



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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The Cornwall Country Market

What does a rural town need in order to stay viable and attractive? According to the Center for Rural Affairs: a school, post office, restaurant, churches, and a grocery store.

Back in the day, Cornwall had three general/grocery stores. Now it has one, and the good news is that it will continue. The Cornwall Bridge building that has housed such a store since 1935 will reopen soon as The Cornwall Country Market. It will be run by James Shepard and his wife, Idella, who come to us from Watertown, Mass. ("way too close to the gunfight after the Boston Marathon").

Idella was catering manager at the Harvard Business School and James has a degree in hospitality administration from Boston University. "We each have 20 years of experience in restaurant, catering, and retail management," James told us.

The Shepards will be living above the store with their children, Wolfgang, 8, and Sage, 11, who will attend school in Cornwall.

"After some renovations, we hope to open in mid-July," Idella said. "We'll offer basic groceries with a lot of different deli options." More interior seating is planned, including a lunch counter up front near the window.

"We can't make it by only selling groceries and sandwiches," Idella said. "My long-term vision is to offer activities that people can gather around and learn from, like offering cooking classes for kids."

"An important piece for us is to listen to the community and find out what they want in terms of hours and products," James said.

The Shepards know they face challenges. Small rural stores cannot compete with big chains on price and selection. "But chains can't compete with us when it comes to hospitality, service, and the desire to support local business," Idella said. "Every local farmer or artist who wants to participate in the store will be welcome."

"The economy seems to be improving," James said, "and when we renovate and revitalize the store and bring our experience

and energy to it, I think we can't help but be successful." And he added, "We're putting in a generator and hope to stay open during blizzards."

Watch for the planned grand opening barbecue sometime in July. —Ed Ferman

Graduation—CCS Class of 2013

All in attendance on June 18 were invited by Principal Michael Croft to join in celebrating the achievements of the 11 graduates, who have through their nine years at CCS eaten 1,620 bag lunches, received 33 report cards, participated in 4,320 middle school classes, and enjoyed 2,160 recesses. With thousands of questions answered and asked, along with great knowledge they have achieved the balance between support from family and staff and personal challenge.

At different points in the ceremony Cami, Blake, and Rebecca spoke, acknowledging the sadness of leaving, but speaking also about what they've learned, and knowing that this group (each has been at CCS for the entire nine years) will always be in each others' hearts.

Three special awards were given: VFW Post 9856 Citizenship Award to Ciara, Dottie Hermann Award to Kailyn, and



JULY 2013

(continued on page 2)

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	2 ♦ Inland Wetlands 7:30 pm Town Hall	3	4 ★ ♦ Fourth of July Festival 10 am–2 pm Town Green	5	6 ♦ Artist Reception Camilla & Peter Busby 4–6 pm Library ♦ Community Country Dance 7 pm Town Hall
7	8 ♦ Cornwall Democratic Caucus 7 pm Library	9 NEW ♦ Seniors' Luncheon 11:30 am–1 pm Wandering Moose ♦ Children's Craft Afternoon 1–3 pm Library ♦ P & Z 7 pm Library ♦ Housatonic River Comm. 7:30 pm CCS	10 ♦ Board Game Night 6 pm Library	11 ♦ Toddler Play and Story Hour 9:30–10:30 am Library ♦ Homeschooling Forum 10 am–2 pm	12	13
14 ♦ CCT Trail Walk 11 am Day Preserve ♦ Curator's Talk 2 pm Cornwall Historical Society	15 1st Q ♦ Deadline: August Chronicle Copy	16 ♦ Scavenger Hunt 1–3 pm Library ♦ Torrington Titans Game 7 pm Feussenich Park ♦ Board of Selectmen 7:30 pm Town Hall	17	18 ♦ Toddler Play and Story Hour 9:30 am–10:30 am ♦ Cornwall Cons.Comm. 7 pm Town Hall ♦ Cornwall Rep. Caucus 7 pm W. Cornwall Firehouse ♦ Board of Finance 7:30 pm CCS Library	19 ♦ Family Movie <i>Free Willy</i> 7 pm Library	20 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–2 pm ♦ Jelly & Jam Workshop 10:30 am–1:30 pm Local Farm
21 ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 11 am–2 pm	22 FULL ♦ Woman's Society Rummage Sale 9 am–noon ♦ ZBA* 7:30 pm Library	23	24	25	26	27
28 ♦ CCT Trail Walk 11 am Ballyhack Preserve ♦ The Whey It Was 2 pm Cornwall Historical Society	29 4th Q	30 ♦ Cornwall Committee for Seniors 7 pm Library	31	Every Week This Month: Mondays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library; Yoga, 5:45–7 pm CCS ♦ Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6–9 pm Town Hall; Karate, 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball , 7:30 pm CCS gym ♦ Thursdays: Pilates, 8:30–9:30 am Library; Toddler Play Group , 10:30–11:30 am Library; Yoga , 5:30–6:30 pm Library ♦ Fridays: Yoga, 8:30–10 am Library Saturdays: West Cornwall Walks, 12:30 pm Wish House ♦ Sundays: Yoga 9–10:30 am Library; Meditation , 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672-0229; West Cornwall Walks , 12:30 pm Wish House		

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957



(continued from page 1)

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award to Rebecca. Stacey Marcin gave gifts to each from the PTA, wishing them well as they leave CCS.

Phil Hart presented the Board of Education's 11th Volunteer Award in recognition of the highest form of citizenship to Alexa Venturini. Her time spent working for the CCS Fund for Excellence and her creative skills—artistic and culinary—are greatly appreciated.

New this year was a tribute, something noteworthy and commendable about that student, given to each student from a staff member. It was wonderful to hear little-known facts about students, and especially to hear so many comments about their kindness toward others. My favorite words of wisdom came from teacher Elizabeth Clarke, quoting Snoopy: "Be yourself. No one can say you're doing it wrong."

There's always a graduation speaker, but this year there were two: Emery and Meredith Gray from the CCS class of 2003. As graduates of the Culinary Institute of America and marvelous bakers, they had no choice but to offer the graduates a Recipe for Success. Beginning with 1—Identify Your Dream, and ending with 13—Exhibit Fearlessness, they enumerated a baker's dozen of ingredients for success. Another first, a cookie for each graduate!

After the presentation of diplomas by Irene Hurlburt, Rebecca Hurlburt, and Michael Croft, graduates and guests were able to enjoy a Hawaiian-themed party created by the seventh-grade students and their parents in the Gathering Room.

The 2013 Graduation Class: Blake M. Buckley, Gunnar Carlson, Cameryn Gabrielle Caruso, Ciara Hurlburt, Jacob Halsey Johnson, Alea Morgan Laigle, Kailyn Reilly, Rebecca Rose Ridgway, Jacob Laurance Shpur, Caleb William Thompson, and Katharine Winsser. —Susan Gingert

Memorial Day 2013

After days of downpours, even car-denting hail, the weather turned around and gave Cornwall a radiant Memorial Day. Spring was in the air, and smiles all around.

Observances started at 9 A.M. with Cornwall's only true Decoration Day (as it used to be called). Led by Charles Gold, a gathering of about 30 people placed flowers on the graves of veterans, including eight who died in combat. Charlie is the fourth in a line of Golds who have continued this ceremony since 1868. His mix of anecdote and inspiration varies somewhat from year to year, but is always fresh and meaningful.

Some people left North Cornwall a few minutes before 10 A.M. to head for West Cornwall and the Seaman's Memorial Service at the Covered Bridge. This year the roar of the rain-swelled Housatonic served to underscore the proceedings. Also different was a young bugler playing a perfect taps. But as usual: the three-gun salute and the memorial wreath tossed from a bridge window to the swift waters below.

By 11 A.M. a large crowd in Cornwall Village awaited the annual parade. Applause continued as veterans in uniform marched by, followed by the CCS band, other youth groups, firefighters and EMT personnel, and of course those spotless and shining fire and rescue vehicles.

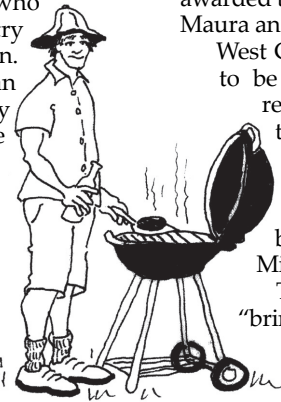
Master of ceremonies Dave Cadwell began with an apology: How could he possibly fill the shoes of Ralph Gold, who had officiated in recent years? Dave noted that Ralph, a Vietnam veteran himself, had served the town in many capacities—always thoughtful, courteous, and thoroughly competent—until his untimely death at the end of April.

This year's ceremony was novel in that both honored persons were women, and both had served as commissioned officers in the U.S. Navy. The major address was delivered by Candace Dakin Kelly. "Candy" grew up in Cornwall, graduated from local schools, joined the navy, and rose to the rank of lieutenant commander before retirement in Florida. This day back in Cornwall, she went beyond the usual clichés: "Memorial Day is an act of remembering, that those who died in service to our country shall not have died in vain. Notice that 'remembering' is an action verb, that you actually have to DO something to make it work." She then spoke of all that Cornwall is doing—and all that remains to be done, particularly for returning veterans. "Connecticut alone loses an average of one veteran a week to suicide."

The VFW Citizenship Award went to Lt. Katharine Gordon Ridgway. "Kitty" Ridgway graduated from college during World War II and soon joined the WAVES. She was among the first group of women to be commissioned and served as a communications officer for the North Atlantic Fleet. Later coming to Cornwall as a married woman, she became the most active of volunteers: the Girl Scouts, the library, the school, her church. Forty-seven years ago she helped found the Memorial Day Carnival.

Which is where many of the onlookers hurried, after taps, the national anthem, and a short benediction. It was a remembrance day to remember.

—Bob Potter



Welcome

Wyatt Robert Ackerman to Kristina McGuire and Joshua Ackerman

Congratulations

Lindsey A. Stone and Steven B. Massey

Land Transfers

Andrew Charlton to Stephen H. O'Neil, land with all buildings and improvements thereon, at 12 Brook Road, for \$101,000.

Harry E. Peden, III, Trustee, & Margaret E. Conboy, Trustee, to John Glover, 1.25 acres with dwelling and improvements thereon at 364 Kent Road, 1.07 acres of vacant land on Kent Road, and 50 percent interest in a .31 acre access, for \$319,500.

Movement at the Pink House

Imagine a space in Cornwall where writers would be able to participate in writing workshops and conferences, attend readings by guest authors and each other—a place that would publish first-time authors and house writers-in-residence. In other words, a writers' salon and a place where the muses preside.

The idea is the brainchild of Libby Mitchell, Jim Herity, and Amy Johnson, the founders of the West Cornwall Publishing Co. (WPC), a non-profit entity that is about to take its first steps. The company is in contract to buy the Pink House from the Landmark Trust of Vermont, which was awarded the house by the previous owners, Maura and Richard Smithies.

West Cornwall's "Pink Lady" is indeed to be the space of a Gertrude Stein resurgence. It was built in 1870 in the Greek revival style, and the new owners "hope to return the house to its original luster and create a literary center in our beautiful town," said Libby Mitchell, president of WPC.

The company will focus on "bringing authors to light," as noted in its mission statement. It will emphasize the work of first-time local authors as well as submissions that have a potential for learning and growth. "I see this as potentially a collaboration between the publishing company and local writers," said Amy Johnson, managing editor.

The company's first book, *On Anvil*, a novel by Jim Herity about love, loss, and the healing nature of truth, will be published in September.

Ian Ingersoll, a neighbor of the Pink House, is delighted by the news. "I see West Cornwall as a harbor full of ancient boats. It's great that we are doing something to take care of one of them. West Cornwall is, after all, its architecture."

And Cornwall has always been a haven for the creative muse. Writers and poets

Letters to the Chronicle

CORNWALL GENERAL STORE CLOSES

The day the Cornwall General Store closed, I sat on its front porch and talked with Dana and Louise Beecher, the store's proprietors for the past two years.

Dana is a descendant of Isaac, the first Beecher to arrive in America (in 1637). Dana moved to Cornwall in the late '60s and graduated from Housy in 1969. After going to Brooklyn College, Dana went to work for Helmsley-Spear, converting vacant warehouses to living lofts in Brooklyn. Later he worked with Bruce Ratner, developer of the Metrotech Center in Brooklyn.

Louise was born in Yonkers. She studied journalism at Rider College, N.J. Louise raised two girls in her first marriage while living in Lakeville. She worked at radio station WKZE in Sharon and later also moved to NYC, working for Universal Music.

They met in Brooklyn. Both were by then divorced. They married in December 2000.

Set at liberty by the Great Recession, they moved to Cornwall in April 2010 and opened the Cornwall General Store a little more than a year later. It was tough going that first year, they admitted, but things got better the next year as the community learned what a great place it was. When the building was sold, they sadly closed the store.

Something they'll really miss is their young employees. As we talked, two of them, Darby Council and Brittany Anderson, came by, twirling hula hoops and reminding us of the store's always-cheerful atmosphere. —David A. Grossman

CORNWALL FUEL OIL GROUP

For the second year, the Cornwall Fuel Oil Group will be helping people in Cornwall save money on their fuel oil bills this coming winter. Last year's price was about \$0.50 less per gallon than the average retail price, creating hundreds of dollars of savings, also on propane.

If interested, please submit your tank size, estimated annual usage, and email address to Rick Wolkowitz, 672-6366 or hoh06@yahoo.com, by August 1. Bid results will be announced by August 15 and contracts submitted by September 1. Service contracts are optional.

—Rick Wolkowitz

have found inspiration here among the green hills, distant views, and cow-dotted pastures. And now they will have a space to call home.

You are probably wondering if the color will stay. Yes! "It must always be known as the Pink House." —Brenda Underwood

Cornwall Briefs

• **July 4 Festival:** Be ready. It falls on a Thursday (10 A.M. to 2 P.M.) and the folks at Park & Rec (with some financial help from the Cornwall Association) have put together a raft of activities for the big lawn between town hall and St. Peter's Chapel. No more softball game at Foote Field: it seems big-

"WOMEN" RECEIVE GRANTS

While the Cornwall Historical Society depends on donations from friends to cover operating expenses and staff salary, we must secure grants in order to mount our yearly exhibit. This year, three organizations have contributed to "Women's Rights: Cornwall's Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers," which opened June 28. The Community Foundation of Northwest Connecticut, in collaboration with the Connecticut Humanities Council, awarded \$2,500; the National Iron Bank, \$1,000; and the Torrington Savings Bank, \$1,000. These grants, plus an anonymous donation of \$3,000, enabled us "to present a high-quality exhibit," says curator Raechel Guest.

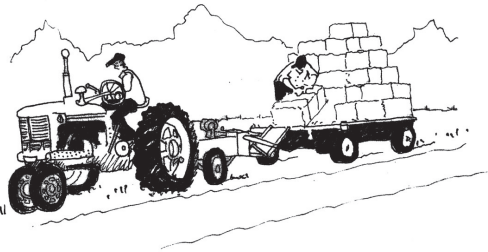
Do come and see what Cornwall's women have accomplished throughout our history. We are open from 10 A.M. to 4 P.M. on Saturdays and 1 to 4 P.M. on Sundays. —Barbara Gold

CORNWALL CONTACT LISTS

In order to reach residents in the event of an emergency, the Town of Cornwall, in accordance with the Town Plan, is compiling an emergency list of telephone numbers and email addresses. This list will be available only to Cornwall administrators and emergency crews. For your safety we hope you will comply with this voluntary request.

Concurrently, a second contact list is being compiled, including telephone numbers, email addresses, and other information you might wish to include, such as children's contact information, which will be posted on the Cornwall web page. This list is for anyone wishing to be included, and the information will be available to others.

A form is available on the Cornwall web page (www.cornwallct.org; click on "What's New?"; scroll down to the list item and download the



form). It will also be an insert in your tax bill. You may mail the completed form to Nancy Calhoun, P.O. Box 67, Cornwall, CT 06753, or return it by email as instructed. Call Nancy at 672-6747 with any questions. —Nancy Calhoun

NEW SUPER HERO IN TOWN

The evening of May 21, I was huddled in the basement of our home on Town Street with my two dogs and cat...riding out the thunderstorm and golf-ball-sized hail that was coming down. After a loud thunderclap, I smelled smoke and realized our house was on fire! I rushed to the phone only to find that the lightning that had struck our house also blew out our phone system, fire alarm system, and pretty much every electrical system in the house. Not having cell phone service where we live, I had visions of our house burning to the ground with no way to call for help.

I rushed the dogs to the safety of our detached garage only to see our cat run upstairs and hide under the bed. I had no choice but to leave the house and drive down the road looking for help. That is when I met my new super hero, volunteer firefighter Dave Williamson. I flagged him down, frantically told him of my predicament, and watched him spring into action. He radioed the fire department, ran with me into our smoke-filled house, and helped me find our beloved cat. Dave lifted up the bed, helped me catch the cat, and moved us all to safety outside the house.

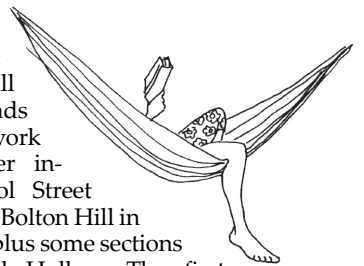
The professional response of the CVFD resulted in the fire being contained to a small portion of our home, to which we hope to return soon. If David Williamson had not been in exactly the right place at exactly the right time and known what to do, this event would have had a very different outcome.

We thought we were well prepared for something like this. We have lightning rods, an alarm system to call the fire department automatically, back-up cell service in our house, etc. However, sometimes lightning has a mind of its own and can cause serious damage. We feel lucky that our friends and neighbors at the CVFD were there to do what all the latest technology couldn't: save our house and our cat! —Amy Jones

time Cornwall sluggers (you know who you are) made the game too dangerous for younger players. In its place a raft of other games: wiffleball, tug-of-war, water balloons, bicycle decorating and bike parade, kickball, and a one-mile road race for 12-and-unders with medals awarded to the first 30 runners. (Imagine the emotional/ego-driven pain for the person coming in 31st!) Then there's the food: grinders, finger rolls, popcorn, cookies, spicy tuna sushi, and environmentally unsound pickled ramps (just kidding), iced tea, and more. And bring large beach towels because, to top it all off, the Cornwall Volunteer Fire Department will provide a truck to hose down as many participants as its nozzles can reach at the end of the festivities.

• Summer Roadwork:

Town Hall says the roads slated for work this summer include School Street and parts of Bolton Hill in the village, plus some sections of Cornwall Hollow. The first selectman also spent some time trying to explain that the town crew will be applying new oil and crushed rock compounds to our roads and why this is good for us. One look at my notes tells me to leave it at that rather than to try and explain why. I was clearly confused and didn't have the guts to say so at the time. —John Miller



West Cornwall Walks

Melissa Andrews, who spent her summers and holidays in Cornwall as a child, recently returned from Washington, D.C. with her husband and twin 8-year-old boys. She has jumped into the local scene with a way to help revitalize the businesses in West Cornwall and provide easy, interesting walks for residents and tourists. "Sometimes it just takes a small idea to make things work," she said.

Her "small idea" is to provide walkers, joggers, nature lovers, and their dogs with a shuttle that will leave the Wish House at 12:30 P.M. every Saturday and Sunday throughout the summer, beginning July 6.

The shuttle, courtesy of Clarke Outdoors, will drop passengers on scenic River Road at one-, two-, or three-mile intervals so they can walk back to the village. The \$5 cost will help offset the expense of the shuttle. Tickets may be purchased at the Wish House or at Clarke Outdoors. Picnic lunches will be available at the Moose as well.

Information on the area's history, ecosystem, flora, fauna, and geology will be posted along the walking route, and, when possible, guest docents will be available to accompany walkers. Wendy Welshans, a natural history teacher for the Forman School and certified guide in several New England states, will provide commentary at the inaugural walk on July 6.

Melissa has spent months planning and coordinating this exciting new venture and hopes to be able to expand these walks to other areas of Cornwall. A five-and-a-half-mile walk through the spectacular Dean's Ravine, also ending at the village, will be offered this summer. —Gail Jacobson

Events & Announcements

Art in Cornwall

Ruth Gannett's art will be displayed at the National Iron Bank in Cornwall Bridge through July.

At the library: The shows, Early Works by Camilla Busby and Open Vessels by Peter Busby, continue; artists' reception July 6 from 4 to 6 P.M. Opening Tuesday, July 30, Cornwall Afternoons, an exhibit of *plein air* paintings in oil on canvas by Kathleen Love Mooney.

Side by Side, works by photographers

July Sizzle

Can't escape the clammy heat of summer? At least keep your hometown *Chronicle* from sweating out its printing bills by sitting down and writing us a cool check. Thanks!

Catherine Noren and Lazlo Gyorsok, continues at the Souterrain Gallery in West Cornwall through August 25.

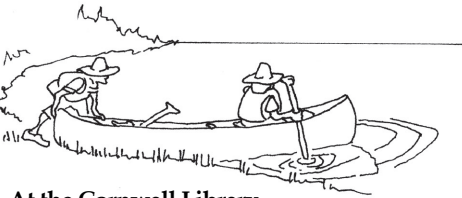
Motherhouse Happenings

July 6: Community Country Dance with teaching caller Eric Hollman and Still, the Homegrown Band will be held at 7 P.M. at the town hall. Suggested donation: \$3-5/child, \$5-10/adult. For info call Jane Prentice at 672-6101.

July 11: Homeschooling Forum, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Check with Debra at 672-0229 for location.

July 20: OSLS workshop, Jelly and Jam Session with Brent Prindle, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Local Farm barn. \$35/family. Please preregister with Debra at 672-0229.

The Cornwall Democratic Caucus will meet on Monday, July 8, at 7 P.M. at the Cornwall Library.



At the Cornwall Library

The library is offering a slate of summer children's events. All are free, but donations are always welcome.

Children's craft afternoon: Tuesday, July 9, from 1 to 3 P.M. We will offer a variety of crafts. All ages. Children under 10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Board game night: Wednesday, July 10, 6 P.M. Bring your own or play our junior editions of Monopoly, Scrabble, etc. Refreshments served.

Toddler play and story hour: Thursdays, July 11, and July 18, 9:30 to 10:30 A.M. Children 18 months to 3 years. Some story reading, lots of play with peers.

Scavenger hunt: Tuesday, July 16, 1 to 3 P.M. Look for words, names, info, and hidden items.

Family movie: Friday, July 19. *Free Willy* at 7 P.M. Refreshments served.

Senior Luncheon: Come for the food, stay for the camaraderie. Tuesday, July 9, from 11:30 A.M. to 1 P.M. at the Wandering Moose. Russ, Sharon, and the crew put on a delicious spread at a special price for Cornwall seniors. No reservations necessary. For info. call Jane at 672- 6101.

At the Cornwall Historical Society:

On Sunday, July 14, at 2 P.M. Curator Raechel Guest will reveal behind-the-scenes

anecdotes and favorite tales related to the "Radicals, Rebels, and Reformers" featured in this year's exhibit on women's rights.

On Sunday, July 28, from 2 to 4 P.M. Debra Tyler will lead a program on life for women in an age without electricity or electronics. Try your hand at butter churning, rug beating, and ironing with a sad iron. And meet a heifer.

Guided Trail Walks: The Cornwall Conservation Trust offers a series of guided trail walks showcasing trails maintained by CCT that are friendly to hikers of all ages. Walks begin at 11 A.M. and last approximately 45 minutes. (Walks will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain/thunderstorms.) Trail maps, with parking locations, can be found at www.cornwallconservationtrust.org.

Questions? Contact Kristen Bedell, 672-6014. The schedule: Sunday, July 14, Day Preserve; Sunday, July 28, Ballyhack Preserve; Sunday, August 11, Welles Preserve.

Park & Rec: Join us for a Torrington Titans game at Fuessenich Park! Tuesday, July 16, at 7 P.M. If we get a group together to meet at the park, it will cost \$4 for adults, \$2 for kids. For info: Becky Hurlburt, pcornwall@gmail.com.

The Cornwall Republican Caucus will meet on Thursday, July 18, at 7 P.M. at the West Cornwall Firehouse.

Grumbling Gryphons: Save the date! Wednesday, August 7, 5:30 to 6:45 P.M.: pre-performance drama workshop; 7 to 8 P.M.: production of the *Myth of Persephone*.

Note: We are still accepting registration for August Theater Arts Camp, August 5 to 10, for kids ages 6 to 14. Contact Leslie Elias at 672-0286 or grumblinggryphons@yahoo.com.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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