

Waterfall safety for the masses

by John Moore
Staff Writer

As a founding member of S.A.D.D. (Students Against Drunk Diving), I feel it is my calling to bring an important safety message to Brevard College students this week: Waterfalls can be dangerous. Two weeks ago Robert Brown, a native of Navarre Fla., jumped to his death from the top of Looking Glass Falls right here in Transylvania County.

From my research Brown is the third individual to die this year in a waterfall related accident. Of the three deaths, Brown's accident was the only one to involve alcohol. In fact, Transylvania county rescue services reports that on average they respond to five

waterfall accidents a year.

This surprised me. How could something so beautiful be so deadly? The reality is that waterfalls are not dangerous at all if one takes the proper safety steps when visiting.

The first tip is a fairly obvious: never jump off the top of a waterfall. The pool beneath is shallow with lots of jagged rocks, and if you jump bad things could happen. Yes, it looks fun; but a waterfall is not a diving board. In fact, tip two is to stay away from the top of waterfalls all together. So logic holds by following step two, step one should be a breeze.

Tip three(my personal favorite) is that you should never try to climb a water fall.

No matter how dry the rocks look, looks can be deceiving and the rocks are extremely slippery. Tip four is to never cross over streams above waterfalls. The current of the stream can be stronger than expected, and all it takes is a slip to carry you right over the falls.

Tip five is never to swim directly under a waterfall because often times there are very strong currents that act very much like eddies on a river. If you get caught in a powerful undercurrent, chances are you might not come back to the surface.

If all of these tips are too complicated to remember, just stay on the trail. Odds are there are no trails in Transylvania

County that will take you over the top of a waterfall, and most often there will be warning signs notifying you of danger. For example there is one such sign posted at Looking Glass falls. The simple key to the signs is not to ignore them.

We are blessed to live in an area of such beauty and wonder. In Transylvania County alone there are over two hundred and fifty waterfalls, that is why the counties slogan is "The Land of Waterfalls". The fact of the matter is that no one should ever needlessly be killed or injured due to a waterfall accident. In every thing that you attempt dear reader please remember Safety First, the life you save may be your own.

7th anniversary of 9/11 passes with little fanfare. Have we forgotten?

by Chris Dixon
Contributor

As we all know Thursday was September 11th. The events of that tragic day not only affected the world, but ripped the nation. The tragedy was fresh on all our minds but in recent years to me it has seemed that people have somewhat "forgotten" about the ones we lost on that terrible day. The war we are in today is partially caused by 9/11 and yet we are in the streets chanting "We Hate WAR!" Of course everybody hates war and ultimately wants peace, but I firmly believe that you cannot get peace without some type of war. I ask you to read the following poem that I wrote for my BCE Peace and War class

with Dr. Steve Martin. Whether your are voting for Obama or if you're voting for McCain, either candidate not matter their stance on the war, abortion, economy or any issue you want to bring up would agree on one thing about the September 11th tragedy
"NEVERFORGET!"

Peace or War
When I think of America, I think of Peace and War.
I think of the time George Washington was building this great Peaceful nation, but had to fight a War to get its freedom.
I think about the time when America thought we were the most Peaceful nation, but it took a civil War to prove that was not the case.
I think about the times of

World War I when our nation's Peace was threatened, and we fought in a World War to keep it.
I think about the times of The Great Depression when America looked like a War torn country, but every American still held on to a little bit of Peace.
I think of December 7, 1941, a day when our Peace was attacked and we had to fight in a Second World War to get it back.
I think of the forgotten Korean War, when America thought the nation was at Peace.
I think of November 22, 1963 a day in which our own president was killed by our own people who wanted anything but Peace, but to start a domestic war that ripped our nation in the sixties.

I think about April 4, 1968 when a black man only wanting Peace was killed, fueling a race War that is still here today
I think of the time of the horrible Vietnam War when all America wanted was Peace but did not appreciate the ones that gave it to them.
I think about the Gulf War, which did nothing for Peace, but only escalated a later War
I think of 9/11/01 a date that Peace seemed extinct and War was what we wanted.
I think about now, when all Americans want is Peace but, are not willing to fight a War to get it.
Tell me where in America's storied history we have not had to fight some type of War to get Peace.
So what do you think about when you think about America.... Peace or War?