlsmaine@gmail.com.



The Book Buzz column has a new writer: Fay Bronstein, Unit 36. She wants to hear from you about what you're reading and what you'd like to share about it. Please leave your contributions

I've been spending this long solitary winter with Barack Obama's new book **A Promised Land** (700 pages covering only his first term in office). It is a personal and readable account of the difficulties of governing a divided country in the middle of a severe economic depression. If you are a student of government and politics you will find information-packed discussions of the burning issues of our day, both domestic and foreign (health care, climate change, Russian dealings, to name just a few).

But what I found most interesting and provocative were the revelations of Obama's thought processes. No decisions were made by him without carefully weighing and measuring and examining the pros and cons - sprinkled with self doubts and ethical concerns. His critics call it "overthinking" but his fans call it honesty and transparency. *FB.*

is effective only to about -6 degrees F and the more expensive calcium chloride, to -60 degrees F. These crews have to do a lot more thinking than we might imagine. What they do with what may change by the hour.

Can it get too cold to snow? Well, no, but it's complicated. For snow, you need (1) cold, (2) air moisture and (3) rising air. Cold temperature is no problem, but the colder air gets, the less water vapor it can hold. For example, air at zero degrees F can hold only 1/7 the moisture of air at 30 degrees F. Also, the colder air is, the more it wants to be stagnant and not rise up.

Remember that huge December 2020 storm? That nearly, kinda, sorta put Hilltop in the record book, as we got 36" between midnight and noon. That's 3"/hour over 12 hours compared to the U.S. record of 63" over 24 hours (Colorado in 1913). It's also close to the 40"/hour NH record (Mt. Washington - 5000' higher and way north). A new record may have been set in some spots in that December storm. We shouldn't brag, but....

