



The Community
School

Passages Program



Passages Press

Working at the Fair

Country Bumpkins

by Erika Leigh

As a small business owner it is very tough. I wanted to find out exactly what it was like to own a small business. So I went and interviewed a small business owner. Follow along and you will see exactly what it takes to run a concession stand. You will hear her opinion and the way she does things.

You may go to fairs and see the *Country Bumpkins*; it is run and owned by Linda Leigh. In the concession stand they sell fresh Maine fried clams bought from only qualified processors, onion rings fresh cut, and fresh cut French fries.

Linda tells me there is a lot of responsibility to do what she does. She prides herself in her work; she likes to do it. Her main concerns are being clean and doing the job right, certain rules must be followed. She had even fired someone for not following the rules. "I do what I got to do, I do not hesitate to fire someone if he shows himself not worthy." That was her first quote. Everything that comes through that door is inspected by her to make sure it is fit - broken boxes, smell anything on it, the date, everything! Something I think she really should take pride in is she got certified as a "Serve Safe Handler", which is not required. She also has her workers wear gloves while serving and that's not required.

"I never regret it," so she tells me. Linda is not sure if it is a good investment, but she is happy.

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She would not change anything about it because she built it. Everything is already convenient in it. She has been running the *Country Bumpkins* for two years.

"You have to give any business five to seven years to see if it's going to make you or break you. Every year you have to have insurance, that way if someone gets sick you're covered. That is most expensive. You have sales tax on all your food, which is seven percent. And anything else that comes up."



She has only been to one fair where she did not make a profit. At Ossipee Valley Fair she just made enough money to pay lot rent and pay for the goods. So she has never been to a location that did not pay at least for itself.

On the other hand, when she went to a music festival up north she grossed \$2,200 in one day! Lot rent was \$100, to pay for food and workers it cost

\$1,000. So by the end she made a net profit of \$1,100.

To set her prices she breaks it all down, measures it all out to make each portion and figures how many servings. Then she measures how many into one batch. Then she divides how much she paid for them, and then marks them up from there. "To make a profit always mark it up so if you have to drop it you can!"

That is how it is for Linda Leigh to run the *Country Bumpkins*. It doesn't sound like anything that I could do. I could work in it; that is it! Good luck to her and keep up the good work!

Behind the Jewelry Booth

by Jesse Smith

I researched the wonderful job of selling jewelry. Or I thought it was wonderful until I experienced it for myself. I have a friend named Gail who has been in this profession for years. She has a wonderful personality. There is not one day that passes when she doesn't have a smile on her face. She is an outgoing person who likes to give everything she can. May I add that she is also a very hard-working woman. She lends a hand to anyone in need and always has an ear for listening. I consider her a mother to me, because she has done so much for me money-wise and helped me through hard times by listening to my problems. She comes from Worcester, Massachusetts so her job requires a lot of traveling. Her most popular shows that she does are here in Rockland, Maine, which includes the Blues Festival and Lobster Festival. As we all know, the Lobster Festival was the first week in August. I volunteered to help her out as I do every year. When we weren't helping customers, I was interviewing her about her job.

Her booth is not very large - approximately eight feet by eight feet - not big at all. She has little wooden tables where she lays glass display cases holding the necklaces, rings, and charms. Then she has standing wooden frames that hold the rope necklaces and earrings. The earrings are attached to an almost endless amount of string that looks like a clothesline for earrings. To set up all this she has to

separate the earrings, clean them, and hang them up, which takes about thirty minutes. Then she has to wash the display cases, which takes about five minutes. To set up the tables it takes roughly twenty to twenty-five minutes. So, it takes approximately one to two hours for everything. And it takes about the same to tear down, because all she does is put the earrings into plastic bags, then she tears down the wooden frames and closes the tables. For the most part loading her van is the worst because everything has to be neatly placed inside the vehicle to ensure room for the rest of the stuff that needs to go in.

I chose to ask Gail some questions about what she does. She was honest about her job and what it takes to sell. I learned a lot about asking her questions and just how much money and time it takes to make money.

What kind of insurance do you need to sell your jewelry?

"Liability insurance. Must have one million dollars insurance coverage which costs me two hundred and fifty dollars per year."

How long have you been selling?

"Thirty-one years"

How did you get started?

"Bought costume jewelry and sold it at flea markets. I only began with one hundred and thirty dollars."

What got you interested in selling?

"Watching other vendors at flea markets making unbelievable money."

Could you give me a rough estimate on how much money you have invested right now?

"Thirty thousand dollars roughly."

What are some places that you travel to?

"Big shows - Rockland Lobster Festival, Rockland Blues Festival, and Acton Fair. Small shows - Salem Mass, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire."

Which one do you consider your best?

"Rockland Blues Festival."

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On an average, how many hours do you put in per day?

“Fifteen hours but I also spend twenty-five hours per week at home making my own jewelry.”

What would you recommend to someone starting out in this business?

“Not to do it. It takes a lot of time, money, hard work, patience and energy.”

Do you have regrets about doing this?

“Yes, should have been a veterinarian.”

Where do you buy your jewelry?

“Catalogs and I make them myself.”

How much more do you charge than what you pay for it?

“Double or triple.”

What is the best thing that you like about your profession?

“Meeting famous people and being around different types of people.”

On a good day how much do you make?

“One thousand dollars.”

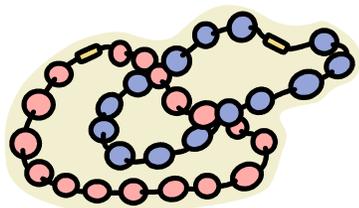
How many miles do you travel per week to sell?

“About two hundred miles.”

On an average how much do you spend on gas and other traveling expenses?

“Forty for gas, twenty for other. I don't buy food. I eat peanut butter sandwiches.”

Selling jewelry is a tough business and very competitive. I have considered doing this job but after talking to Gail I wouldn't be able to. She was dead tired after the four days and so was I from helping. From my personal experience I would not recommend this job to anyone. I have changed my mind. At first it was interesting, but by actually getting involved and trying it out, I discovered it isn't for me.



A Creed to Live By

by Tiffany Towers

Don't underestimate your worth by comparing yourself with others.

It is because we are all different that each of us is special.

Don't set your goals by what other people deem important.

Only you know what is best for you.

Don't take for granted the things close to your heart.

Cling to them as you would your life, for without them life slips through your fingers by living in the past or for the future.

By living your life one day at a time, you live all the days of your life.

Don't give up when you still have something to give.

Nothing is really over...until the moment you stop trying...

Don't be afraid to admit that you are less than perfect.

It is a thin, fragile thread that binds to each other.

Don't be afraid to encounter risks.

It is by taking chances that we learn how to be brave.

Don't shut love out of your life by saying it's impossible to find.

The quickest way to receive love is to give love.

The fastest way to lose love is to hold it; to keep love is to give it wings.

Don't dismiss your dreams.

To be without dreams is to be without hope; to be without hope is to be without purpose.

Don't run through life so fast that you forget not only where you've been, but also where you are going.

Life is not a rose, but a journey to be savored each step of the way.

One Person's Opinion

by Lacey Beal

Abortion. It is the act of terminating a pregnancy. Is it right, and who's to say?

Many people have different opinions on whether abortion should be legal or not. There are people who believe that abortion is perfectly fine and that there is nothing wrong with it, while there are other people who are "pro-choice" and believe that it is the mother's decision to go through with the pregnancy or not. There are also people who do not agree with abortion under any circumstance.

I personally do not agree with abortion and I think it is wrong, but I would not agree with making it illegal. I believe it should be the mother's choice.

In some places where it is illegal there have been stories about women going down dark alleys and either doing it themselves or having somebody who is not a professional doing it. That way not only would the pregnancy be terminated, but the woman could die, too.

There are medical situations where abortion is necessary or the mother could be in danger. If abortion was illegal the mother would have to continue the pregnancy. If she dies so would the baby, so wouldn't just terminating the pregnancy be better than both the fetus and the mother dying?

If a mother didn't want a baby, but was forced to keep it by law, there would be another option for her. Why not give the baby up for adoption? Well, some mothers who may be forced to continue the pregnancy may be irresponsible. They may choose adoption, but while they are pregnant not take care of the growing fetus inside of them. They may drink, do drugs, or anything else that could harm them or the baby. Is it fair to give a baby a start like that?

There have been stories of women who have been raped and then found out they were pregnant. Say abortion was illegal. She would have to continue the pregnancy whether or not she wanted to. Every time she looked at her child she would

have to be reminded of being raped, which is a very emotional thing. The woman didn't want the sex to begin with, so would it be right for her to have to continue the pregnancy that came from it?

What about women who are on birth control? They are taking the birth control so they don't get pregnant. If the birth control fails and they do get pregnant would it be fair for them to have to continue the pregnancy just because abortion is illegal? They didn't want a baby so they took the birth control...is it their fault it failed?

Instead of spending a bunch of money on trying to pass laws against abortion, why not use the money to try to protect people. How about making people educated about sex and babies and how hard it is to raise them? Why not make all types of birth control free for all people, no matter what their earnings might be. It seems like some people are so wrapped up in saving an unborn fetus that they don't stop and think where it starts...in the people who are already living. Educate them.

What if a teen gets pregnant? In some states abortion is legal, but your parent has to make the decision if you are under 18. What if the teen wanted to continue the pregnancy, but her parents thought she shouldn't. They would have the right to say if her baby gets to live or die? It isn't fair.

There are many people who get pregnant by accident or even just by being irresponsible. Some choose to continue the pregnancy and keep the baby, give the baby up for adoption, or to terminate the pregnancy. Making it illegal, in some situations, could put the fetus and/or the mother into danger. Some mothers may know their lifestyle is not good to raise a baby and know that they cannot give the baby what it deserves so they terminate the pregnancy. There is a saying, "mother knows best," so why should it be up to somebody else on whether or not you keep your child? It should be the mother's choice.

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Life's Passages



Amanda Cates gave birth to her beautiful daughter Kasey Rae on August 11, 2004.

Katie Stimpson gave birth to her gorgeous Olympic-sized (9 lb.10 oz.) son on August 19, 2004.

Lacey Beal married Timothy Thompson on August 28, 2004.



Cassie Rolerson was accepted into the Onward Program at the University of Maine in Orono. She and her son Jacob are now living in their own apartment while Cassie attends classes.

New Kid on the Block

by Megan Shute

Who is this girl, anyway? You may have called the Passages office and spoken to me on the phone, you may have seen me at Creative Memories, you may have met me at your own home, or you may not have even heard of me. Regardless, you're all probably a little fuzzy about who I am and why I'm here. Simply, my name is Megan and I am the new Passages intern who will be working with your teachers as well as with many of you throughout the course of the coming year.

My interest in infant and maternal health began while I was in high school when a friend's mother, a nurse at the time, headed off to school to become a certified nurse midwife. As midwives like to say, she wanted to "catch babies." Hearing her speak about providing positive and empowering birth experiences as well as lifelong holistic healthcare for women hooked me immediately. Reading the novel Midwives as well as the book Spiritual Midwifery enticed me even further. The next few years, outside of school, I spent shadowing

midwives in New Hampshire, apprenticing with a nurse midwife in New York, and counseling at Rockland Family Planning. Within the next couple of years, I hope to become a nurse midwife and begin catching babies.

Before committing myself to a life of catching babies, I felt the need to explore another of my interests, alternative education. Upon hearing about the Passages Program, based out of the town where I was born, I became intrigued. What better way for me to experience an alternative educational model than with teen parents and their babies? A couple of months after hearing about the program, I had funding and the support of the Community School staff to take on an internship role at Passages. So, here I sit in my office writing articles for Passages Press. No really, my responsibilities here entail performing administrative tasks in the Passages office, conducting home visits and in-depth interviews, working with students on specific core skills, participating in students' Passage committees, as well as a number of other tasks.

I truly look forward to getting to know you and your children over the next year!

Prom Committee Anyone?

by Ashli Fowler

I would like to start a prom committee, but I need people interested in a Passages Prom to help. If you missed your prom and want to still have one, here's your chance!

Contact Ashli by phone 845-6081 or by email:

Hannahmommy04@yahoo.com.



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How Much Life can Change

by Amanda Cates

My life used to consist of running the roads, going here and there whenever I wanted, I could just up and go. I had my own space, my freedom, and I couldn't be happier!

Then on Dec 21, 2003, I found out I was pregnant. I had to make my choice then. Keep traveling for eight months out of the year, or stay home, make a life at home, and raise a baby.

So I picked staying home, and making a life with a baby.

Before she was here, I missed being out on the road, and I really wanted to go.

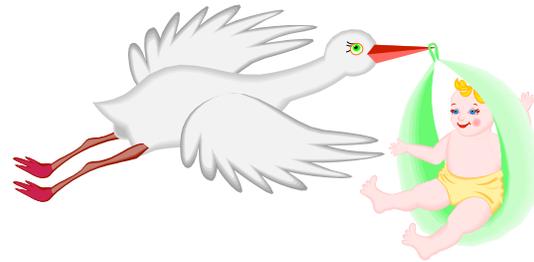
I was in labor for 14 hours and 29 minutes. Oh my god, did it hurt! Labor is something I never thought I would ever go through. Cause I never wanted kids and I was so scare of dying.

Now that I have had her and I look back, and everything was so worth going through, I will have another one in a couple of years. The feeling after she is out of you, and in this world, and in your arms - that is a feeling that you will never feel anywhere else.

I was so scared that something was going to go wrong at birth, she was going to come out with something wrong with her, something was going to happen to me. I was so relieved when I had her and everything went all right with the both of us!

After I got out of the tub and into bed it took me four pushes and she was out of me, and there she was on my chest, she was not cleaned off or anything and that is when I knew that I was always going to love this blonde-haired blue-eyed baby girl! When I feed her, and she opens those big blue eyes, and she just stares at me - that is a feeling - I don't think there are any words that could ever tell you how it feels. When she makes those funny faces, I can't help but laugh and feel all warm and glowing inside.

I never thought someone so small, so helpless, so sweet and so precious could change my life so much. I don't have any second thoughts about having her. I can now say that I know what true love is, and I'm so glad and happy and proud to have a wonderful blonde-haired blue-eyed baby girl born August 11, 2004.



Upcoming Workshops

Creative Memories

Wednesday ▪ September 8 ▪ 10 – 12 am
Teen Center

What's Cookin' Good Lookin'?

a hands-on cooking and food shopping workshop
Wednesday ▪ September 22 ▪ 10 – 12 am
Location to be announced

Education and Career Opportunities

Thursday ▪ September 9 ▪ 10 – 12 am
Sponsored by the Teen & Young Parent Program
231B Park St., Rockland
Call 594-0975 for more information

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