



Crafty artists

Some of the people exhibiting at the Old Deerfield Craft Fair.

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Whately options

Residents will hear possibilities for future of Town Hall.

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SUNNY
Tyler
Pearl Rhodes School
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Driven downhill

Returning soapbox racers reap rewards

By CHRIS CURTIS
Recorder Staff

TURNERS FALLS — Working up from third place three years ago at the first Montague Soapbox race, Kyle Bry added a first to his trophy shelf Sunday.

The 12-year-old Montague resident helped his father build the cart for the first race and has competed in the teen category, age 13-19, since.

Kyle said race organizers and his father agreed the first year that the cart was a little too sophisticated to compete fairly in the kids division, moving him up a bracket prematurely.

“(They) thought it was a little too advanced to be racing against little kids,” Bry said.

The sleek cart features independent front and rear wheel suspension and a chassis welded by Kyle’s father, Bill Bry, a welder, metal fabricator and former NASCAR driver in the New England area.



Recorder/Chris Curtis

One of the contestants in the Montague Soapbox race on Sunday.

“I figured I’d build a vehicle to showcase my talent as a fabricator and also teach my son as we built it,” the older Bry said. “So now in seventh grade, he’s like my wrench man, he helps me a lot and we get to spend a lot of time together.”

Their car was built for speed and didn’t disappoint, topping out at 33 mph on the short First Street hill by Unity Park.

Other cars were not built for speed.

John Landino, also a three-year veteran of the races, returned with a fanciful cart and his signature trumpet, but without the cape.

In his first year of racing, Landino managed a spectacular crash — he directs the curious to search his name on video clip site Youtube — after his cape caught in a rear wheel.

The crash didn’t do any lasting damage and Landino has been back every year since.

See DOWNHILL Page A8



Recorder/Paul Franz

A water approach on the Connecticut River is used to send a message of protest to the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Plant. Saturday, as a flotilla of kayaks, canoes, and even an inflatable raft or two launched into the Connecticut River across from Vermont Yankee, paddled close to the plant, then back to the other shore, where speakers and musicians were waiting.

Floating protest

Vermont Yankee’s continued operation and use of Connecticut River at issue

By DAVID RAINVILLE
Recorder Staff

HINSDALE, N.H. — Steam that poured from the busy cooling towers of Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant Saturday afternoon was met by the cheers of protesters nearby in the Connecticut River.

“You can see the steam from the pipes today, because they’ve been told they can’t dump (water from the cooling system) into the water today, because the river’s too low, and too hot,” said Deb Katz. “It costs them

More photographs can be found through the photo gallery at www.Recorder.com

\$1 million a day to use those towers.”

More cheers from the crowd, though they’d likely cheer louder if the plant were shut down.

Katz is executive director of Citizens Awareness Network. CAN is part of the Safe

and Green Energy Alliance, an association of groups and individuals that come together to fight nuclear power.

The alliance decided the way to protest rising river temperatures was to get right in the water.

Saturday, a flotilla of kayaks, canoes, and even an inflatable raft or two launched into the Connecticut River across from Vermont Yankee, paddled close to the plant, then back to the other shore, where speak-

See FLOTILLA Page 2

Complaints about robo calls up sharply

By JENNIFER C. KERR
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — So much for silence from telemarketers at the cherished dinner hour, or any other hour of the day.

Complaints to the government are up sharply about unwanted phone solicitations, raising questions about how well the federal “do-not-call” registry is working. The biggest category of complaint: those annoying prerecorded pitches called robocalls that hawk everything from lower credit card interest rates to new windows for your home.

Robert Madison, 43, of Shawnee, Kan., says he gets automated calls almost daily from “Ann, with credit services,” offering to lower his interest rates.

“I am completely fed up,” Madison said in an interview. “I’ve repeatedly asked them to take me off their call list.” When he challenges their right to call, the solicitors become combative, he said. “There’s just nothing

See CALLS Page A7

Netanyahu pushes Obama to take harder line with Iran

By RICHARD SIMON
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday renewed his campaign to get President Barack Obama to take a harder line toward Iran over its nuclear program.

Netanyahu, appearing on Sunday TV news shows in the midst of a heated presidential campaign, again urged Obama to draw a “red line” over which Iran should not cross.

“This is a matter of urgency,” he said on CNN’s “State of the Union,” calling for the kind of action that he

Netanyahu said that setting a red line now would reduce the chances for military action.

said President John F. Kennedy took with the Soviet Union during the Cuban missile crisis.

“President Obama has said that he is determined to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons,” the Israeli leader said on NBC’s “Meet

the Press.” “If you’re determined to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons, it means you’ll act before they get nuclear weapons.”

The administration, which along with other nations is using economic sanctions in an effort to pressure Iran to curb its nuclear program, has resisted setting a line that Iran may not cross.

“We are committed, and President Obama is committed, to preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon,” Susan Rice, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said on

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Meeting challenges of a changing landscape

At 40, Conway School looks at what’s ahead

CONWAY — The lay of the land has sure changed since Walter Cudnohufsky left his teaching job at the University of Massachusetts four decades ago to found the Conway School of Landscape Design at his home.

For one thing, the school, under new leadership, has moved to a new home atop a hill up a half-mile-long, winding driveway. More important, though, the terrain of “landscape design” has evolved since 1972, when “the environment” was still a new buzzword and “sustainable” wasn’t yet in vogue, says Paul Cawood Hellmund, who in 2005 became director of what’s now “The Conway School: Graduate Program in Sustainable Landscape Planning and Design.”

“Walt created this incredibly nimble educational system that could respond to the needs of communities

About Town
with
Richie Davis



and people,” says Hellmund, who taught at Harvard University, Virginia Tech and Colorado State University before coming to Conway. The school may have dealt with more traditional landscape design issues in its early days, with some early graduates going on to become prominent landscape architects, he said, but the school’s flexible structure has allowed it to adapt to the interests of its students — numbering 18 this year.

The latest concentration of interest, for example, is local food growth,

Hellmund says.

With students working on three true-to-life projects with clients during their 10-month stay, the school’s slogan, “real world, real results” takes on a meaning that’s ... well, real.

“That’s what’s kept us relevant,” Hellmund says.

That relevance will be highlighted at the school’s 40th anniversary celebration next weekend, with a keynote address Friday by environmental activist and author Bill McKibben, considered by many to be the Rachel Carson of our day.

“Who better to help the Conway School commemorate its first 40 years?” asked Hellmund. “Climate change is one of the most important yet most elusive issues facing ecological designers and planners.”

See LANDSCAPE Page A8

“Walt created this incredibly nimble educational system that could respond to the needs of communities and people.”



Paul Cawood Hellmund
Conway School director

Death Notices

The full-text paid obituaries can be found on Page A2. Because of differing deadlines, notices sometimes appear a day or so before the obituary.

Kayla D. Jarvis-Boston

SHELBURNE — Kayla D. Jarvis-Boston, 18, died Thursday (9-13-12).

A gathering of family and friends will take place Sunday from noon to 2 p.m. at the Smith-Kelleher Funeral Home, 87 Franklin St., Greenfield.

There will be no formal services, but a time for family and friends to come together share memories and celebrate Jarvis-Boston's life.

Following the gathering, family and friends are invited to Belle Note Restaurant, Huckle Hill Road, Bernardston for a reception beginning at 3:30 p.m.

To send a message of condolence to Jarvis-Boston's family, please visit www.smithkelleherfuneralhome.com

Kevin F. McQuillen

SUNDERLAND — Kevin F. McQuillen, 70, of 370 Montague Road, died Saturday (9-15-12) in the Cozy Corner Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Sunderland after a brief illness.

Arrangements, under the direction of the Wrisley Funeral Home, South Deerfield, were incomplete at press time.

Mary M. Verrill

GREENFIELD — Mary Margaret (Shea) Verrill, 80, died Saturday (9-15-12) at Buckley Healthcare Center.

Funeral services will be Wednesday with a Liturgy of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. in Holy Trinity Church, 133 Main St.

Calling hours will be Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Smith Kelleher Funeral Home, 87 Franklin St.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway St., Greenfield, MA 01301.



Recorder photos/Liz Lefebvre

Kyle Bry of Montague shows off his car (No. 6). Below, Sean Damon of Northfield (No. 5) races against Ivy Muller of Montague (No. 30).



Downhill: Races

From Page A1

"I'm an artist, a musician, and it's fun to interact with the community using those skills," Landino said. "You meet a lot of nice people doing an event like this."

This year's cart featured a plywood body re-purposed from a cart entered by another competitor last year, balloons, pinwheels, caution tape bunting, a playhorse mounted atop a PVC-pipe roll cage, its own soundtrack and Landino signaling the charge on his trumpet.

Landino, who lives in Montague, also took the opportunity of a highly visible vehicle to advertise his new on-line business, superfunkystuff.com.

Many of the carts bore the names of local businesses as sponsors, and several were represented in Unity Park, where spectators lined up for ice cream, barbecue and French fries.

Race director Michael "Mik" Muller, said the crowd turnout seemed a little thin this year, and at 26, the number of entries was also down after a few last-minute cancellations and some previous competitors who didn't return.

Muller's daughter Ivy did not fall into that category, racing for a third year and taking second place in the kids division.

Muller plans to continue the races and hopes to expand television coverage beyond Montague, where the race was broadcast live on Montague Community Television, for which it is a fundraiser.

Top finishers:

In the 8 to 12 age division: Kyle Kirkland of Greenfield took first, Ivy Muller of Montague second and Ella Deters of Shelburne Falls third.

In the 13 to 19 division: Kyle Bry of Montague took first, followed by Gavin Flynn of Greenfield and Jonf Bander of Turners Falls.

In the 20-plus bracket: Greg Kilmor of Sharon, Conn. lead the field followed by Greg Williams of Turners Falls and

Landscape: Conway School 40 years old

From Page A1

In the beginning

Cudnohufsky was just 32 when, frustrated by the "institutional impediments to education" that he found in the university setting — the bell's ringing at the end of class curtailing meaningful discussion, for example — set him to chart his own course, in the same alternative-inspired era that also gave birth to Hampshire College and the College of the Atlantic.

"Everything was hypothetical and there was competition, plus the projects and clients weren't real," recalls Cudnohufsky, who as an instructor shied away from the role of "expert" in the classroom, preferring instead to tell students, "I'm going to be a learner with you. Let's learn together."

He took that approach with him when he started his own school.

Cudnohufsky, who still maintains his own landscape architectural firm in Ashfield, also had a disdain for his profession's fascination with being "avant-garde and artistic, and almost nothing more than that." Landscape Architecture Magazine at the time was "celebrating purple tires and the occult ... You couldn't find an article on sustainability anywhere."

From the outset the Conway school emphasized community and the primacy of the environment and natural systems, just as the landscape design itself is rooted in Frederick Law Olmsted's pioneering work solving functional problems like draining sewage from Boston's Back Bay by creating the Fenway, and designing New York's Central Park so that it wasn't bisected by traffic.

Far from being just an ornamental or aesthetic domain concerned with the pretty use of shrubs and plants, Hellmund said, landscape planning deals with "the setting for every aspect of our life."

And, as suggested by McKibben's presence and the school's recent projects assessing the potential for increasing food production in Greenfield, in Northampton and around Franklin County, landscape planning is becoming more vital than ever, says Mollie Babize, the school's associate director for admissions. In light of climate change and the need for communities to become resilient, she asks, "How can we anticipate and train ourselves and re-learn how to work with the land that supports our lives?"

Hundreds of projects

Babize, who graduated from the program in 1984, says the school's continued emphasis on enhancing and restoring natural systems has played out in hundreds of projects designed by the school's 600 students over the years.

Those projects have dealt with restoration of streams, wetlands and habitat, as well as with conservation planning to protect farmland, wildlife and historic landscapes. And then there's the more recently emphasized domain of "regenerative design," highlighted by permaculture, foodsheds and carbon sequestration. Projects have been done for clients as far away as Chile, Panama and Italy.

But students have also worked on Greenfield's streetscape, a land-use feasi-



Recorder/Paul Franz

Paul Hellmund of The Conway School shows new students land surveying tools at the landscape school on Wednesday. The school has been training students for 40 years.

bility study for the former Yankee Atomic plant in Rowe, design alternatives for Cushman Park in Bernardston, a food security plan for Shelburne Falls, feasibility studies of the former Griswold cotton mill in Colrain, Strathmore Mill in Turners Falls and the Usher Mill in Erving, and a regional farmland assessment for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. And there are literally dozens of other projects around western Massachusetts.

"We've had a tremendous impact on this region, and we look forward to being more fundamentally of service," said Hellmund, explaining that a new fellowship program being started on a trial basis this year emphasizes training of planners who will later work as community interns around the region on projects they've begun at Conway. "We're working internationally, but that doesn't mean we're not totally committed to this area."

The school's educational method, essentially teaching students how to analyze problems systemically using an integrated approach that looks at not only the aesthetics of the landscape but also at the economics, the science and the technology, came in handy when Mount Auburn Cemetery outside Boston approached the school to analyze how to incorporate "green burial" principles — preferring use of a biodegradable coffins to embalming chemicals and concrete vaults.

"We hadn't done a green burial project here," Hellmund said, "But our students know how to ask the questions."

Apart from Hellmund, who also teaches design and planning at Conway, the school has just three faculty members, but makes use of adjunct instructors from around the region and also has a weekly series of guest speakers, some of whom are drawn from the region's large pool of experts in a range of disciplines, including permaculture and regenerative design. Using Skype, the Internet communication service, there are also interactive sessions with experts working on a range of environmental issues in Bangladesh, Ireland and elsewhere around the globe.

'Sense of urgency'

Originally conceived as a graduate program for students from other fields — it still attracts welders, social workers and other people transitioning to new careers — The Conway School has trained landscape architects, but also environmental planners, land-trust conservationists and people working in other environmental fields, like the Conway-based "Learning By the Yard" school-grounds consulting firm.

The Conway School has graduates in 45 states and 13 countries, says Babize, but there's also a strong concentration in this area. Abrahm Dresdale, for example, heads Greenfield Community College's new "Farm and Food Systems" program, while Mary Praus, a regional land-use planner at the Franklin Regional COG, is working on a sustainability master plan for the region. And then there are Ashfield farmers Kate Kerivan and Amy Klippenstein, and Conte Wildlife Refuge's invasive species control coordinator, Cynthia Boettner.

While focusing on whatever plot of land they're given to work on in their projects, Hellmund says, The Conway School's students over the years have a larger "sense of urgency" about the problems the entire globe is facing — from deforestation to degradation of soils and warming of the planet.

Starting with Cudnohufsky's radical premise — that "since the world is the best teacher," the school should be about getting people started and giving them enough groundwork so they can learn on the job, Hellmund sees the school as well tuned into the changing environment.

"We're training people not by giving them all the answers, but by telling them, 'It's going to change, next year's going to be different, and in 10 years it's going to be different still. But if you understand that this is a system, then you're going to learn how to be effective,'" Hellmund says. "That's what's needed now, more and more and more. That's what we hope we're preparing students to do."

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