

# The Hermon CONNECTION

Vol. 33 Issue 2 - March 2026

Updates • News • Events • Information

## Lights & Liberty: Hermon Celebrates America's 250th

Article Submitted by: Lindsey Ouellette, Recreation Director

In celebration of America's 250th birthday, the Hermon Recreation Department is proud to introduce a brand-new community event: Lights & Liberty. Thanks to a generous donation, residents are invited to participate in a patriotic decorating contest designed to light up Hermon in red, white, and blue. Similar to the community's popular holiday lights contest, households can decorate their homes with patriotic colors, lights, flags, and festive displays. Participating addresses will be featured on a community map, encouraging families and neighbors to tour the displays and vote for their favorites.

Registration for Lights & Liberty opens May 1 and runs through June 8. The decorating contest will take place from June 14 through July 4, giving the community several weeks to enjoy the festive displays. Winners will be announced on July 6.

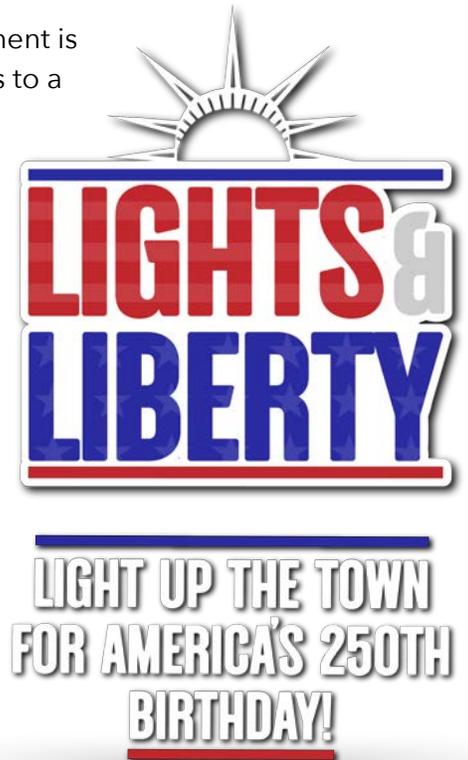
Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three displays:

1st Place: \$500

2nd Place: \$300

3rd Place: \$200

Additionally, participants of the Before & After School Program will help create a collage that will be displayed at the Hermon Town Office to help promote the contest. And during summer, our middle school campers will get involved by voting and choosing a "Kids' Choice Winner". This award will celebrate creativity and community spirit through the eyes of our young residents! Lights & Liberty is a fun and meaningful way for residents to come together, show community pride, and celebrate this historic milestone in our nation's history.



Town of Hermon  
Stephen Fields, Town Manager  
333 Billings Road, Hermon, ME 04401  
Tel: 207-848-1010 Fax: 207-848-3316  
[sfields@hermonmaine.gov](mailto:sfields@hermonmaine.gov)  
[www.hermonmaine.gov](http://www.hermonmaine.gov)

If you have a news story or article for publication in the next edition of The Hermon Connection, please send it to: [ouellette@hermonmaine.gov](mailto:ouellette@hermonmaine.gov)  
Deadline for submissions: April 24, 2026  
Next Edition will be published mid-May

## Message from the Town Manager

Greetings to the Residents and Business of Hermon.

Spring finally arrived! During this time of year, the Town will be finalizing the FY2027 budget process with the Annual Town Meeting on June 11, 2026, 6pm, at Hermon High School Auditorium. I appreciate the participation from the legislative body in determining the financial success for municipal/school operations and sustainability. I ask that during the process, all individuals remain civil and respect others when opinions are voiced. A strong collaboration and democratic process is the foundation for our annual town meeting. All the budgetary and capital improvement financial projections are located on the Town website for review. I always have an open door to discuss the FY2027 documentation.

Nice weather is here, and some neighbors may need support with projects, so kindly lend a hand.

Please continue to follow the Town's website, Facebook page, and other social media platforms for information on upcoming events and important updates.

As always, I encourage everyone to stay safe and make the most of the season in A Great Little Town in the Heart of Maine to Live, Work, and Play.

Stephen Fields, PSHRA-SCP  
Town Manager

### Elections

*Submitted by: Kristen Cushman, Town Clerk*

On June 9, 2026, we will have a Municipal Election and State of Maine Primary Election.

The Town Council has two (2) seats, and the School Board has one (1) seat that will all expire June 30, 2029. If you are interested in serving your community and would like more information about what serving as an elected official in Hermon is about do not hesitate to contact me.

Nomination papers will be available in my office on March 2, 2026. Candidates are required to obtain 25 valid registered voter supporting signatures. Those signatures are due back by 4:00pm on April 10, 2026.



### Upcoming Dates

#### **March 2, 2026**

Nomination papers available for School Committee & Town Council

#### **April 10, 2026 at 4:00pm**

Last day to turn in nomination papers

#### **April 20, 2026**

Closed for Patriots Day

#### **May 25, 2026**

Closed for Memorial Day

#### **June 9, 2026**

Election Day at Hermon High School Gym, 7:00am - 8:00pm

#### **June 11, 2026**

Annual Town Meeting at Hermon High School Auditorium at 6:00pm



# A LOOK AHEAD...

# HERMON

## RECREATION

### SPRING 2026

MARCH-MAY

## YOUTH

		
TODDLER STORY TIME -----	HHS -----	3/4, 4/1, & 5/6
K-6TH APRIL VACATION CAMP -----	PADS -----	4/21-4/26
MIDDLE SCHOOL SEA DOGS TRIP -----		4/22

## FAMILY/COMMUNITY

			
HOP & DROP -----			4/4
FAMILY PJ STORY TIME -----	6-7PM -----	HHS -----	4/15
CHILDREN'S YARD SALE -----	8AM-12PM -----	PADS -----	4/25
BOY'S GLOW PARTY -----	5-7PM -----	HMS -----	5/9
COMMUNITY YARD SALE -----			5/16
WEEKLY ADULT ZUMBA CLASSES -----		PADS -----	WEDNESDAYS THROUGH 5/5

## SENIORS

			
BREAKFAST CLUB -----	9:30AM -----	CHASE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT -----	3/2, 4/6, & 5/4
CRAFT SESSION -----	12:30PM -----	BOULIER PLACE -----	3/10, 4/14 & 5/12
BUS TRIP -----		SALTED BUTTER FARM -----	4/23
FREE LUNCH -----	12:30PM -----	HERMON TOWN OFFICE -----	3/26, 4/30 & 5/28
SENIOR TEA PARTY -----	12PM -----	ECOTAT GARDENS -----	5/20*

## ATHLETICS

MINI HOOPS INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL  
 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL/SOFTBALL  
 SPRING TRACK & FIELD  
 GIRLS' BASKETBALL CLINICS



## Hermon Rec to Host 4th Annual Children's Yard Sale

Article Submitted by: Lindsey Ouellette, Recreation Director

The Hermon Recreation Department invites the community to the 4th Annual Children's Yard Sale on Saturday, April 25, from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the Patricia A. Duran School.



This popular community event is a great way to start your spring cleaning while giving children's items a new home. Sellers can rent a 10' x 10' space with tables provided, making it easy to display and sell gently used or new kids' and baby items such as books, toys, clothing, and furniture.

Admission is by donation, and all proceeds will support the purchase of outdoor equipment for students participating in upcoming summer programs. Every contribution helps expand recreational opportunities for local youth.

The event continues to grow each year with nearly 400 shoppers in attendance last year, browsing through 20 vendor booths! Returning again this year, Maniac Snack Shack will be on site serving delicious breakfast and lunch options. Whether you're looking to sell, shop, everyone is welcome to join the fun!

## A NOTE TO OUR READERS...

*For a long time, The Hermon Connection has been a way for the Town of Hermon to share updates, stories, and announcements from across our community. We appreciate the contributions from town departments, residents, and local businesses who help make each issue informative and engaging.*

*Effective July 2026, The Hermon Connection will transition from a bi-monthly publication to a quarterly schedule, with issues released four times per year: Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring. This change will allow us to better manage production while continuing to provide timely and meaningful information to our residents.*

*We remain committed to keeping the community informed and connected, and we thank you for your continued support and participation.*

### **New Connection Deadlines:**

Fall 2026 - Deadline is August 1, Published early September  
Winter 2026/27 - Deadline is November 1, Published early December  
Spring 2027 - Deadline is February 1, Published early March  
Summer 2027 - Deadline is May 1, Published early June



**Congratulations, Kristen!**

We want to congratulate Hermon's amazing Town Clerk, Kristen, on becoming a Certified Clerk of Maine through the Maine Town and City Clerks Association! Throughout the past five years, you have worked hard for this huge achievement. We want you to know that your determination and dedication do not go unnoticed, and we are continually inspired by you.

Thank you for all you do, and congratulations!

Love,  
Brooke, Angie & Keely

## On Track for Success: My Track & Field Journey

Hi! My name is Daijha Grant, and I am a junior at Hermon High School. My journey in track & field began in middle school. I enjoyed the excitement and challenge of track, even though I didn't take it too seriously at first. When I entered high school, I stepped away from track to focus on basketball, searching for my direction as an athlete. After a challenging basketball season, I returned to track in the spring of my sophomore year, and that decision changed my life. Coming back to the sport felt refreshing and inspiring. I rebuilt my confidence, discovered a new level of motivation, and realized that track & field was where I truly belong. My first season, I won PVCs and then the State Championship in the triple jump, broke multiple school records, and qualified for the New England Championships, placing in the top 10 for triple jump and top 20 for long jump across New England. Since then, my love for the sport and my determination to grow have only continued to strengthen. This winter marked another exciting milestone in my journey. For the first time, I competed in the Indoor State Championship, where I placed first in Class B for the triple jump, broke the school record of 31'-11.50", and achieved a personal record of 37' -7.50" – around two inches shy of the state record. This accomplishment was incredibly meaningful and showed me what results can be achieved through hard work, perseverance, and the support of those around me. Beyond my individual events, being part of a team has been one of the most rewarding parts of my experience. This season, I helped lead our 4x200 relay team to the State Championship, where we placed second with a time of 1:49.74 and broke our school's 13-year indoor record of 1:53.19. We will also be traveling to the New England Championships in Boston later this month, and I am excited to continue competing alongside my teammates as we represent our school and community.

I am especially grateful to be part of the growing track & field program at Hermon High School. With our brand new track & field facility, I've had the opportunity to achieve my goals while training in an environment that encourages excellence, teamwork, and personal growth. Being part of this program has allowed me to build lasting friendships, form strong connections within our community, and give back in meaningful ways. Last summer, I had the privilege of helping coach younger athletes in our community through the summer youth track & field program. That experience was incredibly rewarding, allowing me to support the next generation of athletes while strengthening the connection between our program and the community. The encouragement from my coaches, teammates, and community continues to inspire me and has helped shape me not only as an athlete but also as a leader.

Track & field has opened doors I never could have imagined, including the opportunity to compete in the Coast 2 Coast International Track & Field Championships this summer in Australia. Here, I will represent Team USA along with other student athletes in my age group. This incredible experience will allow me to represent my school, my hometown, and my community on an international stage.

I am currently fundraising to help make this opportunity possible. If you would like more information on how to donate or any other information on Coast 2 Coast International Athletics, you can go to their website at [www.coast2coastinternationalathletics.com](http://www.coast2coastinternationalathletics.com). They will have a secure place to donate there. Please make sure to add my name, Daijha Grant, to the notes section so funds are credited to my account. If another payment method works better for you or your business, please contact me personally, and I will be happy to provide other options.

Thank you for taking the time to read my story and consider supporting my journey. Your generosity would truly mean the world to me and would bring me one step closer to achieving a dream I never imagined possible.

Sincerely,



Daijha Grant

[grantdaijha@gmail.com](mailto:grantdaijha@gmail.com)



Photo taken by John Holyoke

# CLASS OF 2030!

## HERMON HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES YOU!

SNOWDATE:  
3/26

### STUDENTS!

**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 24TH, 2026**  
**9:00AM**

Your introduction to elective courses and activities. Learn about our program of studies, athletics, and many clubs at HHS!



Get a Hawks Eye View with a Campus Highlight Tour with staff & students available to help answer questions. Administration's presentation will follow in the auditorium.

School tours and presentation by administration and school counselors. See your future school and hear about expectations, curriculum, and more!

**PARENTS  
& STUDENTS!**  
**TUESDAY**  
**MARCH 24TH, 2026**  
**5:30-7:30PM**

**A SMALL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE WITH BIG OPPORTUNITIES!**



Scan the QR code to view our Program of Studies!



For more information about our Step-Up events or registering with Hermon High School, please contact the Guidance office at 848-4026.

# SUMMER PROGRAMS

Hermon Recreation offers a variety of fun, engaging summer programs designed to meet kids where they are—whether they're just starting school, entering their teen years, or preparing for future leadership roles.



This eight-week day camp is packed with adventure, creativity, and play for elementary-aged children entering grades K-4th. Campers enjoy daily sports, games, and craft activities, along with exciting field trips to local favorites like the beach, Leonard's Mills, Pancoe Pool, and the movie theater. Our program focuses on keeping kids active, making friends, and having a safe, memorable summer.



**H-Nation Youth Camp:** An eight-week summer day camp that runs Mon-Thurs and designed specifically for middle school students. Campers participate in daily activities, friendly competitions, and weekly field trips that keep them moving and connected all summer long. The program wraps up with Nation Week, a high-energy, team competition that is always a camper favorite and the highlight of the summer.



Designed for students entering their freshman year who are ready for more responsibility but not quite prepared for a summer job. CITs work alongside camp leaders to develop leadership skills, practice teamwork, improve communication, and learn time management and responsibility. This program helps teens build confidence and leadership skills they can use both at work and at home while earning community service hours.



Fun trips for middle schoolers who love adventure, our Youth Summer Day Trips offer exciting travel experiences throughout the summer. Past trips include destinations like Aquaboggan, Seadogs games, Monkey C Monkey Do, Funtown & York's Wild Kingdom. These trips give kids the chance to explore, make memories, and enjoy new experiences with friends.



## Good News for Maine and Penobscot County

2026 Legislative Session Update with Rep. Jim Thorne, House District 35 – Carmel and Hermon

U.S. Senator Susan Collins serves as Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. The Committee holds jurisdiction over all discretionary spending for the entire federal government. Her office recently announced federal funding for 670 projects in Maine. That list totals \$1.486 billion for all 16 counties, part of the \$1.5 billion that Senator Collins has secured for communities since 2021.

One hundred twenty-five Penobscot County projects totaling \$328.9 million are on the list, including \$937,000 for renovation and expansion of the Town of Carmel municipal facility (FY24).

The statewide list is available at: <https://www.collins.senate.gov/services/appropriations-request>

I want to publicly thank Senator Collins for her work on behalf of Maine communities.

If you have any questions or want to share your thoughts, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at [Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Jim.Thorne@legislature.maine.gov).

It is truly an honor to serve the people of Carmel and Hermon (District 35) and the State of Maine.

Sincerely,



Jim Thorne

CDS TOTALS BY COUNTY		
Secured by Senator Collins		
County	Project Total	Funding Secured
Androscoggin	46	\$105.9 million
Aroostook	78	\$197.6 million
Cumberland	72	\$107.7 million
Franklin	13	\$34.7 million
Hancock	50	\$96.4 million
Kennebec	50	\$109.3 million
Knox	18	\$33.9 million
Lincoln	15	\$47.0 million
Oxford	24	\$42.4 million
Penobscot	125	\$328.9 million
Piscataquis	17	\$50.4 million
Sagadahoc	6	\$12.5 million
Somerset	28	\$37.4 million
Waldo	20	\$31.3 million
Washington	50	\$115.2 million
York	57	\$133.9 million
National	1	\$2 million
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>\$1.486 billion</b>

### Want to contribute to the Hermon Connection?

If you have an item of interest pertaining to the Town of Hermon we want to hear about it! Submitting an article in the Hermon Connection is a good way for residents and organizations to share stories of interest with the community. If you would like to submit an article, please email it to Lindsey Ouellette at [ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov](mailto:ouellettel@hermonmaine.gov). In order for Hermon residents and/or organizations to submit articles to be published in the Connection, the following criteria must be met:

1. The person submitting the article must be a resident of the Town of Hermon.
2. The organization submitting the article must be located within Hermon's geographic boundaries.
3. The organization has a lawful purpose which does not pose a threat to public order, to the safety of the public, or to the safety of any individual.
4. The organization does not have its primary purpose marketing products or services or making a profit.

Please be aware that any articles and notices submitted by community members and community organizations may not contain offensive language, slander, advocate violence or unlawful activity, or pose a threat to public order or to persons or their reputation. When determining whether or not to submit an article, please be aware the deadlines for submission are approximately the 20th of February, April, June, August, October and December.

Once you have submitted your article, Town staff will be in contact with you to let you know if the article you submitted will be published. We look forward to hearing from you!

## Hermon Hawk Battalion Cadets Assist in the Special Olympics Event

Article submitted by: C/2LT Nanette Holmes, Photograph by: Major Fortier



Hermon Hawk Battalion Cadets joined athletes from across the state to aid the athletes in their competitions. The Special Olympics, an annual event hosted on Hermon Mountain, was a day-long activity where our cadets volunteered their time to make sure the games went both smoothly and to make sure the athletes had a fun, welcoming, and a memorable experience.

This event and the cadets' time not only positively impacted the athletes, but also affected our cadets. The Special Olympics gave our Hermon Hawk Battalion cadets the opportunity to both grow as leaders and push them to help out in the community. This moral of leadership and making an impact on our community is a very treasured value in our program. We are thrilled to be able to help out and assist with these games both in the present and the future.

The Hermon Hawk Battalion thanks the workers and athletes at Special Olympics for such an inviting and memorable experience. Thank you for inviting us to be able to help out at the event while sharing your experience, and we hope all of our athletes had a great time competing!

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## Getting Back to Work in the Legislature

Article & Photo Submitted by: Senator Joseph Baldacci

At the beginning of last month, my colleagues and I returned to the State House for the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature. I am busy chairing the State & Local Government Committee and the Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Committee, as well as serving on the Health Coverage, Insurance & Financial Services Committee. The Second Session is typically the shorter of the two, scheduled to end in just a couple of months, on April 15.

While our work will be centered mostly on bills left over from the First Session, we still have the chance to pass meaningful legislation that will lower everyday costs for Mainers. To kick off the session, Legislative Democrats held a press conference to explain exactly how we plan to do this. We introduced our "Lower Costs, Stronger Communities" initiative. It includes a proposal to cut sales taxes on all electricity sold and delivered to residential homes throughout the state to provide relief for Mainers who are struggling to afford their energy bills. We also discussed legislation that will raise the salary threshold for overtime pay, making sure thousands of middle-income Mainers are fairly compensated for the long hours they work. We've also introduced legislation that makes the Affordable Housing Income Tax Credit permanent, which will provide developers with a major incentive to build affordable housing options. Finally, we have also introduced legislation that will increase access to pharmacies for rural Mainers, reducing travel time and expenses while helping people avoid visits to the emergency room when they do not have access to affordable, local medication.

If you have questions about any of these bills or about other efforts we are leading to make sure Maine is affordable for everyone, or if you have an idea for legislation that you would like to see introduced in the future, please do not hesitate to reach out. You can always reach me at [Joe.Baldacci@legislature.maine.gov](mailto:Joe.Baldacci@legislature.maine.gov), or you can call my office at (207) 287-1515.



## Penobscot Snowmobile Club Update

Article & Photo Submitted by: Sonya Eldridge



Our "Snow Prayers" were answered finally! The grooming crew volunteers switched the Kubota tractor tires out for tracks and were very busy grooming our local trails, ITS 82 & 84 trails, and the community walking trail between the high school and elementary school. We were open every weekend in January and February with an amazing menu with lots of riders stopping by to enjoy the good food and good company. Many thanks to James, Stacy, Mac, Malcolm, Byron, Jim, Andrew and Doug for keeping the trails well-groomed all winter. Great job Guys!!

Once again we co-hosted with Dysart's, the Pine Tree Camp Celebrity Egg Ride on January 31st. The weekend was a huge, successful fundraiser for The Pine Tree Camp and all the events over the weekend were a lot of fun. Our club donated \$1,000.00 to the camp for camper scholarships. Hope you were able to attend or donate by purchasing a paper egg to hang in the window of local stores for this great cause.

We held a free Community Turkey Dinner on January 24th serving over 70 meals. What a great turnout on a very cold day! It is always nice to see people enjoying each other's company and relaxing.

We hosted our 1st Annual Classed Radar Run produced by Brian Monahan and CBR Powersports on a cold and windy February 21st. There

were 16 classes with 64 registrations and a 70/30 payout. An estimated 200 passes ran the track with the fastest sled clocked at 102 mph driven by Nick Mills on his modified Yamaha SRX 4 Stroke Turbo. The kitchen was open all day serving Breakfast Sandwiches, Turkey Pie, Chili w/Cornbread, Burgers, Dogs, Fries and Desserts.

We would like to thank Valley Home Services for your continued support. You make so much of what we do possible.

The clubhouse facility is available for your event of 40-50 guests. We have plenty of parking, and two restrooms. For information call Chuck at 207-478-8280.

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# Congratulations to Hermon's Athletes on their success over the Winter season!

CHEERING



Hermon High School



Penobscot Valley Conference

Mackenzie Gallant  
First Team All-Conference

CHEERING



Hermon High School



Penobscot Valley Conference

Emma Hart  
Second Team All-Conference

CHEERING



Hermon High School



Penobscot Valley Conference

Kaelynn Woodman  
Second Team All-Conference

CHEERING



Hermon High School



Penobscot Valley Conference

Mya Sullivan  
First Team All-Conference



ALL CONFERENCE SECOND TEAM

EASTERN MAINE INDOOR TRACK LEAGUE

DAIHA GRANT, ELLA JOHNSON,  
ELENA WALKER, NATALIE TARDIE  
4X200M RELAY TEAM



ALL CONFERENCE FIRST TEAM

EASTERN MAINE INDOOR TRACK LEAGUE

ELLA JOHNSON  
MILE RUN



ALL CONFERENCE SECOND TEAM

EASTERN MAINE INDOOR TRACK LEAGUE

DYLAN PHAIR  
TRIPLE JUMP



ALL CONFERENCE FIRST TEAM

EASTERN MAINE INDOOR TRACK LEAGUE

DAIHA GRANT  
TRIPLE JUMP

**BRODY HURD**

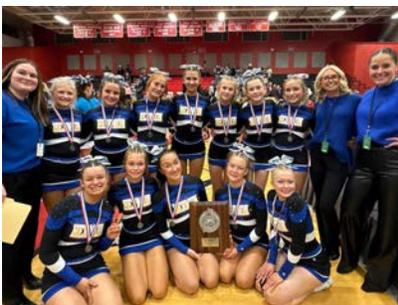
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HERMON HIGH SCHOOL

**MASON KINNEY**

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### Brian Switzer

Licensed Insurance Agent

PHONE: (207) 299-5557

EMAIL: [theswitzeragency@gmail.com](mailto:theswitzeragency@gmail.com)

LOCAL OFFICE: 2060 Glenwood Ave, Hermon

HEALTH | MEDICARE | SMALL GROUP | LIFE | SUPPLEMENTAL

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*We are not comfortable in our home  
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**207.848.2036**



## The Village Kitchen

*Rustic eats to-go!*

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HERMON ME



FACEBOOK.COM/THEVILLAGEKITCHENHERMON

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WEEKLY MENU



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moritasschoolofdance.com

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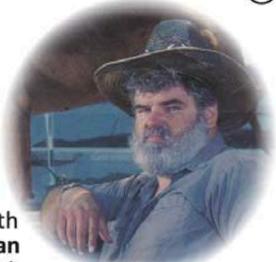
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