



CORNWALL CHRONICLE

VOLUME 21 : NUMBER 5 JUNE 2011



The Cornwall General Store

Baird's Store will open its doors early in June with a new name, new managers, and a few new faces behind the counters.

In mid-May K. C. and Tom Baird were in the final stages of leasing the building to Dana Beecher and his wife, Louise Coogan Beecher. They will have full discretion to change the look and the contents of the store.

The new Cornwall General Store is the latest in a line of locally owned businesses in the Cornwall Bridge building. The store was built in 1935 by Harry Breen, who was moving his business up from the riverside into the new business district created by the opening of the cement bridge. In the 76 years since, the store has been operated by Monroes, O'Dells, and finally by Ed and Barbara Baird and their family. K. C. and Tom took over when their father died.

"The store is going to be a work in progress," Dana Beecher cautioned. "We have a lot of plans." Dana and Louise will not be closing the store as they "clean deeply," rearrange the layout, paint, and do inventory with the help of a new computerized tracking system. The upstairs apartment will be used as an office and an employee lunchroom.

The Beechers believe a good general store has "a little bit of everything for everyone." Groceries will remain with new shelves for locally made condiments, tapenades, and salsas. Products from local farms will be sold. There will be space for stationery supplies, health and beauty products, sewing notions, shoelaces, and odds and ends of hardware for the household.

Jeannette Wright, who also works at the Sharon Country Club, will manage the delicatessen and kitchen. All meats sold at the store will be roasted on the premises; bread and bakery items will be baked in the store. The kitchen will prepare carry-out dinners to be transported in recycled packaging, Dana said.

All this and more will be available soon on www.cornwallgeneralstore.com. Dana and Louise will list daily specials. (You can e-mail your lunch order, if you like.)

Dana is a graduate of Housatonic Valley Regional High School and a veteran of Sunday soccer games on Hubbard Field. This isn't his first retail business in Cornwall: he and one of his brothers operated the Popple Swamp Trading Company in what is now the Cornwall Bridge Pottery store in West Cornwall. His memories of this venture are somewhat dim, he confessed.

Richard Bramley, proprietor of the Cornwall Package Store, is glad to see "someone willing to revitalize this cornerstone business for the town. Its vitality affects everyone."

Louise, who is the host of *Discovery Road* on WHDD radio in Sharon, said that Dana and she intend to use resources here in Cornwall as much as they can. "We'll be buying paint across the street," she said.

And Tom Baird? He's not going anywhere. He'll be back behind the deli counter cheering on the Red Sox when the Cornwall General Store opens. —Lisa L. Simont

A First Peek at Cornwall's 2010 Census

Recently released U.S. census data shows that in the decade 2000–2010, Cornwall's population fell slightly, from 1,434 to 1,420, a decline of just 1 percent. In the same decade, however, the census stated that the town's housing stock expanded by 134 dwelling units, or 15 percent.

What accounts for the sharp discrepancy between these figures? We need to wait until more census data is made available to know for sure, but it seems likely that at least three factors have been

(continued on page 2)

JUNE 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Every Week This Month: Tuesdays: Adult Volleyball, 7:30 pm CCS gym; VNA Bend & Stretch 1–2 pm UCC Wednesdays: Tai Chi, 6–9 pm CCS; Karate 6:30–7:30 pm CCS; Women's Basketball, 7:30 pm CCS gym Saturdays: Cornwall Farm Market, 9 am–1 pm Wish House Lawn Sundays: Meditation, 1–2 pm, call Debra for location, 672–0229			1	2	3	4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Cornwall Village Improvement Society Town Hall 10 am ◆ Morris Dancers West Cornwall RR Square ◆ John Muir in the New World Cornwall Library 4 pm ◆ Contra Dance Town Hall 7–10 pm
5	6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Bd. of Selectmen Town Hall 7:30 pm ◆ Ag Commission Town Office 7:30 pm ◆ Park & Rec Town Hall 7:30 pm 	7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Inland Wetlands Town Hall 7:30 pm 	8	9	10 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Community Beach Party Cream Hill Lake Assoc. 5–8 pm 	11 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Eggs-perience Chickens Local Farm 10:30 am–1:30 pm ◆ Roger the Jester Farm Market 11 am–1 pm ◆ Cornwall Artists Open Studio 11 am–5 pm
12	13	14 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ P & Z Cornwall Library 7 pm 	15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Deadline: July Chronicle Copy 	16 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Blood Drive Cornwall Library 1–5:45 pm ◆ Board of Finance CCS Library 7:30 pm 	17	18 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Keeping a Family Cow Local Farm 10 am–1 pm ◆ Library Benefit Garden Tour 11 am–5 pm
19	20	21 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Board of Education CCS Library 4 pm 	22	23	24 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Care to Cure Reception Historical Society 5–7 pm 	25
26 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CCT Guided Trail Walk Hart Farm 11 am ◆ Jeff Hammond Art Reception Cornwall Library 4 pm 	27 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ ZBA* Appeals Cancelled 	28	29 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ CVFD Meeting West Cornwall Firehouse 8 pm 	30 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Dog License Deadline 		

*Check with Zoning Office—672-4957

(continued from page 1)

at work: more houses are vacant; households are smaller; and we have more weekenders.

First, there are clearly more unoccupied houses for sale here now. This probably reflects the local impact of the nationwide "Great Recession." The downturn's impact is also shown in local construction data: in the first eight years of the 2000–2009 period, Cornwall's building of official approved permits for an average of eight new houses per year; but in the last two years of the decade, only one or two permits were issued each year.

Second, the average size of the typical Cornwall household has probably fallen, at least a bit, in keeping with long-term trends. As a result, even the same total population would still fill more houses.

But the most important reason for the discrepancy has probably been an increase in the number of seasonally occupied houses. Cornwall's seasonal population—the people we call "weekenders"—appears to have grown a lot in the past decade. Weekenders have long been a noticeable component of Cornwall's population. On the basis of Cornwall's census data for the year 2000, I estimated that Cornwall then had about 200 weekender households with a total of about 530 occupants. If many of the past decade's 134 net additions to our housing stock were seasonal houses, it seems likely that the total number of weekenders here has grown to around 750 people, or about 250 households.

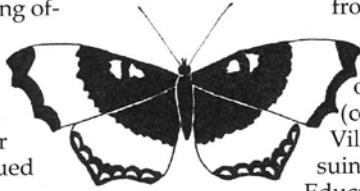
Has Cornwall really attracted another 50 weekender households in the past ten years? How many housing units here are truly vacant? How much—if at all—has our average household size shrunk? Good questions all. But I'm afraid that we'll have to wait until more census data is released to learn the answers. Keep tuned.

—David A. Grossman

Congrats to the Graduates!

As welcome signs of spring blossom around us, we celebrate our educational blossoms by that exciting rite of passage known as graduation.

On Wednesday, June 15, there will be 14 diplomas handed out at Cornwall Consolidated School, and on the same night there will be three Cornwall students graduating from Washington Montessori School. Of those 17 students, 11 will head to Housatonic Valley Regional High School: Madison Caruso, Samuel Hurlburt, Christian Logue, Madeleine Longwell, Lydia MacDavid, Savannah Martin, Eamon Murphy-Saunders, Fiona Ocin, Madeline Ovit,



Bianna Thompson, and Helena Waldron. Emma Fischer, Sophie Randall, and Ian Ridgway will attend Kent School, Connie Benedict is headed to Cheshire Academy, Bryce Laigle will attend Berkshire School, and Emma Nance will go to Miss Porter's School.

Connor Elwell will graduate from the ninth grade at Indian Mountain School and is headed to Millbrook School.

Cornwall has 14 students graduating from high school this month, and the majority of those kids will receive diplomas from HVRHS on Friday, June 17: Arielle Betti (continuing to teach at Falls Village Day Care Center and pursuing a degree in Early Childhood Education), Meghan Brown (Fisher

College, MA), Camilla Busby (International Baccalaureate Program at Birkerod Gymnasium, Denmark, and then to Skidmore College, NY), Apryl Classey (Northwestern Connecticut Community College), Danielle Kearns (Lynchburg College, VA), Reilly Lynch (University of Connecticut, Honors Program), Liam Murphy-Saunders, Griffin Randall (Lyndon State College, VT), Anouchka Sofia (Mitchell College, CT), and Genevieve Terrall (Ithaca College, NY). Graduating from Explorations Charter School are Oliver Fox (pursuing the auto mechanic field) and Will Morehouse. Nathan King will graduate from Kent School and is headed to Boston College; and Sarah Mulberry graduates from Millbrook School and will attend Dickinson College (PA).

Cornwall congratulates all of you, and we send you off with best wishes to continue pursuing your dreams and aspirations!

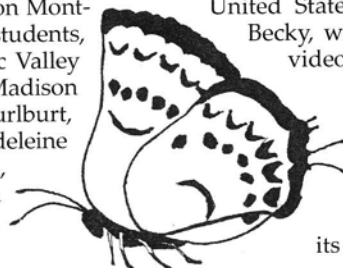
—Becky Hurlburt

Kickoff to Italy

Nine years ago, Sam Hurlburt began playing soccer. Sam, now 13 and an eighth-grader at CCS, recently completed the first phase of his soccer life (there will be more) with a trip to Montecatini, Italy, with his Newtown-based Samba soccer team. Sam's position is center defense; his team practices three days a week after school and plays regional tournaments on weekends.

The tournament in Italy included Sam's team, three Italian teams, one team from Finland, and one other team from the United States, as well as Sam's mother, Becky, who accompanied the team as videographer.

The highlight of the tournament for Sam was an afternoon match against a very experienced youth team from Florence (Fiorentina), who had won its morning game 9–0. Samba



fought hard, and at the end of the first half there was no score. "They rested their starters in the first half thinking they would whup us," says Sam. In the second half, with two minutes to go, Fiorentina almost scored, "but we stopped them. They played really great but we played really well." The game ended in a scoreless tie. "After the game we were running and jumping on the field as if we had won. They could not believe it."

A few of Sam's observations:

- The teams were bigger, even though some of the players were younger.
- The soccer fields were very different; beach sand and green grass mixed together. Some fields were all dirt.
- The pizza in Italy is better than American pizza: thinner, different cheeses, and better

and bigger toppings. Some pizzas even have no sauce, just tomatoes.

- Beef sliced on salad with sauce was a revelation. Sam's father raises beef cows and he hopes that this dish will be on the menu at home sometime soon.

- "We made some friends, traded shirts, and made up a sign language so that we could communicate with each other."

Sam is looking forward to playing soccer at Housy next year. "Watching the Italians I learned some technical skills that will help me keep up with my Housy teammates."
—Tom Levine

Welcome

Donald Burnell Polk III to Tamara and Donald Polk II

Good-bye to Friends

Cornelia Bodkin
Nancy Griggs
Donald Hart
Ronald Lacko

Land Transfers

John Fraser Horn to Hamilton D. South IV and Manuel Bellod, two parcels of land, containing 100 acres more or less, known as 182 Whitcomb Hill Road, for \$2,325,000.

Lured to Cornwall

Fortunate to be home to one of the most respected cold-water trout streams in North America, Cornwall attracts a multitude of outdoorsmen (and a growing number of women) who enjoy the sport of fly fishing. As part of the Trout Management Area program, the Housatonic River is stocked twice a year by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). This year it will be the depository for 18,000 brown and rainbow trout over a six-mile stretch from the high school in Falls Village to

Cornwall Bridge, as well as an additional 3,000 to 4,000 rainbow trout dumped by Housatonic River Outfitters (HRO).

The 2011 fishing season officially opened on April 16, an overcast and drizzly day with a decided chill in the air. While not the best weather for most of us, experienced fishermen saw it as the perfect type of day to elude detection by their prey, as the grey sky helped mask their presence. According to HRO store manager Torrey Collins, this year's start date saw a pretty typical number of groups signed up for guided fishing trips, as well as a steady trickle of walk-in customers.

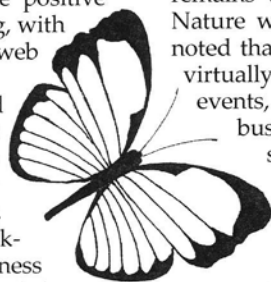


Like virtually all businesses, those catering to the needs of fishermen are cyclical, and, in this case, influenced by natural, as well as economic, cycles. At HRO, business has been on the uptick following the depths of the recession in 2008. While business was down about 30 percent last year due to the drought, Collins reports a steady increase of 10 to 20 percent in sales since the beginning of the holiday season last year. He and business owner Harold McMillan attribute the positive growth to aggressive marketing, with special focus on the store's web presence.

Rob Nicholas, who has led fishing and rafting trips since 1993, says his company, Housatonic Anglers, is enjoying one of its best years ever, reflected by solid advance bookings well into June. His business was strong last year in spite of the drought, as he led many expeditions to the colder waters of the tailwater fishery in the Farmington River. Unlike the Housatonic, which is "natural flow," the fisheries of the Farmington River benefit from the draw downs of cold reservoir water that sustain the trout population.

As Nicholas further explained, the combination of last year's drought, coupled with the extreme heat and resultant lack of sheltered areas in the Housatonic, decimated 90 percent of its trout population. While warm-water-tolerant bass were still plentiful in the peak summer months, the scarcity of the more sought-after trout had a significant negative impact on local fishing activity.

Returning to the impact of economic conditions, both businesses theorized that while some regular customers may have foregone guided fishing trips as a result of belt-tightening measures, others who might typically have traveled to more exotic locales, such as Patagonia, may have turned to the Housatonic as a much more affordable alternative. Another perspective is that the therapeutic value of fly fishing may have spawned greater interest in the sport as an antidote to personal and professional stress.



"DOCTOR WALKER BABIES" INVITED

Are you a "Doctor Walker baby"? Dr. Brad Walker delivered a lot of babies during the more than 50 years he practiced here: stories and articles at the Cornwall Historical Society indicate anywhere between 800 and an amazing 6,000. The Society wishes to shake the hands of all those babies at the opening reception for its Walker Exhibit on Friday, June 24. Bring your Dr. Walker friends and family and join us for the celebration. —Dinny Greene

ISPY

Maundy Thursday I was walking my dogs early morning and as usual let them off the leash when we reached the field. Brave Henry immediately took off after what looked like a large cat, all gray, except for a black ring around 3 to 5 inches from the tip of its long tail. Since it was surrounded by short grass I had no perspective on the actual size. The cat started running but not really in an all-out effort as

As to the outlook for 2011, while it remains to be seen which hand Mother Nature will deal this season, it has been noted that back-to-back drought years are virtually unheard of. Barring unforeseen events, our local fishing and rafting businesses anticipate continued strong sales of their goods and services. —Louise Riley

Cornwall Briefs

Waste Days: Two dates to remember this month. First, there's June 4 for household hazardous waste. You must preregister (get a ticket) at the Town Hall (672-4959). Then bring your stuff 'tween the hours of 9 A.M. and noon to the public works garage in Falls Village just off Route 7. On Saturday, June 25, it's recycling day for electronic things like computers, cell phones, TVs, VCRs, and hearing aids. Bring your items to Litchfield High School at 14 Plumb Hill Rd. off Route 202 'tween 9 A.M. and 1 P.M. No ticket for this one but proof you live in Cornwall.

Tax Relief: Tax bills go out at the end of June, and we are reminded by the first selectman that Cornwall has a couple of options for people facing difficulty paying their bill: you may apply for a \$200 reduction if your tax exceeds 10 percent of your income; also, if your bill exceeds 8 percent of income, you may enter a tax-free deal with the town, which then takes a lien on your tax-abated property. The lien is eventually settled when the property is transferred (sold).

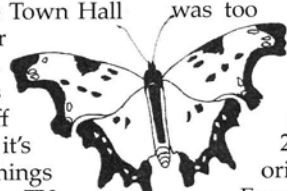
A Press Conference has been called by the newly appointed Cornwall Economic Development Study Group for 9 A.M. on

Letters to the Chronicle

Henry continued to chase it down hill across the stream. It casually looked back and picked up the pace a notch but the real surprise was that I now could tell that the cat was longer in body than Henry (a black lab/golden retriever mix). The cat disappeared into the woods and Henry came back, tongue hanging out and very proud. The very next morning, around 6:30, I noticed Sam, our donkey, staring intently with his ears straight forward. Hugh and I both saw the same gray cat walk along the bottom of the pasture and then up Coltsfoot. It turns out mountain lions come in tawny, red, and gray. When they are first born, the young have spots on their flanks and a ring on their tail which start to change in the juvenile stage. Young males often start to range on their own around age 1 1/2 before they are fully mature at age 3. They cover large territories and hunt close to dawn and dusk. Interesting that officials insist that mountain lions don't exist around here except as pets released into the wild. —Lynn Cheney

Tuesday, June 7, at the Town Hall. Members of the study group are Richard Bramley, Dave Dolinsky, Ralph Dzenutis, Bianca Griggs, Mark Hampson, Carol Lugar, Todd Piker, and Fred Scoville.

Matter on Hold: That was the status of Donna and Ted Larson's outdoor wood-burning furnace on Jewell Street in Cornwall Village as the *Chronicle* went to press. Several neighbors had complained about the smoke, but there were also letters of support. However, the DEP inspected the site and—smoke or no smoke—found that the furnace was 18 feet short of the state-mandated 200-foot setback, and the stack was too short. The Larsons were given until April 17 to extend the smokestack or shut the furnace down. A second extension moved the hearing date to May 20, but it was learned that the original complainant was in Europe with the date of return unknown. So that's where it stands just as the Northwest Corner bids adieu to the heating season. Stay tuned. Dampers at parade rest! —John Miller



Events & Announcements

Art in Cornwall: At the Library, Phyllis Nauts's show of paintings will continue through June 18. Beginning June 21, Jeff Hammond will exhibit photographs, with an opening reception held Sunday, June 26, from 4 to 6 P.M. Pottery by Marvin Ross is displayed in the glass case. Lisa Keskinen's recent show, *Me & Hue*, continues at The Wish House through July. David Bailey will show his artwork at the National Iron Bank this month.

At the Library

Film Showing: On Saturday, June 4, at 4 P.M., Catherine Tatge and Dominique

Lasseur's film *John Muir in the New World* will be shown on our new, large, HD flat screen television. Space is limited to 55 chairs, so please call 672-6874 to reserve your seat. Donations of \$6 for one or \$10 for two are welcome.

Gardens, Cottages, Sheds and Views, the Library's second annual Garden Tour: Saturday, June 18, 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. Party at a North Cornwall barn at 5 P.M. with cocktails and fabulous hors d'oeuvres. (See insert for complete information.)

Story Hour: The last of the spring series will be held on Friday, June 3, at 1:15 P.M.

Cornwall Contra Dance with National Heritage Fellowship recipient Dudley Laufman teaching and calling and Still, the Homegrown Band playing. Saturday, June 4, 7 to 10 P.M. at the Town Hall. Suggested donation to help pay Dudley: \$3/child, \$5/adult. For info, call Jane or Jim Prentice at 672-6101.

The Cornwall Village Improvement Society's annual meeting will be held on Saturday, June 4, at 10 A.M. at the Town Hall.

Annual Community Beach Party: Park & Rec invites all Cornwall families to this event at the Cream Hill Lake Association (on Town Street) on Friday, June 10, from 5 to 8 P.M. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, and beverages will be provided. Please bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share.

The Cornwall Agricultural Commission will sponsor its traditional ice cream social. Lifeguards will be on duty.

The 6th Annual Cornwall Artists Open Studio will be held Saturday, June 11, from 11 A.M. to 5 P.M. For a list of the participating artists, directions to their studios, and a map, go to www.cornwallct.org and click on "Cornwall Artists."

At the Farm Market: On Saturday, June 11, as part of the Connecticut Open House Day, Roger the Jester will perform juggling magic from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. For more in-

formation go to CTvisit.com.

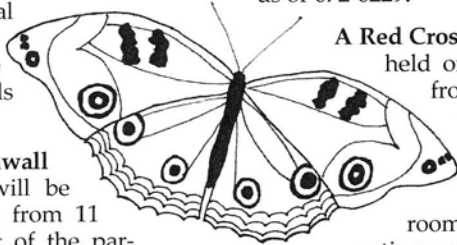
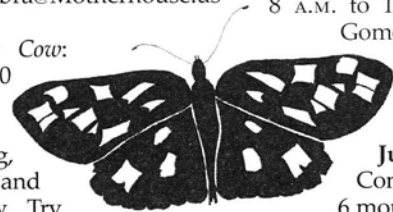
Please note that the Farm Market website was misspelled in the May issue. The correct web address is cornwallfarmmarket.org.

Morris Dancers will be in West Cornwall Railroad Square sometime on the afternoon of Saturday, June 11. For more information check local bulletin boards closer to the date.

Motherhouse Events

Eggs-perience Chickens: Saturday, June 11, 10:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. From egg to table, learn about raising, keeping, caring for, and harvesting chickens in your backyard. See a variety of poultry housing solutions. Dress out a bird to take home for another day's dinner. Potluck lunch included. \$35/family. Preregister with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.

Keeping a Family Cow: Saturday, June 18, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M. at Local Farm. Learn about finding, feeding, fencing, breeding, and caring for your cow. Try your hand at milking. Make butter, ice cream, and simple soft cheese. Go home with recipes and a slew of resources. \$35/person or \$50/family of up to four. Class size limited. *Preregistration and deposit necessary* with Debra@Motherhouse.us or 672-0229.



A Red Cross Blood Drive will be held on Thursday, June 16, from 1 to 5:45 P.M. at the Cornwall Library. Registration and refreshments will be in the Library meeting room, and the blood donations will be taken in the Red Cross van in the Library parking lot. Please note the location, date, and time, as this is the only blood drive not located at UCC in Cornwall Village.

Cornwall Historical Society: Opening reception of the Society's 2011 major exhibit, *Care to Cure: Medicine in the Era of Dr. W. B. Walker, 1923-1978*, on Friday, June 24, from 5 to 7 P.M. at 7 Pine Street. (See insert.)

CCT Guided Trail Walks for Families: The Cornwall Conservation Trust is offering a series of guided trail walks suitable for all ages. The walks will showcase trails maintained by CCT and are especially friendly to the littlest of hikers. Walks begin at 11 A.M. and last approximately 45 minutes.

(Walks will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain/thunderstorms.)

Sunday, June 26: Hart Farm Preserve. View lovely southern vistas from the top of Cherry Hill on this half-mile hike. Turn right at white sign 3/4 mile down Cherry Hill Road, park in mowed area.

Additional walks on July 10 & 24 and August 7. Trail maps can be found at www.cornwallconservationtrust.org. Please call Kristen Bedell with questions: 672-6014.

At the Cornwall Child Center: The summer enrichment program Expressions, for ages 3 through 6, kicks off on June 27 for eight week-long sessions from 9 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. Summer care will also be available for the same age group from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

A Toddler Play Group for 1- and 2-year-olds will run Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. Call Director Sandy Gomez at 672-6989 for more information, or log onto www.cornwallchildcenter.org.

June Is for the Dogs: The State of Connecticut requires that all dogs 6 months of age or older be licensed annually on or before June 30 in the Town Clerk's Office in the town where the dog is owned or kept. Licenses will become available on June 1. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be submitted or be on file. Neutered or spayed dogs cost \$8, and male or female dogs cost \$19. For a neutered or spayed dog being licensed for the first time, a certificate from a licensed veterinarian must be presented. Penalties apply for late registration. If you register by mail, enclose a SASE for return of tag and license; otherwise the Town Clerk's Office is open Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to noon and 1 P.M. to 4 P.M. Please notify the Town Clerk if your dog is no longer living with you so that he/she can be removed from the dog register.

CORNWALL CHRONICLE

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June Is

When thoughts turn to digging out the bathing suits and towels, stringing tennis racquets, packing picnics—anything but desk work. Before you slide into summer's nirvana, slip a check into the mail to help us pay the printer. Thanks!

Yes, I want the Chronicle to continue.
Here is my tax-deductible contribution of: \$ _____
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