

Focus on feelings for the landscape

New Logan and Wallace fine art photographs spotlight Italy, France > page 6



Time for a change

Bookstore owner looking for a buyer; the cat comes with the store.

> page 12

On matters of style, swim with the current, on matters of principle, stand like a rock. —Thomas Jefferson

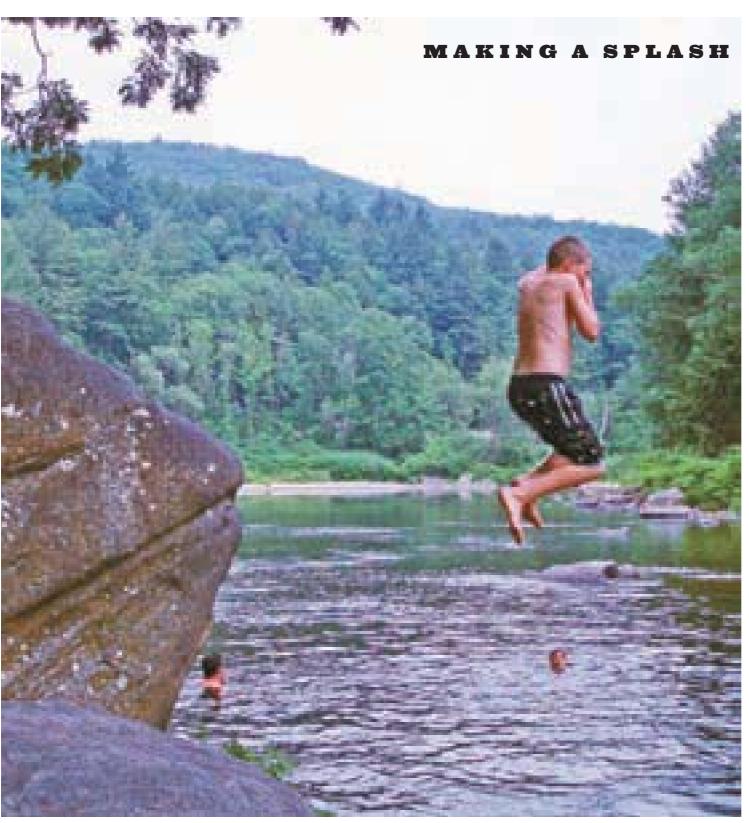
www.sfindependent.net Shelburne Falls INDEPENDENT

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Timmy Hoar, 14, of Buckland, leaps into the water at Sunburn Beach in Shelburne, a favorite locals' swimming hole. Where can you

Youths indicted for Mohawk gun incident

Two expelled as a third awaits decision; all three facing felony charges

By Virginia Ray ginny@sfindependent.ne

BUCKLAND—Felony charges have been filed against three minor students and two have been expelled from the Mohawk Trail Regional School District, while one remains awaiting a decision, and is banned from school property while the expulsion process for him continues.

The names of all three juveniles were released by the Deputy First Assistant District Attorney Elizabeth Dunphy Farris after they were indicted on felony charges last week.

Travis J. Graves, 15, of South Deerfield has been charged with two counts of carrying a against a student. The weapon firearm to school (one between was not fired and it's not known May 14-16 and one May 21), two counts of carrying a dangerous weapon on school grounds and one count of threat to commit a crime and disturbing school

Jesse T. Noe, 15, who lived in a foster home in Colrain, has been charged with unlawful carrying of a firearm, larceny of a firearm, carrying a dangerous weapon on school grounds and accessory before the fact regarding assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing school assembly.

Assistant District Attorney Curtis Frick said Noe is alleged to have stolen the gun from his foster family on May 26 and

brought it to school May 27.

Justin Page, 14, of Ashfield has been charged with disturbing a school assembly, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon and two counts of carrying a firearm without a permit.

As juveniles, Frick said that if the boys are tried in Greenfield Juvenile Court, penalties could include commitment to the Department of Youth Services. Or they could be treated as adults at the judge's discretion. If they were 17 years old, they could receive a jail sentence.

Graves is alleged to have taken a .38-caliber Rossi five-shot revolver to school for several days in May and threatened to use it if the gun were loaded. Ine .32-caliber Deutsch Werke autoloading pistol Noe is alleged to have brought to school is said to have contained six bullets.

The issue came to light with school administrators May 28 when students came forward to speak of seeing one or more weapons and being threatened.

"There were threats made to a female teacher and another student," Frick said. "Two individuals were placed in fear — that's in regard to the assault with the dangerous weapon — and they were students."

Expelled students may appeal continued on page 2

Red Gate Farm works the land, raises kids' consciousness to boot

Our series about West County farms continues with Ben Murray and Red Gate Farm in Buckland.

go to swim this time of year? See story, page 7.

By Max Breiteneicher max@sfindependent.net

BUCKLAND—The air stills this afternoon as a massive, slate-gray storm cloud crests the hills north of Norman Road, darkening the fields of Red Gate Farm. Long, heavy thunder sounds not far off and the sheep look up from their pasture. The chickens cluck about, unimpressed.

Ben Murray stands on the porch of the 100-year-old farmhouse, eyeing the cloud's advance. Murray is the founder and director of Red Gate Farm, which serves as a working farm education center primarily for kids, but also for adults. Red Gate offers programs in which visitors participate in all aspects of farm life — animal husbandry, growing vegetables, seed-saving, pond ecology, composting, timber-frame building, blacksmithing and even chores. Children who attend programs build chicken coops, build pasture gates, collect eggs, weave sheep's wool: do everything, Murray says, except



Ben Murray of Red Gate Farm stands in front of his free-ranging chickens.

printing.'

Murray is energetic, open and obviously happy to be here. He has a spontaneity and freedom in his speech, using words such as "hodge-podgey" and

"fundraising and newsletter- calling small apples "crabbies." After graduating from Yale University with a degree in history and a teaching certificate, Murray worked for an educational farm in Connecticut. continued on page 5

Postal employees protest return of postmaster

SHELBURNE FALLS— "immediate intervention to prevent what could be a vio-Doty to Amherst Democrat Sen. Stanley Rosenberg, with copies to Congressman John Olver as well as U.S. Post Office officials, local officials and law enforcement.

In the letter, workers state Numerous workers at the that they fear for their well Shelburne Falls Post Office being following what they call have sent a letter requesting a "history of violence... well documented by the U.S. Postal Service" regarding Doty. They physically attacked, threatened, harassed, intimidated and spit on U.S. postal employees at the Shelbume Falls Post Office, creating an uncomfortable and hostile environment.

They go on to say that the matter has been brought to the attention of the Springfield office of the U.S. Postal system "again most recently after a physical threat was made to one of our lent act" by Postmaster Erik allege that he has "on occasion current, 61-year-old female employees. The Springfield office responded immediately by placing Mr. Doty on paid administrative leave for approximately 10 weeks."

continued on page 12

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Felonies _____from front page

the principal after due process, within 10 days, but neither has done so

"No district wants something like this to happen, absolutely not," said Mohawk Superintendent Michael Buoniconti. "But it's like any challenging situation and how we deal with it. I like to think this— while not something we want to see occur — it's been an

those decisions, which lie with opportunity for us to improve communications. The phrase 'blessing in disguise' may be appropriate because no one was hurt. At the end of the day, I want every single student to feel safe coming to school so that they can focus on learning.'

Yankee Doodle Days set for July 26–27

open at 9 a.m. at the Charlemont derby. Fairgrounds when the Yankee Doodle Days celebration brings lots to do, including an ox draw at 10 a.m., the 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, Company C, and a Civil War reenactment encampment on the fair grounds. Civil war skirmishes and demonstrations will last throughout the weekend and an offer for a team to step up challenge the 10th to a baseball game set to Civil War rules might be for you. Windows to Our Past exhibits in the Exhibition Hall with dress up period photos will be available, along with bull bingo, the Hula Hoop lady, vendors, crafters, food, music and other entertainment. In the afternoon, children can enjoy potato sack races, games and contests. Later enjoy the classic car exhibit and DJ Bobby C from WHAI radio for music and dancing. At dusk, view fireworks by Skyfire Productions.

On Sunday, gates open at 8 a.m. and the horse pulls start at 10 a.m. At 11 a.m., young equestriennes will show their stuff at the Gymkhana and the skirmishes continue with other

CHARLEMONT-The gates fun at the 1 p.m. demolition

Tickets are \$5/adults, children 5-12/\$3, children younger than 5 enter free. Parking is also free.

Shuffle board

ASHFIELD—Beth Dodge has resigned from the Belding Library board of trustees and Jack Mattis from the Board of Health while Cynthia Cranston and Aaron Clark have left the Agricultural Commission.

Select board members have appointed Johanna Pratt and Betsy Blunt to the Agricultural Commission. Pratt has been serving as an alternate to the Commission.

Belding Memorial Library Trustee Marcine Eisenberg presented Renee Rastorfer as a candidate for Dodge's seat and she has been so appointed.

Alan Surprenant has been appointed to fill one of two associate positions on the Zoning Board of Appeals.



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Mohawk unions reach accord

BUCKLAND—The Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) has reached threeyear agreements with both its teachers and support staff. As a result, the District has entered the new fiscal year — which started July 1 — with both an approved operating budget and stable labor relations for the first time in many years.

The MTRSD's agreement with the Mohawk District Teachers' Association (MDTA) includes cost of living adjustments (COLA) for each year of the contract as follows: 2 percent for 2008-2009, 3 percent for 2009-2010 and 2.5 percent for 2010-2011, totaling

Two local students make Stoneleigh-**Burnham honor roll**

GREENFIELD—Lara Thomas of Conway, class of 2009, has achieved high honors and Dana Larsen of Shelburne, class of 2008, has achieved honors this spring at Stoneleigh-Burnham School

High honors include scores of 3.67+/A- and honors are achieved at 3.33+/B+.

House auction policy needed

ASHFIELD—With 11 properties — some of which have outstanding taxes owing the town dating to 1994 and others to 2005 — recently placed in tax lien, town coffers are guaranteed to get some money toward taxes when the properties are eventually sold.

But select board members have agreed that they need a policy to decide what to do in the situation when such a house is occupied, as is the case in some of the 11 properties here.

By law a home can be taken for failure to pay taxes, which is a situation that the board hopes to avoid. However, if taxpayers know the town will not take their property, they could lose incentive to pay, and it is unfair to the majority of citizens who stay current with their taxes, meeting minutes reflect. The town has been criticized in the auditor's management report for being too lax in taking properties. Further

70 education aid is higher than projected.

The two sides negotiated the agreement using a collaborative model rather than the traditional positional-based model. The collaborative approach involved a much higher degree of communications and proved very successful, says Superintendent Michael Buoniconti of the settlements, which involve 125 teachers and 70 support staff members.

Building upon this success, the agreement includes the establishment of a Joint Labor Management Committee. The purpose of this committee will be to resolve labor-management issues continually rather than

A Look at Lives of Indentured **Children Here**

COLRAIN-The lives of indentured children in 19th century western Massachusetts is the subject of a recently published, award-winning novel, A Difficult Boy, which also deals with anti-Irish sentiment at that time. The author, M.P. Barker of Longmeadow, will discuss these themes and how she researched her first novel at a meeting of the Colrain Historical Society at the G. William Pitt House Thursday, July 10.

In early 19th century New England, farm boys as young as 9 and immigrant children were bound out as indentured servants by parents on subsistence farms who needed their wages and one less mouth to feed. The treatment they endured was sometimes harsh and the experience, at best, was tough.

A former historical interpreter at Old Sturbridge Village and later archivist at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, Baker is the circuit rider for Preservation Massachusetts, a nonprofit historic preservation organization.

The program at 7:30 p.m. will follow a business meeting at 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited

7.5 percent over three years. The intermittently during negotiathird year COLA could increase tions. Mentoring and evaluation to 3 percent if State Chapter are on the short list of issues to be addressed by the group in the coming year.

The District agreement with the newly formed Mohawk **District Education Association** (MDEA), composed of support staff, also includes a three-year term; however, the first year is retroactive to the 2007-2008 school year.

Similar to the agreement with the MDTA, the agreement with the MDEA includes a COLA of 2 percent in the 2008-2009 school year and a 3 percent COLA in the 2009-2010 school year. Additionally, the agreement aligns the support staffers' work year with the teachers' work year, which will result in substantial additional professional development for support staff members, which will, in turn, says Buoniconti, "further improve quality education for the students of the Mohawk District."

12 Franklin County towns pass resolutions rejecting Yankee Vt. lease renewal

COLRAIN-Voters in 12 Franklin County towns, including West County towns of Buckland, Charlemont, Heath, and Shelburne, voted at this year's annual meetings to approve a nonbinding resolution calling to disallow license renewal for Yankee Atomic Electric Company's Vernon, Vermont nuclear plant for an added 20

Also passing the resolution were voters in Gill, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Warwick and Wendell. Bernardston and Leyden voters narrowly defeated the motion.

The town meeting resolutions also called for the decommissioning of Entergy's reactor to be followed by "immediate efforts to decontaminate the reactor site, employing current workers at full pay and utilizing the safest and most effective technologies available... and immediate efforts on the part of individuals, businesses, municipalities and state governments to replace the electricity now provided by the nuclear reactor with a combination of energy conservation and efficiency measures and sustainable sources of power that are safe, renewable, and affordable, and that provide safe jobs at livable wages."

In April, Conway voters passed resolution insisting that the vulnerability to sabotage of the high-level radioactive waste stored in a spent fuel pool outside the containment vessel be considered and addressed "as a necessary condition of finalizing the re-licensing process."

A delegation from the towns that approved these resolutions is planning to meet with Governor Deval Patrick to convey their concerns and urge him to take strong action on their behalf. This delegation will also request a meeting with Vermont's elected officials in Montpelier, the state capital.

The Vermont legislature, which must approve the license extension in order for it to go forward, is expected to vote on the matter in early 2009.

The effort to put these resolutions before Massachusetts' annual town meetings was sponsored by the "Safe & Green" campaign. The purpose of the campaign is to educate and mobilize residents of towns in Vermont, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire who live "in the shadow" of Entergy's Vermont Yankee reactor and are therefore most affected by and most at risk from the operation of the reactor. The resolutions are seen by group representatives as "one way for people living in this 'emergency zone' to voice our concerns and be heard."

Trust money awarded

ASHFIELD—Various trust funds administered by the select board have earned \$6,200 in interest in the past year and members have voted to award \$2,000/ each to the Ashfield Community Preschool, the Youth Commission and the Hilltown Food Pantry. The vote was unanimous. Use of the funds is restricted to helping children and/or the needy.

Power line spraying

COLRAIN—Selectmen have been informed that National Grid will spray along power lines from now until Sept. 30.

POLICE PATROL

Ashfield

6/15 — 6:30 p.m. - Walk-in reported youths distracting drivers aveling on Spruce Corner Road the previous day. Party stated that youths had pointed laser pointers in the eyes of drivers. Report taken.

6/21 — 11:15 a.m. - Report of vehicle off roadway on Barnes Road. Owner contacted and said vehicle had been stolen. Under investigation.

11:25 a.m. - Report of property stolen from Edge Hill Golf course. Under investigation.

2:15 p.m. - Report of bullet holes on side of Steady Lane Road residence. Under investigation.

6/22 — 8 p.m. - Goshen PD equested assistance searching for missing female.

6/23 — 1:30 p.m. - Report of washout on Williamsburg Road. Various departments notified.

2:30 p.m. - Weather-related 911 misdial from Williamsburg Road. 6/24 — 2:10 a.m. - Vehicular

accident on Suburban Drive with personal injury. Patient transported to medical facility. Vehicle towed. 2:20 a.m. - Second vehicular

accident on Suburban Drive. Emergency personnel already on scene. Patient transported and vehicle towed. 4 a.m. - Tree blocking north-

bound travel lane on Conway Rd. MassHighway requested, arrived, removed tree. 8 a.m. - West Rd. reported par-

tially washed out. Appropriate departments notified. 10 a.m. - Hill Rd. reported par-

tially washed out. Appropriate departments notified 2 p.m. - Domestic disturbance on Suburban Drive. Matter de-

termined to have been verbal

altercation. Report taken. 6/25 — 10 a.m. - Vandalism to vehicle on Norton Hill Road reported. Under investigation.

Noon - Welfare check North

Warger Rd. No emergency. 5 p.m. - Landlord/tenant dispute on Hawley Rd. Found to be

6:15 p.m. - Destroyed picnic able near Ashfield Beach.

6/27 — 1:15 p.m. - Audible alarm sounded on Main Street. All secure.

4:10 p.m. - 911 hang-up. No mergency.

4:20 p.m. - Report of two jurenile runaways; all county police notified. Subsequently, Saturday morning, Greenfield PD located and took custody of one runaway.

6:05 p.m. - Burglar alarm activated at Norton Hill Rd. residence. Family member on scene and determined to be authorized

10:30 p.m. - Burglar alarm activated at Main St. business. All secure. 6/28 — 1 p.m. - Report of

vehicle alarm sounding at Hill Road residence. Homeowner/ vehicle owner was currently in New York; telephone numbers obtained and contact made. Officer gained access to residence, retrieved alarm key and deactivated it.

6:05 p.m. - Medical emergency at Ashfield Lake House. Patient transported to medical facility without incident.

Correction

Due to an production error in the June 18 issue, a photo of the work of Gloria Pacosa and Jackie Boudreau Kinsey was attributed to the wrong shutterbug. That photo was taken by Catherine

Clarification

In a story June 18 about the Mohawk Trail Regional School, due to an editorial decision, language may have been unclear about the study of the wetland area around the former central office building by students. That area, as are other areas

on schoolgrounds, is a cool place for science classes to study.

Fixed fuel bids accepted

ASHFIELD—At their June 16 meeting, select board members ultimately agreed unanimously to accept a fixed-price bid for gasoline at \$3.999/gallon and for diesel at \$4.8050/gallon after weighing the options of a firmprice option versus rising fuel

The panel also accepted a fixed-price bid of \$4.587/gallon for #2 fuel oil.



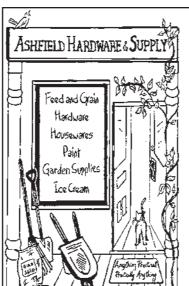
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MMAC regroups for upcoming year

By Don Stewart

BUCKLAND—With just nine of 18 members present, the Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee (MMAC) didn't constitute a quorum during a June 26 meeting at the high school. Unable to undertake a valid vote, committee members nevertheless discussed issues for 40 minutes before adjournment.

New to the board are Hawley Selectman Darwin Clark and Ashfield Finance Committee member Ted Murray. Murray replaces Phil Pless, who recently resigned. Murray agreed to join Charlemont Selectman Win Healy in studying the complexities of the school assessment formula to see if revisions are necessary.

An ongoing concern of the group, as well as of other District town officials, has been the wide financial swing in annual assessments among member towns, often making planning and passing municipal budgets difficult.

'We'll look at whether it's possible to be smoothing [the assessments] or whether it's best to keep things as they are," Healy

Part of the work will involve comparing assessment formulas with the Gateway and Central Berkshire school systems.

MMAC is primarily composed of town officials from District member towns and Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) Committee representatives. As MMAC Vice Chairman Tom Lively, also a Heath selectman, told Murray, the purpose

38th annual **Plainfield Firefighters** Barbecue Aug. 31

PLAINFIELD—One of the town's longest running annual events, the Annual Firefighters' Barbecue, will take place again this summer Sunday, Aug. 31.

Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from any Plainfield volunteer firefighter or emergency medical technician (EMT). The barbecue has become Plainfield largest annual event, involving not only the chicken barbecue, but also many other town groups and committee who join in the day's many other events. The barbecue will take place behind the Shaw Memorial Library under the Alden pavilion center of town.

In addition to the 32nd Annual Plainfield Road Race will take place, the Shaw Memorial Library will hold it's annual book sale, the Plainfield Arts Feast will present local crafts people and artists, the annual firefighters' raffle and auction will take place and the LBS will hold it's annual tag sale at the Shaw-Hudson House. New this year will be Plainfield's 1st Annual Tomato Contest hosted by the Plainfield Agricultural Commission. The Sanderson Academy PTO will hold it's annual bake sale, too.

This year's chicken barbecue will feature the cooking of 600 ½ chickens, baked potatoes and corn on the cob on the giant, open barbecue pit. In addition, homemade coleslaw, sliced watermelon, dinner rolls from Hebert's Bakery of Ashfield and a cold beverage are all part of the annual meal prepared by volunteer firefighters and EMTs. With the continued climb in food costs, this year's tickets are \$10/adult and \$5/child (12 and under). As the number of dinners available is limited, pre-purchasing is highly recommended.

Most of Plainfield's fire and emergency medical equipment will be on display during the event, including the town's newest addition, the 2008 fire department ambulance.

of the committee is to discuss "school financing and [to have] a chance to weigh in on financial matters with the schools."

Healy informed Murray that meeting with the MTRSD School Committee's Budget Subcommittee would be important.

"It's at the Budget Committee where you can really be heard," he said. "It's too late to do anything about it by the time it gets to this committee.'

Pending a vote, Lively was nominated to serve as chairman to replace Colrain Finance Committee Chairman Bob Rottenberg, who is leaving the

MTRSD Superintendent Michael Buoniconti tentatively agreed to an MMAC calendar wherein meetings would be held three times annually, in October, January and April.

The next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 23 at 6:30 p.m. in the high school.

Plainfield FD receives grant

PLAINFIELD—The Plainfield Fire Department has been awarded a \$56,000 grant from the Dextra Baldwin McGonagle Foundation to buy and install an air filtration system for the new Plainfield Public Safety

The grant was obtained through the efforts of Bob and Mary Corash, working with the Plainfield Volunteer Firefighters' Association (PVFA) and Fire Chief Dennis Thatcher.

Bob, a recently retired 30-year fire officer in the department, continues to work with the PVFA to help raise funds for the volunteer fire department.

Installation of an air filtration system is critical for firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMTs) who respond from the public safety complex in both gas- and diesel-powered vehicles and for training at the facility.

Clearing unhealthy air from the safety complex after vehicle engines and training equipment have been started is important to the long-term health of volunteers. Due to the initial cost to build the safety complex, an air filtration was not affordable. This grant allows the fire department to include this highly needed system to the complex at no cost to the town. Any costs above the grant award for this system will on Main Street (Rte. 116) in the be funded by the PVFA through its own fundraising.

Volunteers needed to play with homeless children

GREENFIELD-Horizons for Homeless Children is immediately seeking 60 volunteers to interact and play with children living in 17 family, teen parent and domestic violence shelters in western Massachusetts

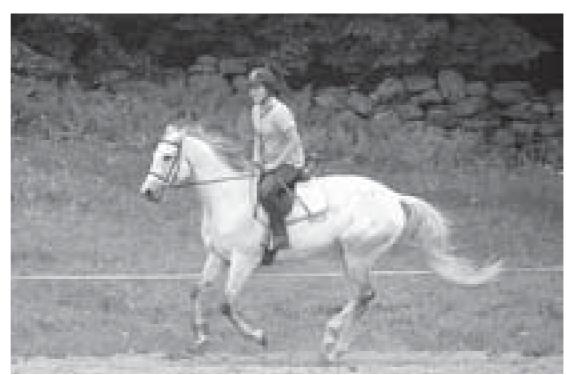
A commitment of two hours a week for six months is required. Day and evening shifts are offered. The next trainings sessions will be in August in Holyoke for Playspaces and shelters in Springfield, Holyoke, Adams, Northampton, Orange/Athol, Greenfield and Pittsfield.

Call (413) 532-0526 to register or for training, or write bwilliams@horizonsforhomelesschildren.

Fuel bids accepted

COLRAIN—Selectmen have accepted fixed bids for #2 heating oil of \$4.677 per gallon, diesel fuel for \$4.805 for regular and \$4.885 for winter blend from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.





Putting the horses through their paces on a recent Sunday afternoon at Biscuit Hill Farm in Shelburne: above, **Emily Hertz rides** Piper, and below, Eliza Manning rides Emma.

Shelter seeks cause of cat respiratory outbreak

By Catherine Fahy

As of Thursday, June 26, cat adoptions have been suspended and visitors are not being allowed into the adoption center at the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society due to an outbreak of feline respiratory disease.

According to the humane society's Executive Director Leslie Harris, one kitten died others showing symptoms of the disease have been responding

well to antibiotic treatment. "It's actually not really a big deal; upper respiratory infections are common," Harris said Monday from her Leverett office. We treat these kinds of things all the time."

According to state Department of Food and Agriculture Bureau of Animal Health guidelines, however, the facility is required to report the outbreak on its Web site and suspend adoptions, Harris said.

What is unusual about this particular outbreak are its symptoms, which include mainly coughing, Harris said. The kitten who died developed a cough and was diagnosed with pneumonia, but Harris said she was unhealthy to begin with.

"She and the other members of her litter had had other health problems," she said.

What's promising is that the cats have been responding well to treatment. For now, though, as new cases arise, affected cats at the Center are being moved to the Rescue and Rehabilitation Center in Greenfield.

"That way they're isolated from the rest of the adoptable population," Harris said.

Additionally, until the disease

is isolated, no dogs will be released into new homes, though applications for adoption are still being accepted, according to the Web site.

On Monday, a veterinarian as examining the sick cats. Results of lab tests to identify the disease were expected within a day or two.

"We just need to keep monitoring everybody. Usually these things have a cycle, Harris said. last week. Since then, however, estimating that the humane's society's two facilities currently house up to 70 cats.

For information and updates, visit www.dakinshelter.org or call (413) 548-9898.



Relay For Life raises \$275,000 to fight cancer

GREENFIELD—The 13th annual American Cancer Society Relay For Life of Franklin County raised \$275,000 for cancer research and Franklin County patient services after nearly 1,200 volunteers on 90 teams walked for 21hours through the night at the Franklin County Fairgrounds in Greenfield.

"Franklin County residents really showed their spirit during this relay," said Michael Nelson, volunteer chairman of the 2008 Relay. "Many cancer survivors showed up to participate as well. It was very touching and emotional for all of us.'

Top fundraisers were the Hallmark Hipsters and Parrotheads for a Cure teams. These two teams each reached the Platinum level in fundraising, raising more than \$15,000 each. They were the first-ever Platinum fundraisers for the Franklin County

Money raised will be used to speed the search for new weapons to fight cancer.

"Cancer will soon become the number-one killer in America as baby boomers grow older," Nelson said. "In order to expand our patient services in Franklin County and research new ways to treat patients, we've got to channel more public attention and money into this problem."







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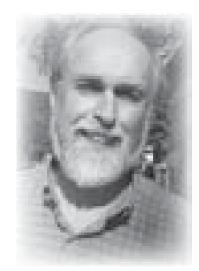
INDEPENDENT THINKING

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The Independent is committed to free exchange of ideas from the community. No matter what your politics, we welcome thoughtful contributions, and we encourage further discussion on anything you read on these pages.

VOICES FROM THE STREET

How has the rising price of gasoline and oil affected you?



e burn cordwood, and the price of wood is going up along with everything else. We don't make as many trips to town, and we try to plan ahead [for errands]. Bruce Kaeppel, Leyden



ow has it not affected us? We feel it in the price of food, in heating... My town is putting together a committee to try to reach out to the elderly to make sure they don't go without fuel this winter. And it's getting harder to buy things that I might have bought only last year.

Nina Martin-Anzuoni, Colrain, public health emergency planner, with son Nikola



ell, it's going to be tough in the winter, I can tell you that. I'm more worried about heating my home rather than [affording gas for] driving. And we can always get a Moped if it comes to that. I am considering it. But I still travel. I'm old and retired, and I've got a little money. We drove out here today to see the Bridge of Flowers.

Peter Rex, W. Hartford, retiree

100 issues and four years counting!

his week marks the 100th issue of the Shelburne Falls Independent — a milestone of sorts. For all of us here, working on this paper has been a labor of love, a privilege, and a job that's deeply meaningful.

We appreciate the help, support, suggestions, counsel, patience, cooperation and enthusiasm of this community. In four years, our small staff has written and edited about three million words. We've published about 1,350 pages, distributed about 110,000 newspapers, shot more than

We have a lot to show for our efforts, and we're even more excited about our future and the possibilities that will arise for independent journalism to help us continue to make sense of our area and its place in the world. We'll hope you'll join us for that journey.



The Bridge of Flowers at 75

ankee Doodle Days slated



've always been tight with money. I rent from my grandma, we walk everywhere, and I only drive to and from work. But I'm feeling [the rise in fuel prices] because my tips are down. People are finding it harder to afford to go out to eat, and when they do, they tip less.

Jamie Jefferson, Buckland, waitress, with son Aiden



y partner and I are rethinking everything we do. It's definitely cut down on our traveling. We live in town, but would rather live out in the country. We've practically stopped driving, and have talked about selling our cars and getting a hybrid. So now we do everything as locally as possible. We're so used to feeling independent, that we can go anywhere we want. The long-term outcome of living locally is actually positive, but the transition is challenging.

Cynthia Miller, Shelburne Falls,



't's made things difficult. I don't commute as much as I used to, and I don't go Sunday driving. For groceries I go to Big Y for the big things, and Keystone for the rest. I try to do most of my business here in town. And I sold my car and got something more fuel efficient. I'm not looking forward to winter; nobody is. Steve Whittaker, Shelburne Falls,



ike everybody else, my gasoline costs are up, home heating bills... What are you going to do? You just pay, and it leaves you less for your family. We're being squeezed. As soon as we can, we're getting rid of the minivan for something fuel efficient. And in the winter we'll set the thermostat two degrees cooler. I just hope the winter isn't too

Mike Eller, Buckland, merchant



just really noticed it last week. The price of food and fuel is way up, and the money doesn't go as far anymore. We've all been spoiled to some degree, so maybe this increase represents the true cost of things. I've been trying to adapt by combining trips, consolidating errands, thinking about relocating closer to town. And business is down, for a variety of reasons. There are lots of little jobs, no big jobs. Hunter Toran, Colrain, landscape designer and installer

Life delights in 'gift of broken mowing machine'

r is curious the guises gifts arrive in. Last year I would have told you that it was a catastrophe that my rotary mower was damaged beyond repair. Last year I still believed that being in control

was even possible. The gift of the broken mowing machine is that I have, for the time being, abandoned any effort to keep up with the mowing that has been, in the past, the minimum tithe paid to the goddess of good farming. Annual mowing discourages the broadleaf weeds, burdock, thistle, that damned fern-like plant with a flower like Queen Anne's Lace whose name I don't know, as well as, all those other plants that out compete the beneficial grasses which feed the horses.

Mowing is just good pasture management and common sense, and as far as that reality can take you, it's true.

What is also true, and somewhat astounding, is how I am noticing the enormous number of plants and animals that benefit from the lack of mowing. I seem to be seeing the world around me differently: the same plants and animals have always been here, but I wasn't paying attention.

ESSAY

By Ceacy Henderson

In fact, I realize that there are hundreds of species of grasses, herbaceous plants. insects, birds, and mammals whose names I don't know, not to mention anything else about their lives, despite the fact that I live beside them every single day. In my myopic determination to maximize the 'productivity" of my pastures, I wore blinders that obscured my ability to appreciate the truly remarkable panoply that defines the open meadows that quickly overtake the less competitive pasture grasses.

In the case of "my" fields, they were hayfields, or they were pastures, there was grass and there were weeds. I once believed that was all I had time to know. All weeds were the enemy, especially plants such as milkweed and buttercup, both toxic to horses. The "invaders" such as burdock, thistle, and perennial morning glory are truly the most enduring of species.

Despite my various campaigns to eradicate them from

my farm, even when resorting to both mechanical and chemical weaponry to try to gain the upper hand, it has been to no avail. The weeds on my farm had been kept marginally at bay only because of repeated mowing and without the mower; I projected nothing less than a jungle.

But I was mistaken. It's not that the milkweed, thistle and burdock aren't flourishing, nor that the morning glory has completely enveloped an entire embankment, and the buttercup infiltrated yet another field, it's just that they no longer feel like the enemy. A meadow is not a jungle, it is a marvel to say the least. Somewhere along the way I became the one being transformed by these plants.

IT WAS ANOTHER WEED, however, that sparked the epiphany. When I learned that the toxinladen leaves of the common milkweed are the primary food source for the caterpillar that will eventually morph into that

magnificent marvel of migration the Monarch butterfly, I started to question my relationship with weeds. Milkweed is such a common plant around here and because I knew that it was considered toxic to herbivores, I had always been on a mission to eradicate it.

However, I've noticed over the many years that I have been raising livestock that none of them ever ate the milkweed, which is true of most, but not all toxic plants. To avoid being eaten, of course, is the whole point of being toxic in the first place. What is true for the milkweed is true for the

Monarch. I had never stopped to consider that this plant might play an important role in the life cycle of another species. That realization was the beginning of my awakening to the idea that all the plants and insects on my farm were part of a greater picture and I had been too self-absorbed to realize it.

This summer, without the massive tool of destruction, that six-foot in diameter wielder of huge metal blades, I feared that the farm would succumb to the invaders. I was torn between their beauty and feeling besieged by them, as they are the vanguard of a

succession of plants that will eventually reclaim open land, returning it within decades back to forest. It is backbreaking work to keep land open and the generations of farmers before me who created this open land did so without the benefit of bulldozers, chainsaws, excavators or motorized mowers. It took incredible perseverance and a conviction on their part for these fields to yield crops, provide a livelihood, and feed people.

I didn't want to think about all that labor wasted; I know how hard it is to clear land and then keep it open and fertile. With agribusiness and the globalization of food production and distribution, farms like mine have become obsolete. Keeping land open, these lovely views and vistas we all gasp over, has become a labor of love and a dedication to preserving something that was so hard-won to begin with.

Yet, this year, without my mower, I have been given such an unexpected insight. I stopped all the fuming and forecasting of apocalypse by plants and truly began to notice the various stages of emergence, growth, blooming, and seed production. I observed the synergistic life cycles around

which plants and their pollinators have synchronized; the birds that arrive in time to capitalize on the insects, that emerge in time to capitalize on the plants, and so it goes. I saw the way populations of plants and insects and birds all swell simultaneously so that each will be assured of the necessary elements to reproduce.

In one sense, it would be shameful to allow all these fields to be abandoned as productive agricultural open space, there is still enough of the farmer in me to try to prevent that from happening.

However, for the first time, I think that I can see beyond that paradigm. If I cease to be able to keep this farm operating as it has, for the myriad of reasons that farms fail, I can at least look forward to watching one of nature's most miraculous qualities, the ability to reclaim and renew itself. I can't help but be excited to think of what will happen next and what new neighbors I might now be open-minded enough to welcome home.

Ceacy Henderson writes and farms in Colrain.

Red Gate Farm

ing coalesced in this setting. He eventually formed a nonprofit group that bought Red Gate Farm in 2001 and he has been gradually developing the land, buildings and programs since.

The farm now includes a large garden, sheep and chicken flocks, two giant oxen, many acres of pasture, a pond and plenty of woods. There's a program center housed in a renovated chicken barn and a towering three-story dairy barn, the hay floor of which has been converted into an activity space that is beautiful in its simplicity.

"Our mission is to really put a farm back into the community that's accessible to the community," Murray says. "That's unusual, because most farmers aren't looking to do a show-and-tell for other people; they're trying to grow crops and make money and succeed from year to year. We have the advantage that we don't have any production quotas. If our garden doesn't produce as many tomatoes as we thought it would, we'll do a program on why our tomatoes weren't good. Really what we want to do is provide a farm experience for people and in many ways it goes beyond training people to be farmers. That's part of it, but there's another part of it that's distinctly beyond farming, which is giving people self-esteem, self-confidence and the ability to really try things that they've never tried before.

In touch with what's important

The land here was last farmed by Francis Williams in the 1960s. His family developed the land and built all the buildings over a few generations. Red Gate chose this land in part because of the variety of landscapes it offers fields, hills, woods, wetlands. This reflects what seems to be the farm's educational mindset; that greater opportunity for experience offers more chances to learn and grow.

Murray says that it struck him early on that almost everyone in his parents' generation has a memorable farm experience from their childhood, but the opposite is true of his generation, and especially of those younger

"One of the things that I've come to really learn is that when you hear people of that older generation talk about what they learned on the farm, when you really listen to those stories, almost everyone comes out with almost a tale of morality, or a parable, or something that's somewhat profound," he says. "It can be the most innocent story. Francis Williams told the story of racing around the barn up there, being chased by a bull. He went around and around and around, and he finally grabbed a big pipe off the ground and thwacked the bull on the head and stopped it. When you listen to that, it's a story about power, and fear and how he was a young kid at the time, and how he survived that on his own, and kind of found

"What's neat to me about the farm is that it contains all these different elements. It has man-made landscapes, but most farms have these wild areas, too, whether it be an expansive forest, or even a small forest and a stream. When you listen to people talk about their experiences on farms, they've been taking care of cows, caring for animals, being part of that man-made experience, but then they're also going out and running around the forest, or fishing in the stream, hunting in the woods, or taking walks and you start to hear stories of kids that were eight and nine, and they were all the way up in the back woods when they saw a bear. You compare that to the suburb experience, the idea of two kids going off at age eight and nine into the town forest by themselves is ludicrous. Parents would be like, 'No way would I let my kids do that."

These are intriguing ends that Red Gate Farm is trying to tie together. When children are given little freedom to do things on their own, it's difficult to learn personal responsibility and responsibility toward the welfare of others. Yet parents, most days at least, don't want to send their kids off into the forest together. Red Gate Farm is a sort of a happy medium supervised self-reliance within a community.

"Responsibility, I think, is imparted especially through things like chores or animal care, things that on a farm everybody had to do whether you were five years old or 80 years old and they all had consequences, which I think is something else which is constantly being taken out of kids' lives," Murray says. "You do all these things that don't really have consequences; you do this

teaching and experiential learn- in the end, whether it happens we've had groups of parents or doesn't happen at the end of the day, nothing really changes. on the building and really help What we do with kids here, like with our building projects, we do things that really are important to us. We don't have kids build sculptures that they can just take home. We have them build a gate

> when they come back to visit." these learning experiences, rich with teachable moments.

"With the younger kids, we do egg collecting and sometimes they'll be holding a basketful of eggs and one of the kids will decide he's going to go run and had their first daughter. Added see his friends, and he'll fall, and the whole egg basket goes splatter and they all kind of look at it," Murray says. "The teachers make a wonderful teaching moment of this, saying, 'What just happened? We weren't taking care of the eggs.' The kids are already sad that all the eggs they collected are gone and there are so many other parts that come into it, like one kid maybe getting really angry at the kid that fell, and that's a community issue that we talk about. There's just so many little sparks that come off of that one moment."

This great potentiality within a single event seems to be what makes this kind of experiential learning so powerful, and memorable. This perhaps accounts for the fact that kids come back year after year and their parents are dedicated to keeping the farm not just in business, but

expanding. "We've never had a lot of money; we don't have any special out there who's been funneling huge amounts of cash our way, so everything we do is kind of bootsays Murray. "We've had great support from volunteers and even those people who are pay-

He found that his passions for problem or do this game but, really supportive. Beyond that come here and do paint jobs get their kids here for different programs. A lot of people have sort of stuck with us and that has allowed us to keep going, because every year that we're here we get more resources and that's going to be here in 10 years it allows us to keep growing."

Murray has also had a lot of The farm is fertile ground for support from his parents, who moved to the neighborhood when they retired and are perennial volunteers at the farm. Murray's wife's parents also recently moved to the area from California. The Murrays also just to all this help and activity the farm employs about six people as management, staff members and teachers. They run three monthly, once-a-week programs for different age groups, from 4-15 years old, every fall, winter and spring. During the summer they have a series of week-long day camps. They'd also like to host more field trips for schools, and whatever else they can come has room to grow.

Life lessons

This year, Red Gate's keeping

With two hives, Murray's dad is learning how to tend them from an accomplished beekeeper. The bees will eventually become part the farm's programs.

"That's really the goal of everything we do here, to involve kids in all aspects of it," Murray says, "and also our goal is to keep broadening and broadening our programs in a way that doesn't compromise what we do."

The seemingly inexorable loss of small, community-based farms in the United States is a big issue for us because of the agricultural and environmental implications,

"I really do believe that we're them down the road, telling losing character-building areas

Home-schoolers, day campers and field-trippers have all made their way to Red Gate Farm, which he says. "There's life lessons, learning about the life cycles That kid will probably not beof animals, where your food comes from, all these different things — and when you put them all together, it's quite a huge package. When you look at the

programs, or our summer campers, or even the kids that come

for field trips, it's really neat

to see that. Not only are they

trying new things but you see

them doing things like working

with our oxen. Each of the oxen

weighs about 2,000 pounds and

suddenly you'll have a seven-

year-old kid, who was afraid even

to go near them, learning how

to brush them and then taking

a little goad stick and leading

them which way to go. That sort

come a farmer when he grows up, but the sort of thing I have this, too." in my head is that if they're in gives them a really big project, home-schoolers who come to our or some adversity hits them,

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what we're trying to do here. they'll be able to think back and think, 'Well, I could handle 4,000 pounds of oxen; I bet I could do

corporate-land and someone Red Gate Farm's summer camp has a few spots open this year. For more information, visit www. redgatefarm.org.



SFI photo/Max Breiteneicher

endowment or magical donor strapped, but it's really worked,"

Murray says, but there's more. ing tuition to be here, they're and opportunities to learn,"



The garden at Red Gate Farm. For Ben Murray, the Farm is about building confidence and self-esteem. "If our garden doesn't produce as many tomatoes as we thought it would, we'll do a program on why our tomatoes weren't good," he says.

Savitri graduates **Stillpoint**

SHELBURNE FALLS—Kelly Savitri of Shelburne Falls has been graduated from the Greenfield Community College Stillpoint Massage Therapy Program.

The program provides curriculum designed for career success through training in classical Swedish massage and specific techniques for soft tissue dysfunction; clinical experience; science courses in anatomy, physiology, and pathology; and specialized study of musculoskeletal anatomy and movement principles.

Students are professionally trained as practitioners grounded in technique and theory with a holistic approach to healing and well-being. Professional development courses to start a business and understand legal and ethical parameters of practice are also covered.

Rodley a triple threat

BUCKLAND—Emilene Summer Claire Rodley, daughter of James and Laura Rodley, of Buckland, has been graduated magna cum laude from the University of Massachusetts and Commonwealth College and been recognized with departmental honors.

A triple major, she obtained a dual honors degree in social thought and political economy and journalism, with a double major in French and Francophone studies. Her thesis was titled "Retributive and cation of gender within the postindustrial prison complex.'

Rodley is teaching in Korea for the next few years and then plans to do her master's work at the University of Connecticut in restorative justice and prisoner reinvestment.

repressive justice and the reifi- House Recognition Luncheon held in the Hall of Flags as members of "Team Massachusetts," the 100 gold-medal winners from Massachusetts' vocational schools who will compete nationally.

Students Honored at State House

TURNERS FALLS—Patrick Hanas of Conway was one of two Franklin County Technical School students honored recently at the Massachusetts State House for qualifying to compete in the upcoming national Skills USA competition in Kansas City.

Hanas, a senior in the school's culinary arts program, won the gold in "action skills."

He was honored at the State

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ARTS

Art photographs capture beauty of Italy, France

Work chronicles treasured but threatened way of life

By Catherine Fahy

SHELBURNE FALLS—A broad sweep of wispy cirrus clouds lends a small stone chapel the majesty of a great cathedral, two pears lean romantically against each other on a crisp white cloth and the riotous color of vegetables in a market stall speaks to the agricultural abundance of northern Italy and the French Alps.

The images, full of light and atmosphere, are part of a new collection of fine art photographs by Jim Wallace and Robin Logan. "Italy and France: The Agrarian Landscape," opened June 20 and remains on display through September 30 at Logan and Wallace Gallery on Bridge Street. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday-Monday.

As much as it captures the breathtaking beauty and romance of the mountainous landscape and picturesque villages of northern France and Italy, the show offers commentary on a treasured but threatened way

Logan and Wallace, who are married, have more than an aesthetic interest in visiting these places. As a traditional cheese-maker, Wallace's goal is to learn the original recipes and technology, as he puts it, "from the folks in the mountains," many of whom still live simply, in rhythm with the seasons and

The photos in the current show are the product of a three-week cheese tour the couple took in the spring. Wallace returned to northern France and Italy alone

"The travels and visits in this area are all about the people, what they do and where they live," Wallace says in the gallery, its back door open to the sound of the Salmon Falls. "I guess what I'm looking for is the sensibility. The photograph is the vehicle to basically show

There's no doubt, he said, that cheese-making traditions are better preserved in Europe than in the United States, where in Wisconsin, he says, there are "some remnants" of the ancestors who emigrated there as cheese-makers, but most people have adopted modern industrial

means of production. "All of it is about history. It's pretty intense," he says of the European ways, not to mention humbling, such as his meeting with Renzo Losi, who handcrafted his own beer in a facility near Parma (Wallace also makes his own beer) and who has a doctorate in microbiology.

what kind of background they have," Wallace says.

Unlike most Americans —at least proponents of industrial agriculture — Wallace says Europeans recognize that preservation of land is tied to small farmers.

Yet, he says, small farmers are now facing new European Union regulations that give more money to industrial cheese makers and other industrial farmers.

"It's going to be an uphill battle," says Wallace, who with Logan reveres local agriculture and for five months a year gets produce from Natural Roots, a community-supported farm in Conway. "The money in Europe has looked long and hard at the American model and it's not such a good thing. Look at what's happening in this country, we're basically poisoning ourselves. We have to get back to the regional aspect of things.

Despite their fascination with and admiration for the people of France and Italy and the many friends they've made on their travels, Logan and Wallace rarely photograph people, preferring instead to capture day-to-day life through the objects, landscapes and buildings that surround

This time, though, one of back into the Renaissance," she

my feelings for the landscape." Wallace's photos does include two weathered-looking men in plaid shirts, talking at a horse fair with the glossy rumps of sturdy workhorses lined up be-

> Wallace likes to use a long exposure lens to capture light that's barely perceptible to the naked eye, like the violet glow of the San Gimianano Plaza in Tuscany at 4 a.m. Or the greenish-yellow glow from a combination of incandescent, mercury vapor and sodium vapor streetlights in Cinque Terre, Italy, a small seaside area of northern Italy known for its charming beauty and culinary treasures.

That photo shows small row-"They never tell you about boats and sloops stacked end to end along the sides of the narrow streets at night because there is no room to tie them up in the canals or on the steep, rocky shore. Wallace said the "parking spots" are handed down from generation to generation.

"There's a story behind each piece," he says. "An image like this might have two or three exposures to get the range of light I see. It has a very ethereal quality to it."

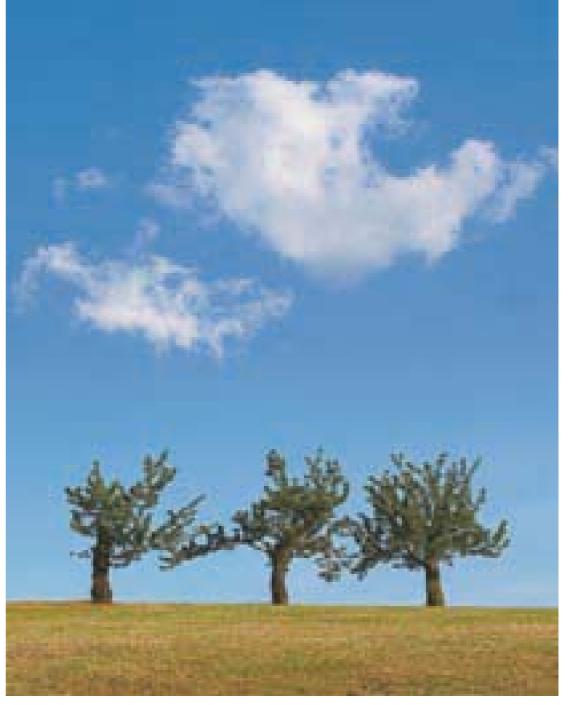
He is also fascinated with landscapes viewed through arches, which comes from his enjoyment of old paintings of the Madonna and child.

Logan, on the other hand, prefers still life photos, like her 'romantic pears." She says she's never seen such big, gorgeous pears when she bought them at the famous "mercato" (farmers' market) in Florence and brought them back to her hotel to shoot with various backgrounds. She also enjoys shooting the markets themselves.

"The arrangements, everything is so beautiful," she says. "They're like still lifes themselves.

She was also impressed by an old bike in front of a jumble of Roman sculptures at a gallery.

"It was sort of like we'd stepped



'This show is about the lands we travel now...'

Logan and Wallace have been taking pictures for 30 years, or what seems like a lifetime, Logan saya. For more than 25 years, before opening their Shelburne Falls gallery in 2005, they traveled North America from coast to coast selling their work at art fairs.

Since their first tour of French cheese-makers in 2000 with 12 students, the couple's photography has focused on Europe.

"This show is about the lands in which we travel now," says Wallace.

They try to do a couple of shows a year, and also show paintings, photographs and ceramics by other artists, including realist egg tempera paintings by Frederick Burrington of Heath, wheel-thrown porcelain raku ceramic pots by Scott Tubby of Kennebunk, Maine, color portrait photography by Emerson Matabele of California and new to the gallery — the work of another Californian, Rick Preston, who shoots classic black and white landscape photography, as well as color still life photography.

(413) 625-0040.

landscapes viewed through arches, evoking old

"Italy and France: The Agrarian Landscape," visit www.loganand-

For more information about Jim Wallace is drawn to photographing wallace.com or call the gallery at paintings of the Madonna and child.

Author looks at small-town Jewish life through the eyes of 60 New Englanders

By Jeff Potter

BUCKLAND—Michael Hoberman straddles two

"I've lived in western Massachusetts longer than I've lived anywhere else in my life," he says.

Yet Hoberman, an associate professor of English at Fitchburg State College, grew up in New York in a Jewish culture — a life experience that moves with him wherever he puts down his

In How Strange It Seems: The Cultural Life of Jews in Small-Town New England, a 288-page book just released by the University of Massachusetts Press, Hoberman has created what he describes as, "an ethnography of Jewish cultural life in small-town New England."

The publisher's marketing materials describe the resulting

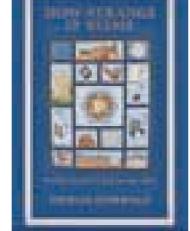
book as "equal parts Jewish and

Hoberman interviewed 60 Jewish people selected from towns with populations of 15,000 or fewer, and has let them "tell the story of the last 100 years" in all aspects of cultural life — from economics to civic involvement to religious observance.

Hoberman's wife, Janice Sorensen, photographed his interview subjects and a number of her images, which Hoberman describes as "beautiful," also appear in the book.

Several area residents are represented in the book, including David Arfa, Joe Kurland, Beth Weissman, Bob Rottenberg and Phyllis Nahman.

"It's a cross between folklore by theme, "I used their words and oral history," Hoberman and experiences to flesh them says. "If you want to tell the story of a group like this, there are no primary sources except firsthand experiences."



out," Hoberman explains.

Running the gamut

In researching the book, In separate chapters organized Hoberman started in 2003 and traveled thousands of miles through New England from West County to the northernmost edge of Maine to interview his sources in their homes.

These were people who run the gamut — in age, how long they've been in their town, whether they were the third or fourth generation living there or whether they were recent

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transplants," Hoberman says. 'They're from all walks of life, from educators to rabbis to farmers."

Despite his scholarship and the fact that the book is published by an academic press, Hoberman thinks the book has a good chance of appealing to a more general audience.

"I hope I've made it accessible and interesting," he says.

Hoberman says that as he absorbed the experience of other Jewish people's lives in small towns, he found it "a little surprising the degree to which people had been able to retain their distinct cultural tradition in the context of a rural region that's a predominantly Christian and 'Anglo' area."

Thanks to funding from for the Humanities and the R.I. in 1852.

Massachusetts Historical Society, Hoberman is on a year leave from his teaching duties to research his next book, which will explore the relationships in the Colonial era between Jews and

Preserving traditions

Despite lower birth rates and interfaith marriage that have contributed to a decline in the Jewish population, Hoberman found that "somehow to balance the complete immersion in small-town life," the people he interviewed have preserved their culture, many through generations.

This came as a direct contradiction to the conclusions that poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow drew when he visited the National Endowment a Jewish cemetery in Newport,

The poem — the first line of which provides the title for Hoberman's book - serves as an admiring ode to the memory of the Jewish people from the first wave of immigrants to the new

Longfellow "is musing about how exotic" the Jewish experience was there and concludes that "what once has been shall be no more."

"He was wrong about that," Hoberman says.

Michael Hoberman will sign copies of How Strange It Seems Sunday, July 13 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Boswell's Books, 10 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls. A larger event and reading will take place at the National Yiddish Book Center in Amherst this fall.



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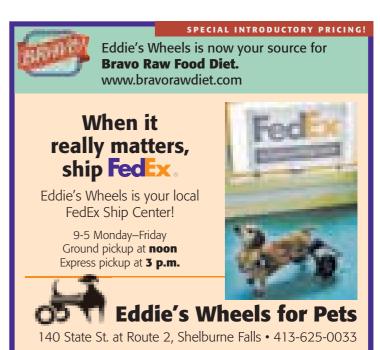


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Family-friendly watering spots a sure way to beat heat

For many, summer officially begins with the first swim, whether it's at a sandy beach beside a quiet lake, a cold, rushing river or a glittering turquoise pool. In and around Shelburne Falls, you can find all three at little or no cost, whether you're looking for a quick dip to cool off, a day-long recreational outing or family activities.

DAR State Forest, Route 112, Goshen

Far from a locals-only spot, the lake at the DAR State Forest fills up with people from all over western Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New York on hot summer days. But lucky for everyone, there's plenty of room, no to mention amenities, at this picturesque little lake with a big, sandy beach and a roped-off swimming

Located on Route 112 just over the Ashfield border in Goshen, the lake is actually two bodies of water, Upper and Lower Highland lakes. A piney, fern-lined drive opens to the guard house, where \$5 per vehicle gives visitors access to the lifeguard beach (by July 4th), picnic tables and grills, bathrooms and changing areas, plus 15 miles of mixed-use trails, including one to the Goshen fire tower, which offers spectacular views of the Connecticut River Valley and five states.

The park is open from sunrise to sunset. Park Supervisor Bob Kabat and employee Maggie Brown say that frequent visitors can take advantage of the \$35 season pass, which is good at state parks throughout Massachusetts.

In addition to swimming, the state forest — encompassing more than 1,750 acres — has a boat ramp to launch kayaks and other small, non-motorized boats, plus fishing, hiking, camping, mountain biking and, new this year, a park passport children's program.

Late one recent humid afternoon, Gerri Connors of Colrain watched her 11-year-old granddaughter, Chelsea, playing in the sand at the water's edge.

"This is my first time here and I will come back," she said. "Where else can you go for

She pointed to the stream emptying into the lake from the shady picnic area, noting that it Buckland Recreation Center. keeps the swimming area continually fed with fresh water. She said the bathrooms are clean,

"We've been to Ashfield Lake ity of her job as a social worker,

Story and photos by Catherine Fahy

but last time I was there I saw a said the pool may be a place lowater moccasin bigger than my hand so we're not going back. It freaked us right out, but this place is great."

For more information, call (413) 268-7098 or visit www.mass. gov/dcr/parks/western/darf.htm.

Ashfield Lake, Buckland Road, Ashfield

Kicking back with cocktails on the porch of a cabin overlooking the lake, Dan Pease and Mark Lavallee seemed to be enjoying the relative quiet of their scenic home beside Ashfield Lake — for little while longer at least.

That's because in July and August the narrow strip of public for little ones to splash in. Inside, beach in front of them gets really crowded, Pease said.

"During the hot weeks, there are a lot of different people from Greenfield, Springfield and Northampton up here," he said, estimating that 50-60 people — or more on weekend days — frequent the lake.

It's easy to see why the little lake is such a draw, since in addition to the swimming visitors can enjoy the view with a cold beer and a reputedly top-notch burger on the big outdoor deck at the Ashfield Lakehouse, which maintains the strip of public beach. A residents-only beach is

The beach is free during busi-11:30 a.m.) and has a new dock for diving and tying up boats. Food and beverages are not permitted on the beach unless purchased at the Lakehouse.

Late one recent afternoon, a family of geese had the beach all to themselves, though at different spots around the lake there were also several fishermen.

As for water moccasins, Pease, whose family used to own the Lakehouse, said he's never seen

"I don't know about that. There are a couple of blue herons around, some snapping turtles and fish," he said.

For more information, call the Ashfield Lakehouse at (413)

Buckland Recreation Center, Route 112, Buckland

Kids love pools, and there are

But not too many. Rae, the center's director, who did not want her last name the Buckland Recreation Center, printed because of the sensitiv-

cals remember from their youth, but not necessarily a place they bring their children.

"You know, this is the bestkept secret. People know about it from years ago but they don't know it's been revamped," she said at the front desk over the shouts and splashes coming from the pool.

Recently upgraded to include full handicapped access, the large, clean lap pool has undergone other renovations in recent years, including new cement, Rae said. There's a diving board for adults and older kids, as well as a kiddie pool with water jets snacks, soda, ice cream and popsicles are for sale, while outside the fence there are plenty of picnic tables for families to eat together. For larger groups, there's a pavilion near the ball fields and volleyball net.

Visitors do not have to be Buckland residents. Day passes are \$3 per person on weekdays or \$5 on weekends and can be credited toward a season pass, which is \$95 for a family of five. At those prices, Rae said she hopes people will find time to isit the pool this summer.

"I really can't stress enough what a phenomenal area it is, especially for a new family, Rae said. "The kids interact and ness hours (daily starting at it's a great place to meet other

> The Buckland Recreation Center is also where the Mohawk Summer Recreation Program meets. Because of high gas prices, Rae said some people have traded a family vacation for a pool pass and summer camp at the center. On the other hand, she said, people have less money because of gas prices and the economy, so they're not spending

> money on camps.
> "It's a Catch-22," Rae said. Jeff Johansmeyer, who directs the summer program with his wife, Mary, said space is still available in certain age brackets, and invited parents to call him at (413) 625-6354. Fees are charged on a per-day basis for swimming, hiking, team sports, arts and crafts and other activities. The program is now in its 14th year.

What's nice about our camp plenty of kids in the pool at the is you can sign up for whatever variety of days you want," he

call (413) 625-6330.

"Sunburn Beach," North River Road, Shelburne

Beneath the dam on Route 112, the Deerfield River meets the North River before widening on its way to Shelburne Falls. Before it does, the rocky riverbed deepens between banks of large sun-warmed boulders, creating a

near-perfect swimming hole. Sunburn Beach, as this spot down a short path off North River Road is called, attracts a crowd of locals on hot summer days. The area's appeal lies where people feel safe."

not just in its stunning natural beauty, but in its water park-like variety for people of all ages.

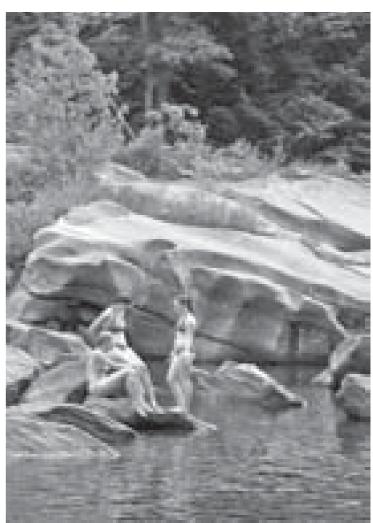
Braver types like to leap from one of the taller boulders into the depths, swimmers like the endless pool effect of the strong, steady current sliding between the rocks, and young children enjoy splashing in one of the shallow, rocky pools fed by the North River. And everyone enjoys taking in the sun and the scenery from atop the pot-holed boulders on the south side of the river. Sunburn Beach is not a protected beach, however, and swimmers should exercise

Watching four energetic boys play in the current above the swimming area, Buckland native Shannon Wissman said she grew up visiting Sunburn Beach with her parents and has been bring For more information about ing her boys there since they were little.

"This has been going on for so long and sometimes it can get packed down here but nobody's ever really bothered anybody," she said.

Because access to the river is on private land, it helps if people pick up after themselves. Last fall, broken glass made swimming treacherous and Wissman said that's the only thing that will ruin the charm of this favorite locals' swimming area.

here is really respectful," she said. "It's a safe family place



Eleven-year-old Chelsea spies a group of kayakers returning to shore

from a sheltered spot on the beach at the D.A.R State Forest in Goshen.

"Everybody who comes down Locals swim from the Shelburne to the Buckland side of the Deerfield River at Sunburn Beach. enjoying sun-warmed boulders along the way.

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The Buckland Recreation Center is 'the best-kept secret,' according to the center's director. Visitors need not be Buckland residents.



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Ryann Stacy (riding #441) moves ahead in a recent race.

OUTDOORS

Lessons from fiasco on Martha's Vineyard

SHELBURNE GREAT BUT SAD Story comes from a buddy of mine who lives in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. The story recounts the unnecessary death of a mature male turkey, but it also teaches why it's important to not feed and try to tame

This ridge runner has a ton of questions about what follows. It's easy to be an armchair quarterback, but read on and decide for yourself if what follows seems reasonable. I'll stick to a first-name-only basis in the interest of discretion, even though this story is circulating through the commonwealth, and has been reported in the press

The story begins in Chilmark, a small quaint town nestled into Martha's Vineyard, where turkey populations have skyrocketed. Residents have taken to feeding the birds and not just your run-of-themill bird feeder stuff, where the turkeys happen to find their way to a normal bird feeder in the middle of the winter. Feeding the turkeys, I'm told, has become a popular winter pastime among the Islanders!

One Islander in particular, a fellow named Jonathan, has taken upon himself the role of guardian and protector of the Vineyard wild turkey population, known locally as

ON THE RIDGE

By Joe Judd



the Island flock. Don't get me wrong. It's great to care for and work toward the viability of a natural resource such as the eastern wild turkey. I've been known to do a little work for them myself. But old Jonathan really took it to another level.

It began to unfold on Father's Day right around noon. Iwo people, Alissa and Altino, who run a baby equipment rental service, were dropping off some orders for a family that was renting a property in Chilmark for the summer near where Jonathan lived year-round. As they approached the house, carrying the baby equipment, they noticed a large male turkey who was displaying and acting very aggressively.

The turkey approached the workers, who reportedly dropped their equipment on the lawn and hustled back to their van. Then, they said, the turkey charged, chased them and even "held them hostage" in their delivery van.

Alissa and Altino said the

turkey pecked wildly and used his wings for leverage. And when Alissa got out of the van in a brave attempt to frighten the bird away by waving her arms and yelling Shoo, shoo! (a technique that I'm told works well on seagulls) the bird forced them back into the van and continued to peck at the windows and circle the vehicle!

At this point Alissa called the Island police for help using her cell phone. In her interview, she said she was afraid a bird so large and aggressive might pose a threat to the summer people who were coming to live there. She also said that she'd never before seen a turkey so "whacked out" with aggression. One wonders how many turkeys Alissa has actually seen.

So the police arrived, armed, but by then Alissa and Altino had dumped what was left of their delivery and taken off. The police report notes that the officers found baby equipment strewn all over the lawn.

Almost immediately upon

the officers' arrival, their reports later said, they were approached by what I'll call turkeyzilla. Now the turkey is chasing the officers around piles of baby equipment and becoming more aggressive by the minute. One officer found himself backed against his cruiser, and kicking at the marauder as it closed in.

And then the officer drew his service firearm, a Glock 40-cal. semi-auto.

Looking around to make sure no vehicles or pedestrians were approaching, he said he waited until the bird approached, and at a distance of no more than four feet he put two rounds into the creature at an angle directly into the ground, when the shots rang out, turkeyzilla headed for the hills ... now something I can relate to! But in this case the shots were true and the blood trail led to the culprit, who held on for dear life.

The story goes that when the officers approached the wounded animal, it took off with the officers in hot pursuit. And with the bird losing steam, the officers closed in and finished him off with two better-placed shots.

Here in the story the officers noticed voices calling toward them from a distance . . and sure enough, up the hill charged Jonathan (remember Jonathan?) and his band of

ary Loretta Lynn Ranch in scenic Hurricane Mills, Tenn. Racers compete nationwide from March through June in the various 64 Area Qualifiers and 13 Regional Championships to determine the final rider roster for the Amateur Nationals. Since its inception in 1982, the hope for this race by founders Dave Coombs, Sr. and Paul Shlegel was to hold a championship amateur motocross race that was fair, safe and fun for all

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track raced only one time a year

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competing in the 27th annual

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sented by Amsoil, at the legend-

Cyclist competes in

chance to ride or race on it before the rest of the competition The Air Nautiques AMA Amateur National Championships have become the premiere amateur national series in the United States and the proving grounds for America's future professional Supercross and Motocross

Stacy is racing in the Girls 65cc-105cc class for ages 9-13. She is still one of the youngest

national championships COLRAIN-Ryann Stacy is competitors in the class with a racing age of 11. The top 42 competitors in each class make it to

the Lynn Ranch each year. The Northeast Regional, where Stacy qualified, was held in Armaugh, PA at Pleasure Valley Raceway. The top seven racers qualified for the National. Stacy finished third overall. She earned the right to attend the Regional by finishing first at an Area Qualifier in Southwick in April.

This is her second year attending the National event. Last year she finished 37th after a hard fall in the final moto. She had been running in 21st. Her goal this year is to finish in the top 15.

Stacy has been lucky to have the support of some local and national sponsors, including MIB Construction, Stacy Electric, Dillon Chevrolet, Liebenow Autobody, Davenport's Service Station and other industry

Due to the increased price of fuel, Stacy is raising money to help pay for the trip to Tennessee, which will cost about double in gasoline what it cost in 2007 when she and her family made the trip. She is collecting bottles and cans at the track and from friends and family.

merry men shouting obscenities and insults, and demanding to know what was going on. The phrases idiot, jerks, and other unprintable things were being handed out freely, which most cops I know don't really appreciate. And these officers had just been through the "turkey wars!"

According to reports, Jonathan claimed to have raised the orphaned Tom turkey from a chick, nurtured it back to life, and these guys had just killed his turkey. TOM WAS DEAD! And somebody had to pay!

Well, the first officer Jonathan approached paid with a belt to the mouth, sending him head over tea-kettle to the ground. The second officer took one in the chest and thigh before he went down.

The two of them together finally got Jonathan into cuffs and hoisted him into Dukes County Jail for processing. He was later released on bail but a local paper reported he is being charged with assault and battery and resisting arrest. He was scheduled to appear in Edgartown District Court for a pretrial hearing on Monday.

The officers have recovered, and are being heralded as having done a great job in restraining Jonathan while handling a very difficult situation in a complete an appropriate fashion. And I believe they did do as good a job as they probably could have in what appears to be a very chaotic

I just wonder if anyone thought to call an environmental law enforcement officer (game warden) into the mix. I mean that might have saved old Tom from an early end. Or

maybe not. I mean who knows what caused this turkey to become so quarrelsome? The answers may never be known. He may have become very territorial due to his constant care and feeding.

Could the turkey have been provoked? Or was Tom diseased or messed up in some other way that we just won't probably ever know. Who's to say? But a game warden may have helped. Hindsight is always 20-20. Of course, when the first shots were fired the bird apparently took off in fear, which seems normal. Maybe the officers could have shot into the air first?

This could be a true lesson learned about what can happen when wildlife becomes too dependent on human support. It never seems to work! Perhaps I'm being too rigid. All I know is Tom is gone, Jonathan is in trouble, the officers are recovering, and Alissa and Altino are still in business delivering baby equipment on Martha's Vineyard. In the meantime, the

Islanders have gained a whole new respect for the wild turkey. A woman who lives near West Tisbury recently reported that she sees wild turkeys all the time ... but since the attack she's keeping her eye on them. She said that she has never heard of a turkey attacking a person before, but nonetheless she will be more careful when they come around her birdfeeders.

Good Hunting

Publication of ON THE RIDGE by Joe Judd is underwritten by



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ET CETERA

"Gaia" rehearsals start July 9

SHELBURNE FALLS—"Gaia" is the name that ancient Greeks gave their home, their planet.

The "Missa Gaia" or "Earth Mass" was composed by Paul Winter in 1980. Since 1985, it has been performed annually in the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on the first Sunday in October.

Five thousand people flock to the Cathedral to participate in the Mass, accompanied by their pets of all kinds, sizes, shapes and smells. Even an elephant strolls into the huge Cathedral to join in this celebration of the Earth, which is led by the Paul Winter Consort and Friends.

The voices of wolf, whale and loon join with those of the choir, the Dean of the Cathedral and world religious leaders of all denominations in Winter's joyous, rhythmic, contemporary Earth Mass in the world's largest Gothic cathedral.

Shelburne Falls will celebrate with its own version of Missa Land Trust's (FLT) first golf

in Trinity Church on Severance Street.

the performance. All who wish to join in will be part of the choral performance, rehearsals for which will be held Wednesdays, starting July 9, from 6-8 p.m. at the church. During the summer singers are not expected to be at every rehearsal and music and recordings of pieces to be performed will be available for those who want to work on their parts between rehearsals.

Church choir members and vocalists from the community at large are all welcome to be a part of this presentation. If you have questions or need more information, call the Trinity Church office at (413) 625-2341, Roberts at (413) 625-2035 or Pastor David Neil at (413) 625-6143.

Golfers sweat it out for FLT

ASHFIELD—The Franklin

Gaia or Earth Mass this year tournament landed smack in the on Sunday, Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. middle of the season's first heat

"Everybody had a terrific Shelley Roberts will direct time; it was very exciting," said Mary Lynn Sabourin, FLT's development director.

The tournament, held at Edge Hill Golf Course, drew 36 players.

The first-place team included Steven Fydenkevez, Greg Call, Joe Tomaus and Scott Peabody with a -11 score. Tomaus also won the putting contest, and received a Carnival cruise for two.

The FLT team came in last, with a score of +12.

Prizewinners were Richard Hebert, Nike golf set; Laurie Goddard, getaway weekend and Christine Hoffman, Red Sox tickets. Another pair of Red Sox tickets was auctioned off for \$351 to Edna Luther of Lexington.

Four players were drawn for the shootout, which carried a cash prize of \$50,000: James Nelson, Herb Bergquist, Jeff Greb and Charles Plesner. No one snagged that prize. And no one managed to get the holein-one prize offered by Dana Automotive: a 2008 Chevrolet

The tournament brought in Goll, and François Villon and more than \$10,000 in cash and prizes in support of land protection in western Massachusetts!

Collected Poets read

SHELBURNE FALLS—On Sunday, July 6, at 7 p.m. the Collected Poets Series will sponsor a special, free reading with the poet Galway Kinnell. His most recent collection of poetry is Strong Is Your Hold. He will read from his work at Mocha Maya's Coffee House, 47 Bridge

Kinnell has received the Pulitzer Prize, a National Book Award, the Frost Medal and a MacArthur Fellowship. In the nomination for the 2003 National Book Award, the judges called Kinnell "America's preeminent visionary" whose work "greet each new age with rapture and abundance [and] sets him at the table with his mentors: Rilke, Whitman, Frost."

Kinnel has written many volumes of poetry and is editor of The Essential Whitman. He has also published translations of works by Yves Bonnefoy, Yvan

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branches, or those angling off at an impossibly odd angle, I

prefer to simply let the young

busnes grow for the first two of

three seasons. Ample leaf de-

velopment encourages a good

in wide range of conditions

root system, the key to thriving

that will confront the plants in

the course of a year: extreme

heat, summer drought, and

our robust winters. After the

bushes are well established,

you can begin pruning ealry

Lilian R. Jackman owns Wilder

Hill Gardens (www.wilderhillgar-

dens.com), a perennial and flower

nursery in Conway which offers

retail and wholesale plants and

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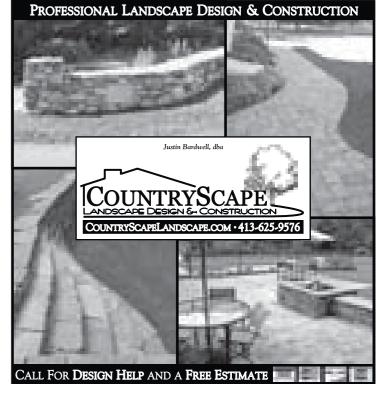
blueberry bushes?

Rilke. He is renowned as an especially sensuous poet and moving reader. Kinnell has served as the state poet of Vermont and was the Erich Maria Remarque **Professor of Creative Writing** at New York University for 25 years. He is a Chancellor of The Academy of American Poets. He lives in Vermont.

Signs available

SHELBURNE FALLS—Large roadside signs are being made available by the Franklin Land Trust (FLT) to all owners of land protected by a conservation restriction or agricultural preservation restriction held by the FLT.

The 12- by 18-inch signs have two holes for mounting on a post or fence. There are also 3-inchsquare boundary markers for corner marking along the conservation restriction boundaries.



HOME AND GARDEN

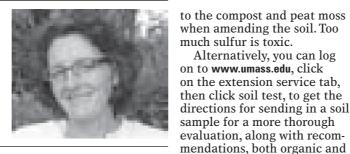
Behold: berries!

Ventilation is key in cultivating your fruit

CONWAY

THE VIEW FROM WILDER HILL

By Lilian R. Jackman



Although I am all in favor

food, and the principles behind

recommend eating food grown

and siding consists of a multi-

tude of potentially unhealthy

crops at a good distance from

My soil is pretty good, and I

mulch my blueberries with pine

No, no, no. For some curi-

demand a very acid soil pH of

between 4.5-4.8. To lower our

range, you must get serious

once — counterintuitive for

about your numbers, just this

many gardeners, including my-

self. However, march off to the

an inexpensive soil PH test kit,

and follow the directions. Add

soil acidifier (I prefer pearled

sulfur, it is considered organic)

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the recommended amount of

garden supply store and buy

New England soil to the proper

needles and/or leaves. This is

ous reason, gardeners seem

reluctant to accept the fact

that the blues absolutely

acid enough, right?

quantity. Place your edible

the house.

compounds, however small the

of growing more of our own

edible landscaping, I do not

close to the drip-edge of a house. Runoff from the roof

OME PEOPLE are complaining about the cloudy skies and frequent thunder showers. It seems like ages since we have had a two-day stretch of perfectly clear weather. And then there are all those nervous June brides, hoping the skies open up long enough to keep the train of their bridal gown dry as they walk into the church. However, most gardeners are content. The ground is deeply and perfectly moist now, and temperatures have been reasonable in the day, and cool at night. The thunder showers seem like a great free show to me, especially if you are working outdoors as they approach.

I remember loving thunder snowers even as a chiid, although I understand some folks are simply unable to enjoy then on account of a primal kind of terror. After all, the power of all that thunder and lightning is equally beautiful and dangerous. During the most recent storm, I was in the highest, open field of Wilder Hill Gardens with a customer. digging some plants, and oblivious to the approaching pyrotechnics. For a few seconds I stood admiring the intricate branching of our own personal lightning bolt (so like the roots of a tree), before I knew a retreat to the house was in order. I refreshed a pot of fresh tea made that morning, and offered a few fresh strawberries from the lower field.

Now, my patch of strawberries, although yielding well enough to share a few quarts with my fabulous neighbors, is an example of what not to do in the cultivation of small fruits. Of course, the soil was fertile, I had run a batch of pigs over it the year prior to setting out the baby plants. My friend Louie had built a stout and barely portable "pig sled" to contain the pigs. As we hauled the sled around the field the porcine rototillers cultivated and fertilized the area. I raised up the beds, limed them to balance the PH, and set out the bundles of plantlets. So far, so good. My strawberries had rich soil and sunlight.

However, there is another element important to the cultivation of fruit, and strawberries in particular: ventilation. Being a lower field on a

generally wet piece of land, even the raised beds were a bit on the damp side. Raising them up higher, with an addition of peat moss would have been a good idea. Secondly, I was less than religious about weeding last year, and confess I decided to let the bed run wild for this season, before replanting runners in a better spot (below the young Asian pear trees, before they are big

enough to create shade). Not a terrible plan, as rotating strawberries is generally good gardening. But the combination of damp soil, and too many weeds definitely lowered the yield and quality of fruit. At least an early June rough weeding was in order. For now, we shall wade into the beds, finding the bright red fruits for our waffles and a strawberry social, amid the abundant weeds. The plants themselves are quite healthy, and I invite any of our readers to stop by the nursery some Sunday, and I will be happy to give you a multitude of plants, if you bring a trowel and boxes. Next year, I will run some new pigs over the ground to devour the remaining plants and weeds, not knowing what to grow there yet, if anything. That site is really more suited to a crop that tolerate wet conditions such as willows or highbush blueberries.

Not that blueberries want constantly wet feet either, but you can plant them with the proper spacing of about five or six feet between bushes to ensure proper ventilation and a good crop. Each year at the nursery, when the local blueberries arrive at the farmer's market, we have a little run on the potted blueberry bushes. They really are quite attractive and easy to grow, if you fulfill a few basic requirements.

off with, even if they don't ask: Can I use these bushes to landscape my house?

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CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JULY 3

Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

GREENFIELD Co-op Concerts: Three 40-minute sets with regional artists (see website). Bring chair or blanket and picnic dinner. Great atmosphere. 6-8 p.m. Free, donations welcome. Solar Park, 50 Miles St. Information: (413) 774-6051; www.nesea.org/park/tour5.html.

WILLIAMSTOWN Season opening party: Actors from the Williamstown Theatre Festival will read the Declaration of Independence and the British Reply. Refreshments will be served. *Immediately following* the Williamstown parade. Free. Williams College Museum of Art, Main Street. Information: (413) 597-2429; www.wcma.org.

Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

SOUTH DEERFIELD Espresso Jazz: Jazz, standards and blues. 6 p.m. Chandler's Tavern, 25 Greenfield *Rd. Information:* (413) 665-1277; www.yankeecandle.com.

CHARLEMONT America's Birthday - Highlights of History 1770-2007: Interactive concert of American music from Billings, the Civil War era, Gospel music led by legendary Horace Boyer, New Orleans/Creole of Gottschalk, New England's MacDowell, Copland, Bernstein, to Frank Loesser and William Bolcom. Followed by ice cream on the church lawn. 7 p.m. Free. Mohawk Trail Concerts, Federated Church, Main Street (Route 2). In-

formation: (413) 625-9511; www. mohawktrailconcerts.org

DEERFIELD 4th of July Band roots music, trip-hop, and most recently acoustic folk, will per-Memorial Hall Museum Old Deerfield, Mass. On Independence Day, Friday, July 4th, at 3 pm Memorial Hall Museum in Old Deerfield will present the Westmoreland (NH) Town Band in a free hour-long concert of rousing patriotic tunes from and blues. 7 p.m. Charlemont the past. The concert will be held on the grounds of the for- 339-5796; www.charlemontinn. mer Town Hall next door to the com. museum at 8 Memorial Street. In the case of wet or extremely hot weather the concert will be moved into the auditorium of the Deerfield Teachers' Center immediately behind the Old niversary celebrates Puccini Town Hall on Memorial Street. Admission to the concert is free. 3 p.m. Free. Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, 10 Memorial St. Information: (413) 774-7476;

www.old-deerfield.org.

SATURDAY, 5

DEERFIELD Insect Investigations: Put away your flyswatter and come learn about the many contributions of insects to the lives of early Americans. Daily. 12-4 p.m. Through Sunday, August 17. Included with general admission. Historic Deerfield, Old Main Street. Information: (413) 775-7214; www.historic-deerfield.org.

Summer cooking:
Learn how people
Learn how people
Meet photographer, Joe Superin early New England kept cool, and preserved summer produce. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Included with general admission. Historic Deerfield, Old Main Street. Information: (413) 775-7214; www. historic-deerfield.org.

HADLEY Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. ute stroll, approximately 3 miles 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

AMHERST Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. Special Amherst performance. 2 p.m. Massachusetts Center for Renaissance Studies, 650 East Pleasant Street. Information:

"Come See What Everyone's Crowing



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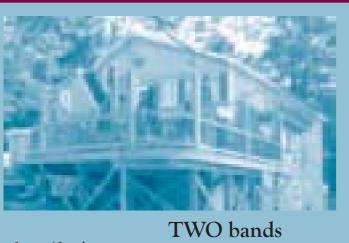
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Just a 10-mile ride from Shelburne Falls! on July 4th

Mosrites (4 - 8 p.m.)

The Instigators

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141 Buckland Rd. • Ashfield, MA • 628-0158

863-3221; www.greatfallsma.org.

level pavement. 8-9 a.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2

Avenue A. Information: (413)

TUESDAY, JULY NORTH ADAMS Live music-Beth Orton: Singer/ songwriter are electronica,

form. 8 p.m. \$22/advance; \$26/day

of show. MassMOCA, 87 Marshall

St. Information: (413) 662-2111;

CHARLEMONT Espresso Jazz: Jazz, standards

Inn, *Route 2. Information: (413)*

CHARLEMONT Puccini Opera Memories

& Great American Compos-

ers: July 5 Puccini's 150th an-

and from the American stage.

Maria Ferrante, soprano, and

Andrew Garland, baritone per-

form some of the most beloved

opera selections plus favorites

by American composers. With

Masako Yanagita, violin, Abba

Bogin, directs from the piano

for both concerts. *7:30 p.m.* \$18;

\$15/seniors & students. Mohawk

Trail Concerts, Federated Church,

Main Street (Route 2). Informa-

tion: (413) 625-9511; www.mo-

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-Nicole Col-

lins: With special guest Khalil

Madyun. 7:30 p.m. Free; tips

appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47

Bridge St. Information: (413)

625-6292; www.myspace.com/

TURNERS FALLS Meet the Photographer:

chi at this opening event cel-

ebrating his work and learn the

story behind the photographs

10 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Great Falls

Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. In-

formation: (413) 863-3221; www.

TURNERS FALLS Geowalk: Leisurely 90-min-

to explore rock formed in the

Mesozoic Era—about 200 mil-

lion years ago. 1-3 p.m. Free.

Great Falls Discovery Center, 2

Avenue A. Information: (413)

 $7.30 \, \text{n} \, \text{m} \, \$16 / \text{adults} \, \$10 / \text{students}$

and seniors, \$6/children 18 and

younger. Hampshire Shakespeare

Company, Hartsbrook School,

193 Bay Rd. Information: (413)

548-8118; www.hampshireshake-

SHELBURNE FALLS Poetry reading: Galway

Kinnell; winner of a Pulitzer

Prize, a National Book Award,

the Frost Medal, and a MacAr-

thur Fellowship. 7 p.m. Free.

Arms Library, Corner of Bridge

and Main streets. Information:

413-625-0306; tedbmerrill@verizon.

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-Kwajmal

Tazz Band: 1:30 p.m. Free; tips

appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47

Bridge St. Information: (413)

625-6292; www.myspace.com/

GREENFIELD Summertime Intensives-Strings:

Week long class. 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

\$160. Artspace, 15 Mill St. Infor-

mation: (413) 772-6811; www.

GREENFIELD Summertime intensives-crafts:

Make papier-mache bowls,

pottery vases, sculpy jewelry

and candleholders, paper bead

necklaces and more. Ages 6-9.

9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$160. Artspace,

15 Mill St. Information: (413)

GREENFIELD Live music-Solar Series: Pioneer

Valley Symphony. Small ensem-

bles with classic chamber music

6 p.m. Free, donations welcome.

Solar Park, 50 Miles St. Informa-

tion: (413) 774-6051; www.nesea.

TURNERS FALLS Nature at 8: Early morning

nature walk over paved bike

trails and village sidewalks.

Walks are designed to be short

but interesting, never lasting

more than about 60 minutes or

more than about 2 miles over

org/park/tour5.html.

772-6811; www.franklyarts.org.

MONDAY, JULY

speare.org.

mochamayas.

franklyarts.org.

SUNDAY, 6

863-3221; www.greatfallsma.org.

hawktrailconcerts.org.

mochamayas.

greatfallsma.org.

www.massmoca.org.

GREENFIELD Greenfield Military Band: Pops, marches, the sounds of summer. 7-8 p.m. Free, donations welcome. Solar Park, 50 Miles St. Information: (413) 774-6051; www.nesea. org/park/tour5.html.

BUCKLAND Ice cream & book sale: Come for the fun and flavorful-The Hilltown Ice Cream Truck at the library. 6-8 p.m. Free. Buckland Public Library, 30 Upper St. Information: (413) 625-9412; patandhenry@ gmail.com.

NORTH ADAMS | Illuminated | Art: Create your own illuminated artwork (i.e. flower, rocket) using specially designed technology kits that contain an LED, battery, conductive thread, and battery holder. Age 5+. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5/ person. MassMOCA, 87 Marshall St. Information: (413) 662-2111; www.massmoca.org.

NORTH AMHERST sary Potluck Party: Bring something to eat! 5-8 p.m. Class Action, Mill River Recreation Park. Information: (413) 585-9709; www.classism.

WEDNESDAY, JULY /

Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

SHELBURNE FALLS Reading Your Wild Landscape: Writing and journaling about your summer. 3-5 p.m. Free, please pre-register. Arms Library, Bridge and Main streets. Information: (413) 625-0306; arms@cwmars.org.

TURNERS FALLS Rature at 8: Early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes or HADLEY Romeo and Juliet: more than about 2 miles over level pavement. 8-9 a.m. Free. (413) 577-3600; www.umass.edu/ tragic and comedic outcomes. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www.greatfallsma.org.

> CHARLEMONT Socializing before lunch: Hot lunch served. Ice cream sundaes for dessert. Please pre-register the day before. . Free. Charlemont Senior Center, Charlemont Federated Church. Information: (413) 339-5324.

THURSDAY, JULY

DEERFIELD Understanding Wood in Early **American Furniture:** The first of three talks in the series 'seeing the Forest for the Trees: The History of New England Woodlands,." 7:30 p.m. Free. Historic Deerfield, Old Main Street. Information: (413) 775-7214; www. historic-deerfield.org.

Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

GREENFIELD Co-op Concerts: Three 40-minute sets with regional artists (see website). Bring chair or blanket and picnic dinner. Great atmosphere. 6-8 p.m. Free, donations welcome. Solar Park, 50 Miles St. Information: (413) 774-6051; www.nesea.org/park/tour5.html.

NORTH ADAMS Gardening American Gothic Style: Fairie Houses. Drop-in class. Age 5+. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. MassMOCA, North Adams Public Schools Greenhouse, Church St. Information: (413) 662-2111; www.massmoca.org.

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-Open mic: 7:30 p.m. Free; tips appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47 Bridge St. Information: (413) 625-6292; www. myspace.com/mochamayas.

FRIDAY, JULY 1

SHELBURNE FALLS Film-Diva: Opera-lov-

ing mailman tapes a secretive soprano and gets mixed up with gangsters, intrigue, and romance. Music: Big Bart Bales. 7 p.m. \$6/door; \$4/kids under 12; \$20/five tickets in advance. Pothole Pictures, 51 Bridge St. (Memorial Hall). Information: (413) 625-2896; www.shelburne-

Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

CHARLEMONT Bolcom & Morris: Composer William Bolcom and mezzo soprano will present a unique program of theater and cabaret music. 7:30 p.m. \$18; \$15/ seniors & students. Mohawk Trail Concerts, Federated Church, Main Street (Route 2). Information: (413) 625-9511; www.mohawktrailconcerts.org.

TURNERS FALLS 2nd Friday Coffee House: Fall Town String Band and Rust Knuckle Raptor in an evening of fun and old-time music. Museum is open during intermission, homemade baked goods available. 6:30 p.m. Sliding scale: \$6-\$12. Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www. greatfallsma.org.

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-A m a n d a Kaletsky: With special guest Ange & Ris. 7:30 p.m. Free; tips appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47 Bridge St. Information: (413) 625-6292; www.myspace.com/

TURNERS FALLS Oklahoma!: Join the cowboys and the farmers in the Oklahoma Territory of 1906 as Laurie and Curley fall in love, Jud Frye gets his just desserts. and Ado Annie figures out which man to marry. 8 p.m. \$12; \$10/ students & seniors. The Country Players, Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-2281; www.countryplayers.org.

SATURDAY, JULY 12

SHELBURNE FALLS Learning Ferns: Ted Watt will explain terminology and what to look for in the field as we try making sense out of the diversity of ferns in our area. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Free to Franklin Land Trust members. \$25 for an annual household membership. Franklin Land Trust, 36 State St. Information: (413) 625-9152; www.franklinlandtrust.org.

SHELBURNE FALLS | Film-Diva: Opera-loving mailman tapes a secretive soprano and gets mixed up with gangsters, intrigue, and romance. Music: Big Bart Bales. 7 p.m. \$6/door; \$4/kids under 12; \$20/five tickets in advance. Pothole Pictures, 51 Bridge St. (Memorial Hall). Information: (413) 625-2896; www.shelburnefalls.com.

DEERFIELD Summer cooking: Learn how people in early New England kept cool, and preserved summer produce. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Included with general admission. Historic Deerfield, Old Main Street. Information: (413) 775-7214; www. historic-deerfield.org.

WILLIAMSTOWN The Long Night and the New Day: Lithographs by the artist Benton Spruance, charting the major shift in his style from the more specific and naturalistic renderings of the Depression era through World War II to his later, more abstracted and evocative work of the 1960s.. Through Sunday, October 05. Free. Williams College Museum of Art, Main Street. Information: (413) 597-2429; www.wcma.org.

WILLIAMSTOWN Laser Show: Six Perspectives on a Chaotic Resonator: Nick Zammuto focuses on the relationship between visual, aural, and physical vibration and its ability to carry information. . Through Sunday, September 14. Free. Williams College Museum of Art, Main Street. Information: (413) 597-2429; www.wcma.org.

HADLEY Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

NORTH ADAMS Slam poetess and soul singer: Brooklyn- based performer Abena Koomson will seamlessly tye her origins in Ghana and her upbringing in New England together through poetry and music. 8 p.m. \$14/advance; \$18/day of show. MassMOCA, 87 Marshall St. Information: (413) 662-2111; www.massmoca.org.

CHARLEMONT Bolcom & Morris: Composer William Bolcom and mezzo soprano will present a unique program of theater and cabaret music. 7:30 p.m. \$20; \$17/ seniors & students. Mohawk Trail Concerts, Federated Church, Main Street (Route 2). Information: (413) 625-9511; www.mohawktrailconcerts.org.

TURNERS FALLS Music, Food and Fun to Benefit the Shea Theater: The Alchemystics, Lin Preston's Musical Time Machine (featuring Travis LeDoyt), Honky Thumbelina and The Skinny Man, Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights, The Jen Tobey Band, The Cast of The Country Players" production of Oklahoma, Ja"Duke Productions and The Fabulous Maurice. Pulled pork and garlic chicken wings from Holy Smokes, cajun barramundi fillets from Australis, ribs, burgers, hot dogs, fresh corn on the cob, sweet potato and French Fries (from Wagon Wheel), soft drinks, and beer from The People's Pint. 12-8 p.m. Free admission. Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-2281; www.theshea.org.

TURNERS FALLS Exploring Climate: Learn about projects you can do to understand climate and weather. Exciting observations in the field as well as resources you can use all year. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www.greatfallsma.org.

CUMMINGTON Bryant Day Celebration: Former U.S. poet laureate Richard Wilbur will read poetry, and historian William Streeter will recount tales of Cummington. The Yankee Notions will perform New England folk music. Bring a picnic and enjoy festivities and the view from the lawn. Sample some switchel, the traditional summer punch that cooled thirsty workers out in the hayfields. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. \$5/adult; \$3 child; free/Trustees of Reservation members. The Trustees of Reservations in the Pioneer Valley, The William Cullen Bryant Homestead,. Information: (413) 634-2244; www.thetrustees.org.

ROWE Old Home Day: Parade, exhibits at the Museum, kids games at the Pelham Lake Park, raffle, auction, food booths and music at the elementary school, fireworks and much much more. Please, no dogs. . Dinner: \$10; \$5 Rowe residents. Rowe. Information: (413) 339-5520; www.rowe-ma.gov/pages/ rowema news/008488C5-000F8513.

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-M. Scott Horn: 1 p.m. Free; tips appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47 Bridge St. Information: (413) 625-6292; www.myspace.com/mochamayas.

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-The Accident That Led Me To The World: With special guest Palatypus. 7:30 p.m. Free; tips appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47 Bridge St. Information: (413) 625-6292; www. myspace.com/mochamayas.

TURNERS FALLS Oklahoma!: Join the cowboys and the farmers in the Oklahoma Territory of 1906 as Laurie and Curley fall in love, Jud Frye gets his just desserts, and Ado Annie figures out which man to marry. 8 p.m. \$12; \$10/ students & seniors. The Country Players, Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-2281; www.countryplayers.org.

SUNDAY, 13

Romeo and Juliet: Young love-and its tragic and comedic outcomes. 7:30 p.m. \$16/adults, \$10/students and seniors, \$6/children 18 and younger. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshake-

GREENFIELD Sundays in the Park: Brooks Williams & Sloan Wainwright. 6-7:30 p.m. Free, donations welcome. Solar Park, 50 Miles St. Information: (413) 774-6051; www.nesea. org/park/tour5.html.

ROWE Garden Tour: Maps will be available at Pelham Lake Park Headquarters. Please no dogs. 11-4. Dinner: \$10; \$5 Rowe residents. Rowe. Information: (413) 339-5520; www.rowe-ma.gov/ pages/rowema_news/008488C5-000F8513.

SHELBURNE FALLS Live music-Seth Glier: 1 p.m. Free; tips appreciated. Mocha Maya's, 47 Bridge St. Information: (413) 625-6292; www. myspace.com/mochamayas.

MONDAY, 14

GREENFIELD Summertime intensives-Hello color: Weeklong course on rainbows, the color wheel, how colors make you feel, and color mixing. Ages 5-7 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$160. Artspace, 15 Mill St. Information: (413) 772-6811; www. franklyarts.org.

GREENFIELD Art Intensives-Clay Week: Ceramic tiles, masks, animal and people sculptures using handbuilding and potter's wheel techniques. Ages 8-12. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. \$160. Artspace, 15 Mill St. Information: (413) 772-6811; www. franklyarts.org.

TURNERS FALLS Nature at 8: Early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes or more than about 2 miles over level pavement. 8-9 a.m. Free. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www.greatfallsma.org.

TURNERS FALLS Junior Rangers/Explorers: Hands-on environmental education program for 5 to 7 year olds. A four-part series, Monday and Tuesday. . Free. Space limited, call to pre-register. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www. greatfallsma.org.

TUESDAY, 15

WILLIAMSTOWN Summer Gallery Talk Series: Founding Fathers and Their Model American Sons. 2 p.m. Free. Williams College Museum of Art, Main Street. Information: (413) 597-2429; www.wcma.org.

7-8 p.m. Free, donations welcome. Information: (413) 339-5324. Solar Park, 50 Miles St. Information: (413) 774-6051; www.nesea. org/park/tour5.html.

NORTH ADAMS Face to Face With the Mona Lisa and Girl With a Pearl Earring: Learn about these two famous works of art and how Devorah Sperber interprets them in spool thread. Create your own art historic inspired portraits. Age 3+ and their caregivers. 10-11:30 a.m. \$5. MassMOCA, 87 Marshall St. Information: (413) 662-2111; www.massmoca.org.

TURNERS FALLS Rature at 8: Early morning nature walk over paved bike trails and village sidewalks. Walks are designed to be short but interesting, never lasting more than about 60 minutes or more than about 2 miles over level pavement. 8-9 a.m. Free. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www.greatfallsma.org.

MONTAGUE 5-day Zen retreat: Formal Zen intensive through sitting and standing meditation, formal meals, yoga, dharma talks and personal interviews. 7:30 p.m. Through Sunday, July 20. Montague Farm Zendo, 177 Ripley Rd. \$300; \$350/late registration; \$250/Montague Farm Zendo members (413) 367-2080; www.zenpeacemakers.org.

WEDNESDAY, 16

HADLEY Preview-As You Like It: Pastoral comedy and disguises. 7:30 p.m. \$10; \$5/ children. Hampshire Shakespeare Company, Hartsbrook School, 193 Bay Rd. Information: (413) 548-8118; www.hampshireshakespeare.org.

SHELBURNE FALLS Solar System in Your Hands: 3-5 p.m. Free, please preregister. Arms Library, Bridge and Main streets. Information: (413) 625-0306; arms@cwmars.org.

SOUTH DEERFIELD Espresso Jazz: Jazz, standards and blues. 6 p.m. Chandler's Tavern, 25 Greenfield *Rd. Information:* (413) 665-1277; www.yankeecandle.com.

TURNERS FALLS of S.T. Shrew: Take a 'shrew's-eye-view" of life in the woods. This program is oriented towards children going into 1st - 4th grades. Activities focused around habitat needs. 11 a.m.-12 p.m. Free. Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A. Information: (413) 863-3221; www. greatfallsma.org.

CHARLEMONT Foot clinic: Kip Moeller, R.N. by appointment. Call 339-6641 or Senior Center to make or cancel GREENFIELD Greenfield Mili-tary Band: Pops, Free. Charlemont Senior Center, marches, the sounds of summer. Charlemont Federated Church.

Eleanor Billings, 82

GREENFIELD-Eleanor "Duddy" Elsie (Gray) Billings, 82, of Greenfield died peacefully on June 20 at home surrounded

She was born in Greenfield on Aug. 16, 1925, the daughter of the late Ira R. and Flora (Reed)

She began her life in earnest with Robert George "Bob" Billings on Oct. 31, 1945 - their first date - and they were married Aug. 17, 1946, in Colrain.

The couple lived in Plainfield until 1960 when they moved to Iontague.

She worked as a bookkeeper for various offices and school systems in the area until her retiring in 1989. After retirement she and her husband wintered in Arizona until 1996 when they settled in Greenfield.

She enjoyed reading, sewing, nitting, caring for her pets, and spending time with her children and grandchildren.

In addition to her husband, Robert, she leaves four daughters: Pamela (Thomas) Rogers of Greenfield, Alice (William) Connelley of Shelburne Falls, Melissa (Verne) Williams of Montague, and Angela (Terry) Sinclair of Greenfield; one son, Gary (Janis) Billings of Montague; 10 grandchildren: Michael (Sue) Rogers, Jennifer (Richard) LaCross, Shawn Billings, Zachary Billings, Jacqueline (Peter Martyn) Billings, Jacob Billings, Jessica (Joshua) Wenig, Amy (Jon) Hall, Michael Williams, Lisandra Billings; six step-grandchildren: Stephanie and Haley Connelley, Jesse (Angela) and Jody Sinclair, Riley and Rick Smith; five greatgrandchildren: D.J. and Bella

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Lily Sinclair. She also leaves 1 step-brother: Robert Ripley, Jr. of N.Y. and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

OBITUARIES

She preceded in death by her parents and stepfather; a sister, Ellen Walden; and brothers Clinton Gray, Carol Gray and Sherman Gray; and stepbrother Kenneth Ripley.

A memorial service took place on Friday, June 27 in Shelburne Falls. Burial followed in North River Cemetery in Colrain.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in "Duddy" Billings's memory may be made to Hospice of Franklin County, Conway Street, Greenfield, or your local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Alice Schreiber, 97

ASHFIELD—Alice (Osborn) Schreiber, 97, of 348 Watson Rd., died June 27 at the Anchorage Nursing Home in Shelburne.

As the oldest citizen of Ashfield, Mrs. Schreiber was the recipient of the Golden Cane, presented to her in April 2007.

Born in Emporia, Va., April 24,

1911, she was the daughter of the late Harold and Emma (Johnson) She was a graduate of Crosby

High School in Waterbury, Conn., and a graduate of the former Ansonia (Conn.) Business

She worked for 10 years for the State of Connecticut Board of Education as a special assistant to the blind, and was a library assistant for three years at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School in Buckland

She and her husband, William, whom she married on Dec. 14, 1930, moved to Ashfield in 1965. LaCross, Sam and Lily Rogers, He died in 2002.

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She was a member of both the Oxford (Conn.) and Ansonia (Conn.) First Congregational Church, and was a 60-year member of the Oxford Grange.

Locally she attended the First Congregational Church in Ashfield and was a member of the Christmas Club of the church.

Survivors include two sons: William Arthur Schreiber and wife Linda, of Westmoreland, N.H., and Thomas Schreiber and wife, Shirley, of Ashfield; three daughters: Idella Schmidt and her husband, Glenn, of Buckland, Lucy Dischert and husband, Bill, of Jobstown, N.J., Nancy Tuccio of Shelton, Conn.; two foster daughters: Margaret Crowther and husband, Bill, of Oxford, Conn., Marie Donofrio of Seymour, Conn.; one sister, Eunice Engle of Oakville, Conn.; grandchildren Duane Schmidt, Garry Schmidt, Sharon Record; Paul Kerwien, Michael Kerwien, Debra Davis, Wendy Schreiber, Bill Schreiber, Carol Bickel, John Tuccio, Thomas Schreiber, David Schreiber, Amy Boisjolie, Elizabeth Schreiber, Richard Crowther, Janet Crowther, Laura Clark, Linda, Lauri, Phil, Nick, and Dawn Donofrio; 25 greatgrandchildren and one great-

great-granddaughter. A grandson, Harold Schmidt, died in 1984.

Funeral services were held July 1 at the First Congregational Church in Ashfield with Rev. Kate Stevens, pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Plain Cemetery,

Ashfield. Contributions in Alice Schreiber's memory may be sent to the First Congregational Church, Main Street, Ashfield,

Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home

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Wed. 7 Am / Gentle Yoga Wed. 8:30 / Vinyasa Yoga Thur. 8 Am / Morning Fitness Thurs. 9:30 Am / Pilates

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The August issue of Early

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY



Bookstore owner seeks buyer for store

By Fred DeVecca

SHELBURNE FALLS—The sign on the door reads "Cat For Sale. Includes Bookstore. Inquire Within.'

Both — the cat and the bookstore — refer to Boswell.

Interested parties now have a chance to buy a large, brown and white, 13-year-old cat named Boswell and along with it, free of charge, the establishment known as Boswell's Books.

Rachel Popowich has put her much-loved business (and cat) on the market.

Popowich, who lives in Buckland, bought the bookstore, then located on State Street next to McCusker's Market, nine years ago. Boswell the cat came with the store and has known no other home than the cozy shop.

In March of 2004, Popowich relocated the business to its present spot at 10 Bridge Street, where it has come to be known as a local institution for buying not only buy new and used books, but also tickets to local events, to rent videos, DVDs and books on tape, to meet friends, to sit for a while on the comfy chairs and couch and to drop things off for someone else to pick up later.

But Popowich feels that this is a time for her to move on to other things, while she still loves the shop and before burnout — so common among people who put tremendous energy and time into anything — occurs.

"I'm selling the store because I'm starting to think about getting a little tired of it and I want to sell it before I really get tired of it. I love it, but I want to stop while I can still pitch," says Popowich, the mother of a teenaged pitcher, using a baseball metaphor.

For seven of the nine years Popowich has run the business, she has also been a teacher, first at Mohawk Trail Regional

Hats off to Art!

SHELBURNE FALLS—The Shelburne Falls Area Business Association will honor Art Schwenger for his dedication and support for the past six years as the executive director of the business group.

All are invited to join the festivities at Stillwaters Restaurant in Charlemont Thursday, July 10 from 5-7 p.m. for appetizers to thank Schwenger for his work and wish him well in his new pursuits.



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High School and most recently as theater teacher at Greenfield Middle School. But Popowich has been caught up in the financial crisis, which has affected Greenfield schools and other school districts across the state, and has been laid off from her teaching job. She's now looking for other work, probably still in the teaching profession.

"I can't live on just what I make at the bookstore," says Popowich, "and now I'm out of a teaching job... I love them both, but they are very exhausting.'

Popowich emphasizes that her store has always transcended an enterprise designed to make money, however modest.

"I think I realized it when we moved," she says. "And everybody showed up to help. You could tell just the way people were talking that they saw it as their store... It's definitely something that's really community

In keeping with this community spirit which has always infused Boswell's, Popowich has an idea which may help the bookshop survive, although in perhaps a slightly different

While talking in general terms about business with a customer a while ago the word "co-op" came out of her mouth, Popowich says. 'And the idea just stayed there in the back of my mind."

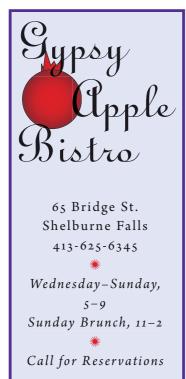
"This is such a community-oriented place, that that would just seem natural, but also I think that there are lots of people in the area who would maybe want to own it and want to see it survive but wouldn't be able to buy it or spend that much time

Hence the thought of turning the business into a cooperatively owned venture along the model of Greenfield's Market and McCusker's was born

So far, this is just a germ of an idea for Popowich. She hasn't explored details of making this happen, but she is beginning to Complaint moves contact some people in the area wno nave experience in co-ops to gather their thoughts and

However, Popowich herself would not want to be part of any cooperative taking over the

"I'd be happy to be a resource







SFI photo/Fred DeVecca

Boswell the cat, who has known no home other than the bookstore that bears his name.

for as long as necessary and I think I could join a co-op, but don't think I could turn over what has essentially been mine and still be a part of it," she says. This store really has my stamp on it now. And I think it would be fine to have other people's stamps on it.'

Meanwhile the store is open each day and Popowich is back from teaching duties and again stocking shelves and running the cash register and doing the million and one other tasks any storeowner is responsible for.

"Running this store is one of the best things I've ever done with my life," she says. "It's going to be hard to move on... Kind of like when your kids grow up. You are done being a particular kind of a parent, but you don't ever completely stop.

"I'm so glad that I got the chance to do this and I hope that the next person is someone similar, someone who really loves books and has a lot of energy to put into making it a place where people really want to come...I'll still shop here."



File photo/Jeff Potter

Stacv Kontrabecki holds the door for a group of fellow volunteers but now few new people choose carrying a bookcase from Boswell Books' former location in the to learn and master them. Odd Fellows building on the Buckland side. The store moved across the river to 10 Bridge St. in 2004.

to Conservation **Commission** COLRAIN-Following a com-

plaint registered with Town Coordinator Fred Rees concerning dust emanating from Susan and Orrin Isles' gravel bank, it has been determined that the town's Conservation Commission should look into the matter.

The complainant says that

Carl J. Augustino, workplace

improvement analyst, and Terry

Bruso, acting postal operations

manager of the Springfield of-

fice, met at the Shelburne Falls

Post Office to address employee

concerns for their physical well-

being and advised that Doty

would be returning their as

that the pair offered their cell

phone numbers and goes on

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The employee letter states

postmaster.

the road by rainfall and trucks leaving the gravel bank, causing clouds of dust, which forces this resident, who has breathing problems, to close her windows and remain indoors.

The highway superintendent has verified this condition. A review of a previous complaint on

value of cell phone numbers in

Springfield and Worcester when

the act of violence is taking

a U.S. Postal Course entitled

pointing out Talk #7, subtitled

"Start to Gain Control Back," the

employees "solicit herewith your

help in gaining back our dignity

free from intimidation, bullying,

harassment and threats of physi-

cal violence. In our entire life we

have never seen such a history

of indifference, incompetence

and arrogance. Your attention

to this matter would be sincerely

appreciated by the undersigned

employees of the U.S. Postal

Service, Shelburne Falls Post

Office. We have been victimized

master's job since the mid-1990s,

was not available for comment

Doty, who has been in the post-

too long.'

before press time.

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Postmaster_____from front page

On June 19, the letter says, to say "we would question the

dust and gravel are drawn into the same issue from the minutes of the Aug. 14, 2006, selectmen's meeting and the original Order of Conditions from the Mass. Department of Environmental Protection find that the gravel bank is apparently not in compliance. Selectmen first asked Rees to prepare a letter to the Isleses informing them of the possible violation and giving them two weeks to remedy the situation.

ASHFIELD—A mercury recy-

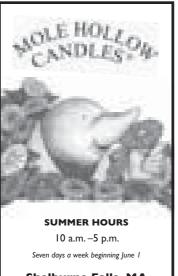
set up at the transfer station. It is now ready to accept mer-"Respect in the Workplace," and cury-containing products such as thermometers and fluorescent

Collecting mercury

cling area has been delivered and







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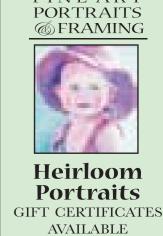
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