CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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APRIL 1999

Big Budget Boggles Board

The good news is that the Board of Selectmen's budget for the coming fiscal year looks great, with a probable increase of about 2 percent. The Board of Education's budget bears the bad news: a requested increase of 8.9 percent.

At meetings on March 11 and 18, the Board of Finance tussled with various projected numbers for the schools. The teacher salary line in the CCS budget—the town's largest single expense—is up to \$716,871, a 7 percent increase reflecting contractual pay raises and added teacher time for music and physical education. But that's less than half the percentage increase coming from the high school. The town will have to pay for four more HVRHS pupils next year (43 to 47), raising our share of an already increased high school budget from 7.8 to 8.6 percent.

This amounts to another \$70,000 for the high school. It's hardly a consolation that this high school increase is expected at least to double in the following (2000–2001) school year. Education Chairman Katherine Gannett was forthright in warning the Board of Finance that year after next, Cornwall could be paying for an additional ten students at HVRHS. At about \$12,000 per, that's an added \$120,000.

At the end of its March 18 meeting, the Finance Board voted to ask the Board of Edu-

cation to remove at least \$30,000 from its proposed budget, which would lower the increase to 7.6 percent. Both boards agreed that perhaps \$20,000 of the reductions could be moved into this year's budget, which shows a projected surplus.

The Board of Finance will meet on April 1 and 15 to prepare a final budget for presentation at a public hearing on April 23. The final step in the process is a town meeting to vote on the budget on May 21.

—Bob Potter

What Goes Around

For the village of West Cornwall, the brightest counterpoint to the sad closing of Hedgerows Market on March 14 (see Letters) is the imminent opening of the new Station House restaurant in the former Cadwell's Corner. Partners Debbie Laigle and Peggy McEnroe (who have worked together for years at the Millerton Deli), are hoping to fire up the grill on April 7, following months of work installing new fixtures, flooring, and bathrooms, along with painting and procuring firehouse decorations.

The two entrepreneurs intend to be open six days a week (all but Tuesday), starting at 6 A.M., for breakfast and lunch, with dinner provided Thursday through Saturday. The former bakery will function as a take-out section for hot and cold meals, salads, and des-

serts, while the main restaurant will feature numerous new touches, including a tripartite

American (hamburgers!), vegetarian, and Mexican menu; a long, sidle-up breakfast counter; and a beer and wine license, anticipated sometime in May.

With the troubling failure of several prominent businesses in West Cornwall, many residents have expressed concerns for the village's commercial viability. But Ian Ingersoll is one entrepreneur who suggests that a larger perspective is in order.

"There was a point in the mid 1980s when there was sagebrush blowing through West Cornwall, and people said it was dying. But it came back, and it's about to come back again. The Station House is going to have a positive effect on everything, and the renovation of the Covered Bridge will attract lots of media coverage, drawing all kinds of people back to the village," he predicted.

Ian added that from a retail perspective, business in West Cornwall is doing fine, pointing among other things to Cafe Lally with its first-rate vegetarian menu, Michael Trapp's and Dave Mason's antique dealerships, the flourishing of Harold McMillan's fly fisherman's shop, and an ever growing demand for a certain style of furniture.

Bianca Griggs also said that there has been a steady, if gradual, increase in business (continued on page 2)

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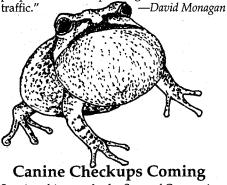
APKIL 1999(continued on pug						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
ð				1 PASSOVER National Iron Bank Paintings by Nona Coffill through April (p.3) Bd. of Finance 7:30 P.M. CCS Library (p.1)	2 GOOD FRIDAY	Bake Sale, Benefit Extras for Kids 9 to Noon, Baird's and Hedgerows Easter Egg Hunt 10:30 A.M. CCS (p.4)
4 EASTER DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS 6:30 A.M. SUNTISE SERVICE 6 REXFORD ROAD	Cornwall Library Art Show Paintings by Helen Migliacci through 5/8 (p.3) Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	6 Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.3) Public Hearing on ADA Grant 7:30 P.M. Town Hall (p.2) Inland Wetlands Comm. 8 P.M. Town Hall*	7 Cornwall Play Group 7 10 a.m. St. Peter's Church Stretch Exercise 5 to 6:15 p.m. Town Hall Parent Support Group 6 to 8 p.m. UCC Parish House (p.4) Cub Scout Parents Meeting 7 p.m. UCC Day Room	Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.3) Cornwall Housing Corp. 4:30 P.M. Kugeman Village Cornwall Library Trustees 4:30 P.M. Library Story Theater 7 P.M. CCS (p.4) Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	Story Theater 7 P.M. CCS (p.4)	10 Shaker Tape Basket Class 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. CCS Art Room (p.4) Artists Known and New, Habitat Benefit 4 to 7 P.M. Kent (p.4) Deadline for Reservations for The Importance of Being Earnest (p.4)
11 Robert Andrew Parker Talk and Slides 4 p.m. Library (p.4)	Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.3) P&Z 8 p.m. Town Hall	Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Republican Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS	14 Kindergarten Registration CCS (p.3) Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Church Senior Club Talk on Arthritis 2 P.M. Town Hall (p.4) Stretch Exercise 5 to 6:15 P.M. Town Hall	15 Deadline for May Chronicle Copy Board of Education 5 p.m. CCS Library Board of Finance 7:30 p.m. CCS Lib. (p.1)	16 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	17 Fishing Season Opens VFW Breakfast 6 to 10 A.M. (p.4) Gymnastics Classes 10 to 11 A.M. and 11 A.M. to Noon Goshen School (p.4) Cornwall Assn. 4 P.M. Town Hall
18	No School Spring Recess Until April 26	Bd. of Selectmen 9 A.M. Town Hall	Parent Support Group 6 to 8 P.M. UCC Parish House (p.4) Stretch Exercise 5 to 6:15 P.M. Town Hall	22 Cornwall Library Trustees 4:30 p.m. Library Green Party 7:30 p.m. Town Hall	23 Public Hearing on Budget 8 P.M. CCS Gym (p.1)	Gymnastics Classes 10 to 11 a.m. and 11 a.m. to Noon Goshen School (p.4)
25 Spring Hike to Tarradiddle Mtn. 2 p.m. (p.4)	26 School Opens After Spring Recess ZBA 8 P.M. Town Office *	27	28 Cornwall Play Group 10 A.M. St. Peter's Church CCS 1 P.M. Dismissal for Teacher Conferences	29 CCS 1 P.M. Dismissal for Teacher Conferences	30 Preschooler Story Hour 10 A.M. Cornwall Library	Note: May 1 - Spring Bird Walk 7 a.m. (p.4) - Songs of the Spirit Concert 5 p.m. UCC (p.4) May 2 - Cornwall Child Center Auction, Mohawk Lodge (p.3)

(continued from page 1)

for her Wish House, once she figured out that relying on the village's fickle tourist trade was fraught with peril. Persistence and catering closely to the desires of a carefully observed local and regional customer base were the only magic answers she could advise for businesses seeking a toehold in the tight confines beside the Housatonic.

Laigle and McEnroe appear to be hewing to that wisdom—trying to determine which of Hedgerows' services they should take on (newspapers? deli meats? milk?), while making it known they want to hear from their customers.

Dave Cadwell, who knows a thing or two about the local market, says, "There's certainly a pent-up demand. People are real hungry to have the place back open. Goodness knows, that location speaks for itself. This will hopefully be the match to light the fire in the village, so that before you know it people will be complaining about too much



Starting this month, the State of Connecticut plans to get tough about enforcing dog licensing rules. According to Rick Stone, Cornwall's animal control officer, he and his assistant, Brad Hedden, will be required to go door to door starting April 16, checking that all the town's dogs are licensed, and even more important, have up-to-date rabies shots. Noncompliance can result in a hefty fine—\$121.

The state's concern about rabies is fueled by the cyclical pattern of rabies epidemics. Four years ago the Northwest Corner had a major epidemic that wiped out 92 percent of its raccoon population, and another wave of rabies could sweep up from the south where rabies is widespread.

Although last year 412 dogs were duly licensed and checked for rabies vaccinations at the Town Clerk's Office, a third more than the year before, there are some people who still don't comply with the dog registration and immunization regulations, Rick says. What's more, he reports that there has been "a bad problem with people dumping dogs" lately, simply abandoning their pets. He said he recently found a dog which had been left in the woods with a can of dog food and a note attached to its collar saying, "I have no home, please help me."

Although last year Rick had to shoot two raccoons that he correctly judged to be rabid, he is most reluctant to destroy an animal; usually when he gets a call from someone alarmed or bothered by a raccoon, opossum,

porcupine, or skunk, he will simply relocate the animal to the state forest. He uses a "rabies loop"—an adjustable loop on the end of an aluminum pole—to catch and examine an animal. Asked how that works with a skunk, Rick says that while he is looking into the skunk's eyes to see if the animal appears healthy, he simply holds its tail down with his other hand. Hmmm...

—Barbara Klaw

Petitions and Permits

P&Z met on March 8 and dealt with the wide variety of matters that make such evenings always interesting. In addition to dealing with permits for an accessory apartment, driveways, a directional sign for a church, and an application for a home office, a ninemonth extension was granted to the FSB Associates for gravel excavation with no change in the date of final restoration, April 1, 2000. Instead of waiting until all the gravel has been excavated, restoration has been done section by section, resulting in less excavation in the time originally allotted. After two letters of support from neighbors and favorable reports from the board on the work already done, the petition was granted.

Two petitions were denied: one to change the regulation requiring a 50 foot set-back in a five-acre zone for a one- or two-car garage and one to exclude correctional and certain other institutional facilities in the Cornwall Plains Zone. Scott Cady and Don Bardot (for Nicholas Bruehl *et al.*) spoke in support of the latter zoning restriction, and in a letter the first selectman suggested that the restriction be town wide. Because of problems with the wording pointed out by town planner Tom McGowan, the board decided to deny the petition and to work on writing new regulations to achieve the same purpose. —Anne Baren

Exploring Senior Housing

At its March meeting the Cornwall Housing Corporation launched a new effort to provide senior housing in Cornwall. This effort seeks to increase the local options for seniors who may need smaller or more affordable housing without leaving the community that has been their home, sometimes their lifelong home.

In the coming weeks the corporation will be assessing the extent of Cornwall's needs, types of housing ranging from independent to assisted living, sources of funding, and feasible sites. Development of a Cornwall senior center will also be considered in cooperation with other interested groups and individuals.

The need for senior housing has been recognized for many years, dating back to the 1970s when the old Rumsey Hall School building was the focus of an earlier effort.

CHC remains committed to providing a wide range of housing options for Cornwall's diverse population. Kugeman Village, presently fully occupied, contains eighteen units of rental housing with one-, two-, and three-bedroom units. Home ownership is reachable for many through the "parcel program." CHC's last two available sites will be leased shortly and the search for

more parcels will continue.

For more information about Kugeman Village call 672-4439 and for the parcel program contact Ken Keskinen, 672-6486, or Peter Hammond, 672-6840.



Alea Morgan to Hilary and Ronald Laigle, Jr.

Good-bye to Friends

Kenneth MacLean, Sr. Alice Emma Wheeler

Land Transfers

Ethel Gallucci to R. Drew and Carol S. Ohmen, 1.5 acres at Kent and Warren Hill Roads for \$11,000.

L. & B. Consultants (USA) Inc., to William J. and Susan C. Zekas, 3 acres, Lot 4A, on Reed Brook Road for \$55,000.

Mastery Tests: Mixed Results

The 1998–99 Connecticut Mastery Test results show that despite some weak spots, CCS scored among the top 25 percent of Connecticut public schools.

Fourth graders show the greatest spread, breezing through the reading test with 96 percent scoring "at or above state goal," while only 29 percent attained that goal in writing—the lowest score in Region One. Only 53 percent of sixth graders and 69 percent of eight graders met state goals in that category, prompting Principal Bill Oros' development of a "writing improvement plan."

On the brighter side, he notes that math and reading scores are moving back towards pre-1995 (i.e., pre-population boom) levels, with reading scores being especially high. Math results were 68 percent, 82 percent, and 81 percent, respectively, for fourth, sixth, and eighth graders.

—Jamie Monagan

Library Grant No. 2?

A public hearing called by the Board of Selectmen will be held in Town Hall on Tuesday, April 6, at 7:30 p.m. to discuss a proposed application for a Small Cities grant to pay for most of those elements of the new Cornwall Library needed to meet the handicapped accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

While no precise cost estimate has yet been made, Library President Lisa Lansing Simont says that she expects the application will request between \$75,000 and \$100,000 from the State Department of Economic and Community Development, the agency that administers the Small Cities program. Typical items that would be paid for by the grant include handicapped-accessible bathrooms, easy-opening doors, wider aisles between bookshelves and special furniture that is

easier for people in wheelchairs to use.

Funding for the Small Cities program comes from the U.S. Department of Housing and Community Development. Sharon, for example, got such a grant to pay for making its reconstructed Town Hall fully handicapped accessible.

The grant application must be submitted by May 3 of this year, and grant awards will

be announced in August.

–David A. Grossman

Events & Announcements

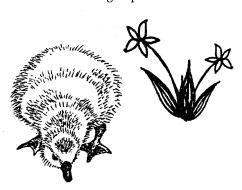
CCS Kindergarten Registration for the 1999–2000 school year will be held on April 6, 8, 12, and 14. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 1999, is eligible. Parents should call the school office at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Wadhams, the kindergarten teacher. Parents need to bring their child's birth certificate with them.

Eighth Annual Benefit Auction of the Cornwall Child Center will take place at Mohawk Mountain Ski Lodge on Sunday, May 2. Come and bid on 200 items including goods and services from area businesses, art work, theater tickets, restaurant meals, and use of New York apartments and an ocean-side home in Ireland.

The silent auction begins at 1:30 P.M. and the live auction at 3 P.M. under the gavel of our fine auctioneer Dave Cadwell. Admission is \$5 which includes delectable hors d'oeuvres and beverages. It's a great time for a good cause. For more information call 672-6880 or 672-4815.

The Fire Alarm Ordinance that was approved at the February town meeting went into effect on March 13. A permit to put in a fire alarm system must be obtained from the building inspector, Bill Jenks. A permit for existing fire alarms systems must also be obtained to continue operation under the ordinance. The building inspector's office is at Northwest Lumber (672-0711).

Art in Cornwall: At the National Iron Bank Nona Coffill will be exhibiting paintings during the month of April. Nancy Calhoun's show of watercolors continues at the Cornwall Library until April 3, followed by Helen Migliacci's oil paintings until May 8. At the Wish House, Nicholas Jacobs' photographs will continue through April.





Letters to the Chronicle



REFLECTING ON HEDGEROWS

Closing Hedgerows Market was like saying good-bye to a dear friend or losing a childhood dream. Only yesterday, combining a quality market with a sit-down restaurant had seemed like a surefire answer to Cornwall's needs. Moreover, we'd hoped our organic Angus beef and other town-grown produce and selected products would be widely appealing to locals and tourists alike. The business plan seemed sound.

Unfortunately, in the two years Hedgerows was open, we gained enough know-how on what not to do in a small business to last a lifetime—at perhaps less cost (we console ourselves) than an MBA. Some of our fondest theories did not quite match the reality of the West Cornwall market, and our financial obligations came down fast and furious.

We now measure the "success" of Hedgerows not in financial terms, but in the good memories it produced, friends otherwise never met, and the acceleration of our personal transition from casual weekenders to full-fledged town residents. We've found our roots!

Hedgerows will surely move on to a new life, but it is also important that Cornwall understand it too has lost something and perhaps learn from our mistakes. A successful "general store" surely contributes to the quality of our community life.

The entrepreneurial risk-takers in our town need to be nurtured and encouraged. The Cafe Lally and new Station House can only thrive (especially through the long winters) if we collectively help them succeed, and are thereby able to retain their services.

To all of you who supported Hedgerows Market, we are sorry for this loss and appreciate your friendship and patronage. Let's hope a new enterprise will take its place for our collective enjoyment, and the realization of a new owner's dreams.

—Dan and Kathy Cain

RESCUE SQUAD'S TLC

A note of sincere thanks to the Emergency Medical Team of Cornwall who responded when my son Alexander cut his thumb to the bone on March 5. Thank you, John Squires, who arrived within two minutes at the most. Thank you, Phill West, who was the second to arrive (and whom I haven't really seen since grammar school) and who took the time to put Alex at ease by asking him the names of his Teletubbies.

Lastly, a thank you to the three other men who responded. I was not fortunate enough to obtain your names but you know who you are. Together you made a very scary experience more bearable for my son and myself.

—Kelly Williams Aakjar

AN ENDURING LEGACY

As Hedgerows Market closes, I thought it important to take the moment to thank Dan and Kathy Cain for the effort that they have extended during the past years.

Their labors to keep the market open are appreciated by those of us who live and work in West Cornwall. And though the market may be closed (we hope only temporarily), the renovation of the building leaves a lasting testimony of their good will toward the village. The "old grocery store" is an important piece of architecture in West Cornwall that had suffered decades of neglect and needed to be extensively renovated. The Cains successfully undertook this effort and, in doing so, helped preserve an important piece of our village, both for us and for future generations. For this, we will always be thankful.

—Ian Ingersoll

RINK REPORT

With the meltdown of spring, the organizers of the new skating rink wish to extend a wide circle of thanks for the community's support: to the 32 contributors of just over \$1,500 (including \$200 from Park and Rec.); to the five local businesses that volunteered labor or materials; to contributors of roughly 550 hours of organization, construction, and maintenance time; and in particular to Rick and Howard Stone (and supporting cast) for their magnificent contribution of five days of labor and materials to let there be lights. Also, to the Fire Department for their help and forebearance, and Gordon Ridgway for his critical support.

Despite the fickle winter, an estimated 150 people (predominantly kids) hit the ice for perhaps a couple of thousand blade hours, innumerable wild hockey scrimmages, and nice learn-to-skate times with parents and young children. With expenses running at around \$1,300, approximately \$200 should remain in the till until next December, when we hope to construct an expanded rink, roughly 30 percent larger than this year's 95 x 48 foot skating surface.

—The Cornwall Rink Committee

PAINTED ROCK MYSTERY

What happened to the bright green and yellow spotted rock snake head on Kent Road in Cornwall Bridge? At first, I thought someone had managed to steal his bright red tongue, but after several passes in the car, it looks as if a wet, freezing winter has shattered the lower half of the head. Does anyone know what happened? Can he be restored? Will a Good Samaritan come to the rescue? —Anne Baren

A Spring Hike, starting at 2 р.м. on Sunday, April 25, will be led by shank's mare advocate Carla Bigelow to the old cairn and along the summit of Tarradiddle Mountain. There are views through the still leafless trees of the ski slopes at Mohawk, Cherry

Hill Road, and the Housatonic River valley. Wear sturdy shoes or boots. For more information, call Carla at 672-0283.

A Shaker Tape Tote Basket class led by Jill Gibbons on Saturday, April 10, 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. will be held in the CCS art room. Materials fee \$20. Call Jill, 672-0033, for information.

Easy Home Composting Bins are being sold by the state for \$10 (an \$80 value). The goal is to reduce trucked waste by up to 30 percent, trimming high tipping fees. Call Town Hall (672-4959) and be paid up by April 8. Pick up day is April 24, 9 A.M. to 4 P.M. at HVRHS. A sample bin is displayed at the

town transfer station. Instructions for turning table scraps, etc., into rich garden mulch are included.

Easter Egg Hunt for preschool through fourth grade on Saturday, April 3, from 10:30 A.M. to noon at CCS. Magician Jerry Hornak will once again perform before the hunt.

Don't forget your baskets!

All Aboard for Earnest: Join a bus trip to see The Importance of Being Earnest, Oscar Wilde's hilarious drawing room comedy, at the Long Wharf Theater in New Haven on Sunday, May 16. Our group rate is a steal at only \$15 per ticket (regularly \$40), plus a minimal bus fare based on numbers attending. The bus will leave CCS at noon. Call Jamie Monagan (672-4815) by Saturday, April 10, for reservations.

Arthritis will be the topic of a discussion sponsored by the Senior Club on Wednesday, April 14, at 2 P.M. at the Town Hall. Jill Maeder, a physical therapist at Sharon Hospital, will discuss who gets arthritis, the symptoms, and treatment. Light refreshments will be served.

Internet, Part 2

There was a small typo in the address here last month for "A Schoolgirl in Cornwall." The second "School" should have had an initial cap, i.e., http://www.ultranet.com/ ~harts/family/olivers/school/ School97.html. Phil Hart tells us that the website was created by his cousin Richard, the grandson of the diarist. And, by the way, please keep those checks coming.

☐ Please mail the *Chronicle* to the out-of-town address above; a \$10 contribution will be appreciated.

Cornwall Artists Help Habitat: Wooden frames decorated by Judith Belzer, Jane Bevans, Don Bracken, Peter Busby, David Colbert, Biffy Estabrook, Kate Freygang, Michael Gellatly, Danielle Mailer, Harvey Offenhartz, Treasa Pattison, and Tim Prentice are included in the third Artists Known and New benefit auction for Habitat for Humanity, to be held on Saturday, April 10, from 4 to 7 P.M. at the Paris-New York-Kent Gallery in Kent. There will be music by Ram Miles and food and wine from area restaurants. Admission is \$10 at the door, with all proceeds being shared by the two local Habitat affiliates, which have built eight houses to date (one in Cornwall) and have two more about to start. For information call Paul Baren, 672-6637.

Summer Employment: Hammond Beach is looking for lifeguards and a swimming instructor. Competitive wages plus paid rain days. Red Cross Lifeguard, First Aid, and C.P.R. certification required. For information call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

Beth Samuels in Concert: All are invited to hear Beth, accompanied by Anne Chamberlain, sing her favorite Songs of the Spirit in a free concert sponsored by the United Church of Christ on Saturday, May 1, at 5 P.M. at UCC. A pot-luck supper in the Parish House will follow. Please bring a main dish, salad, or dessert to share. Beverages, utensils, and paper plates will be provided.

Children are welcome. Parents wishing child care for very young children during the concert are asked to call the church office at 672-6840 before April 25.

Application Forms for Woman's Society scholarships are available to any Cornwall senior graduating from public or private high school. Forms may be picked up at the HVRHS guidance office or from Thalia Scoville at 672-6288. Deadline for returns is May 1.

Pre-Fishing Feast: The VFW will mark the opening of fishing season with its annual breakfast on Saturday, April 17, from 6 until 10 A.M. at the VFW Hall in Cornwall Bridge. Enjoy all the eggs, coffee, and fixings you can eat (\$5 adults, \$3 children), while fattening the VFW scholarship fund. Call 672-0196 for information.

Spring Bird Walk on Saturday morning, May 1, will be led by Art Gingert, birder and photographer/naturalist. Meet at 7 A.M. at the North Cornwall Meeting House and return around 9 A.M. Bring binoculars, waterproof hiking boots, and energy. Beginning birders are definitely welcome. Call 672-0283 to reserve a place.

Congratulations to Brittany Zuckerman, an eighth-grade student at CCS, for winning first place (Best in Show) in the Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards. Her sculpture of 20 clay pears will be part of an upcoming national competition among artists in grades seven through twelve.

A Parent Support Group for parents of three- to five-year-old children meets every other Wednesday (this month, April 7 and 21), from 6 to 8 P.M. at the UCC Parish House. For information call the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau, 842-4720.

Artist Robert Andrew Parker will show slides and talk about his work and travels on Sunday, April 11, at 4 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Refreshments. Presented by the Friends of the Library.



Gymnastics Classes for children pre-K to sixth grade will meet for six consecutive Saturday mornings, beginning on April 17. Classes will be from 10 to 11 A.M. and from 11 A.м. to noon at the Goshen Elementary School. Fee, \$27. To register call Sharon Sawicki, 672-2975.

Story Theater, a collection of classic fairy tales and fables with modern music and dance, will be performed by CCS upper grade students on Thursday, April 8, and Friday, April 9, at 7 р.м. in the gym. Tickets (\$4) are on sale in the school office.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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