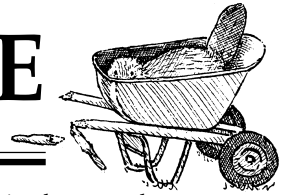




CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 15 : NUMBER 3 APRIL 2005



Hunt's Second Round

More than 150 Cornwall friends of Hunt Williams filed into the Litchfield County Courthouse at his arraignment on March 11. Since the assigned courtroom accommodates no more than 100 people, the overflow attendees were unfortunately relegated to a downstairs room without a sound system. (They stayed on, anyway.) To say at this point that Hunt has taken on the dimensions of a folk hero may not be an overstatement.

To recap the events leading up to this arraignment: On June 11, 2004, Hunt Williams, on his care-giving shift for his dying and nearly helpless friend John Welles, was advised by John that this would be the day and the hour that he intended to take his own life. (John had freely expressed that intention to several others during his final days.) He then asked Hunt to help him prepare to carry out his intentions, which Hunt did before starting his trip up the long driveway. The legal consequences apparently did not enter the mind of either man. In fact, Hunt himself summoned the police to the scene with a 911 call after the suicide took place. Six months later, Hunt was charged with second-degree manslaughter.

The immediate outcome of the March 11 arraignment, once the presiding judge had been assured of Hunt's previously clean

record, was that Hunt's lawyer, J. Michael Sconyers, will be allowed to file an application for accelerated rehabilitation. The prosecuting attorney is charged to file his brief, as well, prior to Hunt's next court appearance. If Sconyers' application is looked on favorably by the judge, Hunt will not go to jail and, in time, his record will be wiped clean.

Much rests on the respective interpretations of the words "assist" and "cause," i.e., is Hunt seen to have caused John's death, or rather did he assist him in suicide? Or, alternatively, did he simply empower his otherwise incapacitated friend to make his own choice? And while the answer may seem obvious to those who know Hunt and are aware of his integrity and sense of compassion, the issue of creating a precedent is expected to be a major factor in how an impartial court looks at the case. Concurrently, State Senator Andrew Roraback is introducing a bill that is intended to afford the courts more leeway in deciding degrees of culpability when one party is involved in any way in another's suicide. However, the legislature is holding off on passing any legislation until after the judge's ruling on the application for accelerated rehabilitation.

Hunt's next court appearance is scheduled for April 7, which will allow the judge time to study the two briefs. In the mean-

time, strong interest in the case shows no sign of weakening. Indeed, the dramatic nature of the story, along with its extensive legal implications, is capturing an ever-widening national audience as the case progresses—TV cameras and all.

For up-to-date information, call the First Selectman's Office at 672-4959.

—Ken Keskinen, Scoville Soulé

Mettle Detector

The security system at the Superior Court in Litchfield suffered a major meltdown on the morning of March 11. Perhaps it was registering the steely determination of the Cornwallians who braved roads slick from a morning snowfall to show their solidarity with Hunt Williams. Maybe it was reacting to their iron resolve to show the court their conviction that steadfastness to a friend is no crime. Whatever the cause, the contraption beeped frantically at each and every empty-pocketed soul who sidled through its arch, forcing the harassed security staff to fall back on their old-fashioned wands.

The ancient, austere, second-floor courtroom, decked with somber portraits of yesteryear's judges, was packed like a rock concert, and fully half the arrivals had to be accommodated downstairs in the jurors' waiting room, where they received periodic reports on the proceedings from a

(continued on page 2)

APRIL 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Mondays: Teen/Adult Basketball, 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym; Jam Session , 7:30 P.M. UCC Sanctuary Tuesdays: Blue Mountain Satsang, 6:30 P.M. UCC Day Room; Teen/Adult Volleyball , 7-9 P.M. CCS Gym Wednesdays: Play Group, 10-11:30 A.M. Playscape/UCC; Stretch Class , 5:30 P.M. Town Hall; Thursdays: Meditation for Mothers, 1:15 P.M. UCC Day Room Saturdays: Chess Club, 10-11:30 A.M. Library					1	2 Cornwall Association 9 A.M. Library Talk by Richard O'Connor 3 P.M. Library †
3 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS Art Opening Reception 4-6 P.M. Library †	4 Agricultural Comm. 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Park & Rec. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	5 Inland Wetlands* 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	6	7 Kindergarten Registration †	8 Kindergarten Registration †	9 American Girl Club Noon-1:30 P.M. Library
10 Installation of Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller 4 P.M. UCC †	11 Blood Pressure Screening 3-4 P.M. UCC Parish House ABC Meeting 5:30 P.M. Town Hall †	12 P&Z 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 P.M. CCS Library	13 Tai Chi for Beginners 7:30-8:30 P.M. CCS Gym †	14 Teenage Substance Abuse Prevention Meeting 7 P.M. CCS Gathering Room †	15 TAX DAY Deadline: May Chronicle Copy Kindergarten Registration †	16 Family Peace Bowl-Making Workshop 1-3 P.M. † Bel Canto with John Zinsser 4 P.M. Library † Art Opening Reception 5-7 P.M. Outsiders Gallery †
17 Family Peace Bowl Firing 1-3 P.M. †	18 Region One Bd. of Ed. 7 P.M. HVRHS Democratic Town Comm. 7:30 P.M. Library	19 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences Bd. of Selectmen 7:30 P.M. Town Hall	20 CCS Early Dismissal 1 P.M. Parent-Teacher Conferences Tai Chi for Beginners 7:30-8:30 P.M. CCS Gym †	21 Bd. of Ed. 5 P.M. CCS Lib. Bd. of Fin. 7:30 P.M. CCS Lib. VFW Post 9856 8 P.M. W. C. Firehouse	22 EARTH DAY Budget Hearing 7:30 P.M. CCS Gathering Room Child Center Auction Deadline (See Insert) Region One Arts Fund Scholarship Deadline †	23 Art at the Dump 10 A.M.-4 P.M. (See Insert) Focus on Torrington Forum 4 P.M. Town Hall † Art Opening Reception 4-6 P.M. Wish House †
24 PASSOVER	25 CCS Spring Break Begins ZBA 7:30 P.M. Town Hall*	26	27 Bend and Stretch 9:30-10:30 A.M. UCC † Green Party 7:30 P.M. Town Hall Cornwall Vol. Fire Dept. 7:30 P.M. W. C. Firehouse Tai Chi for Beginners 7:30-8:30 P.M. CCS Gym †	28	29 ARBOR DAY	30

* Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

† Details in Events and Announcements

(continued from page 1)

sympathetic, pistol-toting guard.

Black-robed Judge Robert Brunetti, looking more like a genial parish priest than a stern Hammurabi, quipped, "Now you see why we need to build a bigger courthouse." Even the jurors' box at his left was used for add-on seating. I had to keep reminding myself that, sadly, the sea of familiar Cornwall faces peering from the jury's benches would decide no one's fate on that day.

To speed relief of the crunch, Hunt's case was nudged to the number-one spot on the docket, and motion followed motion at dizzying speed. Despite their numbers, our townsfolk managed to maintain a respectful hush until the judge, with an apologetic grin, posed to the septuagenarian defendant the obligatory question: "During the past five years have you been released under any probation program for juveniles?" The outburst of laughter was audible on the floor below.

—Matt Collins



Cornwall's Inventors Shine

There was something special in the air at Cornwall Consolidated School on the morning of March 3. Finally, the Invention Convention had arrived—the culmination of months of work by fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-graders. Nine judges were on hand, selected for the occasion by science teacher Kathy West, to evaluate student inventions for "originality, practicality, and presentation."

The idea was for students to come up with solutions to problems that exist in their lives. You know, things like dealing with annoying siblings, sleepwalking, separating battling family dogs and cats, more efficient ways to make your bed.

The idea was to use items mostly from around the house. Students were responsible for documenting their "procedures and progress." Then, armed with photos, log books, and working models, they constructed their displays and prepared their oral presentations for the judges. There were about 60 inventions, and the judges selected the top three projects in each grade.

Here, then, were the results: in the fifth grade, Elizabeth Ridgway won with her Ridgway Rebounder, a contraption that returns soccer balls when someone is practicing solo; second place went to Dan Hedden and his ATV ladder rack; and third place to Laurel Woodruff for her gizmo to remove hair from a hairbrush.

In the sixth grade, Camilla Busby won with an elegant design for drying recycled

Ziploc bags; second place went to Meghan Brown for flavored tongue depressors (to make doctor visits more enjoyable); and third place to Anouchka Sofia for a system using an automatic water curtain for keeping her cat away from her Chihuahua puppies.

In the seventh grade, first place went to Jon Hurlburt for sneakers that grip ice using retractable spikes; second place went to Sabina Busby for her version of a Busby Bag Dryer; and third place to Jessica Hurlburt for her heated steering wheel cover.

Will any of these projects be found soon on the shelves of Northwest Lumber? Unlikely, but we can tell you that the two top winners in each class go on to the next round of competition at the state level at the University of Connecticut at Storrs.

—Phill West, James LaPorta

Ambulance Update

Delivery of the new ambulance is now expected in late April, and the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department plans to show it off at the Memorial Day parade. The new rig—a Ford Type III van-style vehicle—will be fire-engine red with gold lettering. It is the same size as the old white-and-blue ambulance but with more headroom because of its cab-over-engine body. Carefully chosen features include windows in the passenger compartment, which will allow the EMTs to know their location. The compartment is quieter, too, which makes it easier to monitor patients.

The ambulance will have a captain's chair with a built-in infant seat, an up-to-date gurney or stretcher, and a non-invasive blood pressure cuff that can be used over a patient's clothing. My scouts tell me it will have more storage space than the retiring vehicle, which, for the record, traveled over 43,000 miles and transported about 1,500 patients during its ten years in the West Cornwall Firehouse. It will likely either be traded in to the dealer or sold to another fire department.

—Dave Cadwell

The Iceman Stayeth

Unseasonable cold continues to dog Cornwall as of this writing. The weather bureau tells us that as of March 12, Connecticut is 24 degree-days down from last year and 50 down from normal. The frigid temperatures seem to have cooled the ardor of the more faint-hearted skiers, according to Mohawk Ski Area's president, Carol Lugar. "On a scale of one to ten, this year has been around a five," she estimated, "although March has seen a slight improvement."

The thermometer may be down, but insurance, wages, and power are up, making the business climate as uninviting as its meteorological namesake, according to Lugar. "Connecticut is a very expensive state to do business in."

After a light start, winter woes have plagued the town as well, laments First Selectman Gordon Ridgway. The snow-removal budget was \$43,000, but currently the town has exceeded that figure by \$7,000, with more snows likely. The contingency fund may have to be used to cover the over-

run. The town has also applied for a \$10,000 grant from the federal government, the Bush administration having declared one of our storms eligible for such aid.

In their battle with ice, highway foreman Don Reid and his road crew have spread 250 tons of salt and about eight times that amount of sand. With the sharp rise in the price of salt, the first selectman is meeting with marketing representatives of firms that produce alternative melting products, including a spray that is a byproduct of alcohol distillation. Two varieties are available, and both are reputed to have superior melting properties to salt. The less expensive solution, however, exudes a strong "vodka-like" smell. ("Honest, officer, it's not me... It's the road.")

—Matt Collins

Welcome

Anastasia Alexia to Alexander and Anna Kotchoube

Good-bye to Friends

Albert Clark

Lydia H. Wolf

Land Transfers

Hugh S. Barnett and Francisco Alves to Charles D. and Amy Carron Day, house and 16.6 acres at 186 Great Hollow Road for \$650,000.

Edward Baumgarten to Leo V. Loughead III and Angelina L. Reed, house and land at 77 Pierce Lane for \$525,000.

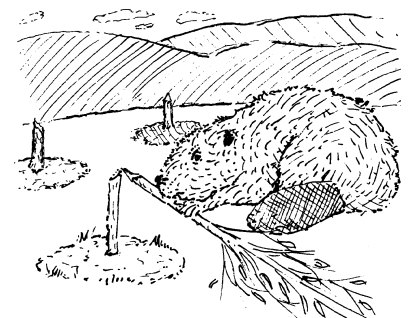
Frances Lanese to Adrian and Margaret N. Selby, 13.067 acres on Whitcomb Hill Road for \$175,000.

Unhealthy Insurance Costs

Nothing has caused more woe in the past few years among employers than the apparently uncontrollable increases in health insurance costs spurred in part by equally uncontrollable medical costs. The trend is national, and public-sector employers like the Town of Cornwall and the school have suffered as well.

The town budget now working its way through the approval process proposes \$108,200 to fully cover nine employees. Five years ago, in 2000–2001, the bill was \$36,425 to cover five people. The last three years have shown the sharpest rise. For example, the cost of a family policy (medical, dental, and prescriptions included) has increased 32 percent.

The town and the school are part of a larger pool organized by Region One. The reasoning behind combining the 40 or so separate coverage groups in six towns into one group was to take advantage of what were then lower costs. Sam Herrick, business manager of Region One, has been a leader in struggling with these



cost increases. Lately he has enlisted the support of finance boards and selectmen to get more muscle behind the region's objections to endlessly upward health premium trends. Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield has held the region's contract for over ten years. Representatives of the insurer have argued in meetings with Region One that they are helpless in the face of national trends.

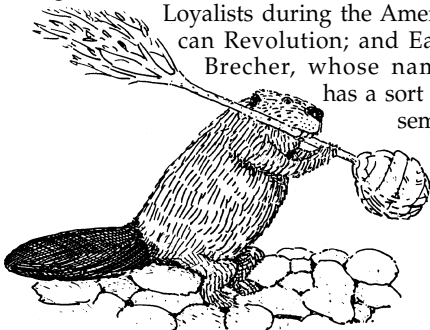
Are there alternatives? Indeed there are, but some are far less palatable than others and would not be acceptable under current union contracts. Some local businesses cover only the employee, who must pay to add dependents to the policy. Other plans include higher deductibles and co-pays, such as \$250 for hospital admission. Even more different are plans that are essentially self-insured, although evidence suggests that this is highly risky for public entities.

When will the merry-go-round stop? Since employers cannot continue to pay 10-to-20-percent increases each year, a crisis is looming. Whether or not the federal government is ideologically or temperamentally prepared to offer a nationally based solution is anybody's guess. Cornwall's boards continue to engage the problem.

—Lisa Lansing Simont

Royal Visit

The *Chronicle* has learned that Cornwall will be visited later this month by the very-soon-to-be bride of England's Prince Charles. In fact they are both coming for one day as part of their week-long visit/honeymoon to the U.S. Why Cornwall? Well, it seems that Camilla Parker Bowles will be given the title of Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall, and thus Cornwall, CT, was added to their vacation itinerary as a sort of lark. While here, they will be guests of John and Julia Scott of The Mill House on Cream Hill Road. Mrs. Scott wasn't certain of local activities for the couple, but she thought probably a visit to Cornwall Consolidated School and a private luncheon at The Wandering Moose, where the royal guests will dine on fish and chips, reportedly a palace favorite of His Majesty. She also thought the Prince might like to see Gordon and Jayne Ridgway's organic farm during the planting season. Spinach and lettuce figure to be seeded this month. The *Chronicle* has also learned that several local citizens are being considered as honorary escorts for Prince Charles and his Duchess, among them Helen Tennant and Madelyn "Biffie" Estabrook, who have daughters living in England; George Kittle, rumor has it a descendant of Loyalists during the American Revolution; and Earl Brecher, whose name has a sort of semi-



Letters to the Chronicle

YEARNING

We've just come through a month of many single digits in which—in a bad year like this year—my main activity is yearning, with a little shoveling mixed in. While Charlie Van Doren is soaking up sun in Key West, the Fermans are avoiding alligators on Sanibel Island, John and Nancy O'Donnell are planning their escape to somewhere warm, and several others are sipping tequila South of the Border, I'm in Cornwall Bridge yearning for April and hoping that it's warm and un-muddy. Yes, I yearn for April, but always with that wonderful but depressing song in my head, the one that goes "Spring...will be...a little late this year...." I mean the real Spring...not just that official and meaningless date in March and all that groundhog nonsense. Well, neighbors, we're in April, and if it disappoints, we always have Art at the Dump and Gordon's baby lettuce to cheer us up.

—John Miller

royal edge to it. Oh, yes, and Anne Baren, sometimes called "The Baren-ess" by a Cornwall Bridge neighbor. All in all, it should be a super-fun, tingly 24 hours.

—John Miller

Award for Darleene Wadhams

Cornwall Consolidated School kindergarten teacher Darleene Wadhams will receive the annual Journey Award given by Staff Development for Educators (SDE) at its New England Conference in April. In the letter announcing the award, Darleene was cited for having made a "significant contribution to the lives of her students as well as serving as a mentor and source of inspiration for her colleagues." SDE provides professional development events and books for educators.

Congratulations to Darleene for achieving this recognition on her journey!

—Barbara Gold

Events & Announcements

"Beware of Ticks!" says the Torrington Area Health District (TAHD). Cornwall, they tell us, has a "high incidence of Lyme disease." We are encouraged to start doing daily tick checks once the temperature reaches 40 degrees. For more information call TAHD at 489-0436, or visit their website at www.tahtd.org.

Bend and Stretch Classes, sponsored by Visiting Nurse & Homecare Northwest (VNA), will be held at the UCC starting on Wednesday, April 27, and will run weekly until June 1. Classes are held from 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. Register by calling the VNA at 567-6000 by April 20.

NEIGHBORS EXTRAORDINAIRE

Bill and I are writing this letter to publicly thank two of our neighbors for their kindness. One of our cats developed diabetes this year and requires two insulin shots a day to keep her healthy and happy. We wanted to make our annual trek to Washington, DC, for a favorite nephew's birthday but worried about how we would manage the cat's care. Who could we possibly ask to do this? Our neighbors, Robin Graham and Lolly Besozzi. Ever since Spike's diagnosis this past fall, Robin had been assuring us that she had medically administered to cats before and would be more than glad to help us get some time off. Lolly readily agreed to be her backup in case of an unexpected problem or if Spike required two cat lovers to hold her down! Fortunately, everything went well; in fact the cats were so contented that they didn't even run to the door to greet us upon our return!

We moved up to Cornwall four years ago from a small community that was growing so fast that it had lost its small-town feel. We have never regretted the move. All of our neighbors and friends in town have been welcoming, generous, and a pleasure to get to know.

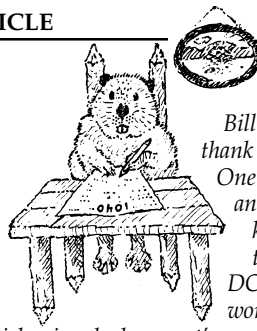
Thank you Robin and Lolly!

—Kathy & Bill Lyon

Substance Abuse Prevention: The CCS PTA and the Town of Cornwall are co-sponsoring a meeting for parents and community members to address strategies for prevention of teenage drug and alcohol abuse. Cynthia Bianchi of the Housatonic Youth Service Bureau will be among the speakers. This will be a forum for parents to find out what challenges face teens in terms of drug availability and what programs are available. The meeting will be in the Gathering Room at CCS on April 14 at 7 P.M.

Focus on Torrington: A forum on our neighboring city, presented by the Cornwall Association, will explore Torrington's fascinating history, culture, economy, services, and current priorities. Speakers include Mark MacEachern, director of the Torrington Historical Society; Mayor Owen Quinn; and Christina Emery, Torrington's economic development coordinator. Cornwall Town Hall, Saturday, April 23, 4 P.M. Refreshments will be served.

Family Peace Bowl-Making Workshop, sponsored by Motherhouse, will take place on Saturday, April 16, from 1 to 3 P.M. The firing will take place on Sunday, April 17, from 1 to 3 P.M. The workshop will be led by local potter Jeff Butler. For further information, including location, fee, and sign-up, call Debra Tyler at 672-0229. Motherhouse is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing time, space, and guidance for mothers and their partners. It offers meditation once a week at the UCC. The peace bowl idea, according to Debra, is to "create a vessel to hold a family's hopes and dreams for peace."



The Cornwall Foundation will be accepting applications for grants through April 15. Applications can be obtained from Amy Cady at the Library. The Cornwall Foundation is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support projects or programs that "enhance the quality of life in Cornwall." Questions? Call Annie Kosciusko at 672-3169.



Opera at the Library: No, not a live performance, silly, but a discussion of *bel canto* composers Bellini, Rossini, and Donizetti by our own John Zinsser. John will play recordings of arias by several singers, including Renée Fleming, Joan Sutherland, Cecilia Bartoli, and Luciano Pavarotti. It all takes place at 4 P.M. on Saturday, April 16. Get there early and bring your opera glasses!

Discussion on Depression: Dr. Richard O'Connor will talk about his new book at the Library on April 2 at 3 P.M. In *Undoing Perpetual Stress*, his fourth book, Dr. O'Connor focuses on how many of today's common emotional and physical problems are in fact side effects of 21st-century life. Dr. O'Connor was the director for many years of the Housatonic Mental Health Center in Lakeville.

The Sixth Annual Art at the Dump will take place on Saturday, April 23—see the insert in this *Chronicle* issue. Questions may be directed to Gail Jacobson at 672-6639.

Play Ball!

Baseball season opens soon, and in early spring, all things seem possible for all teams (no, not you, Mets fans). We'd guess that Cornwall is equally split between Yankee fans and haters, a.k.a. Red Sox fans, and all eyes will be on the first pitch April 3 at Yankee Stadium, where the two teams face off. Our pitch here is for money, as always, so between innings, please send the *Chronicle* a check if you haven't done so recently.

Art in Cornwall: At the Cornwall Free Library, Lazlo Gyorsok will have a show of photographs entitled *Portraits and Other Animals*, opening Sunday, April 3, from 4 to 6 P.M.

The Outsiders Gallery in Cornwall Bridge will host an opening on Saturday, April 16, from 5 to 7 P.M., entitled *Unusual Minds* and featuring artists Gayleen Aiken and M. Densmore from the Grace Foundation, a Vermont-based art facilitating organization for artists with disabilities. Works by Mickey Doolittle are also part of the show.

Also on Saturday, April 23, from 4 to 6 P.M., The Wish House will have an opening for Danielle Mailer's cut-outs and home accents featuring curtains and other surprises. The show will continue through Memorial Day.

The National Iron Bank continues to show Danielle Mailer's hand-painted prints through April.

CCS Alumni: Calling all graduates and former attendees of Cornwall Consolidated School. As part of an effort to start an alumni organization, Sue Gingert needs your name, years at CCS, address, phone, and/or e-mail. Send this information to Sue at CCS, 5 Cream Hill Road, West Cornwall, CT 06796. She can also be reached at 672-6617 or Susangccs@yahoo.com.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2005-2006 school year will be held at CCS on April 7, 8, and 15. Any child turning five on or before December 31, 2005, is eligible. Parents should call the school at 672-6617 to schedule a time for their child to visit the kindergarten room and meet Mrs. Wadhams. Remember to bring the child's official immunization record and birth certificate.

Region One Arts Fund Scholarship: The Arts Fund scholarship committee is accepting applications from local students who wish to pursue summer study in the arts. The committee will entertain applications for group and/or individual classes and programs. Scholarship awards will be based on the cost of the program, recommendations, need, and available funds. Interested families should contact scholarship chair Linda Peppe at 824-5774 or by e-mail at lindapnces@yahoo.com. The deadline for applications is April 22.

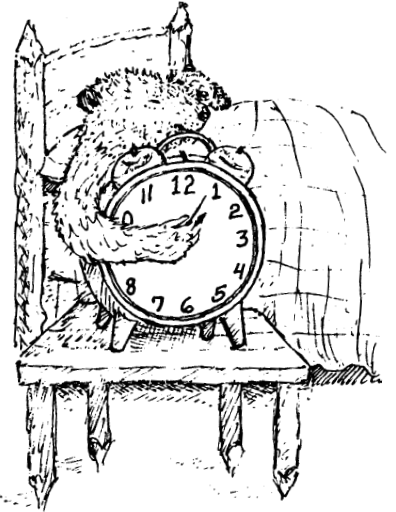
A Tai Chi Class for beginners will be offered Wednesdays from 7:30 to 8:30 P.M., starting April 13, at the CCS gym. The first class is free, then \$20 for a three-class package. This program is sponsored by Park and Rec. For more information call Dave Colbert at 672-0064.

Scholarship Application Forms for the Woman's Society Education Fund are available to any Cornwall senior graduating from a public or private high school. Forms may be picked up at the HVRHS guidance office or from Thalia Scoville (672-6288). Completed forms must be returned no later than May 1.

Rev. Micki Nunn-Miller will be installed as the Settled Pastor of the UCC at 4 P.M. on Sunday, April 10, at the church on Bolton Hill Road. The entire Cornwall community is invited to attend this celebration and a reception to follow in the Parish House. For more information call the church office at 672-6840.

Child Center Auction: Please note new date and location—see the insert in this *Chronicle* issue.

The Association of Businesses in Cornwall will meet at the Town Hall on Monday, April 11, at 5:30 P.M. to discuss town policies regarding the display of business signs. Also on the agenda: a general forum on opportunities for home-based businesses in Cornwall.



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

APRIL ISSUE

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Tom Bechtle, Publisher

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Tom Bechtle, Publisher

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