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Adaptive Art at Aldermere

'The Farm,' down on the farm

By Dagny C. Ernest | Jun 15, 2015

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Photo by: Dagny C. Ernest

'The Farm,' mixed media collage arrives at Aldermere Farm June 4. From left are Anastasia Alley, Alex Jurek, Garrett Robbins; Kris Dube, William Russell, Katie Kunn (front), Wyatt Timchack and Herb Cole.

ROCKPORT — On June 4, a day before two of the class members were to graduate after five years in the Transitional Life Skills program, the Adaptive Art Class students of Camden Hills Regional High School brought “The Farm” ... to the farm.

The students, working with art teacher Russell Kahn, had begun the multimedia collage for Aldermere Farm, home of the famous Belted Galloways, during the bitter winter. Several hours before they arrived on a warm spring day to deliver it, a Belted Galloway cow delivered the last of Aldermere Farm’s bumper crop of calves. After they presented their collage to Aldermere Program Assistant Jeremy Lucas, he led students, teachers and aides down to the barn to see the new arrival.

“The Farm” depicts a barn, pond, fences, grass and animals under a blazing sun, rendered with a wide variety of materials.

“Let’s see, we used pipe cleaners, cloth, paper, yarn, paint, glitter, felt, paint” said Kahn, who arrived at the farm ahead of the students.

“It’s beautiful, really amazing,” said Lucas, who hopes to display the collage in the farm’s shop through the summer.

Transitional Life Skills teacher Anastasia Alley, who, with ed techs Kris Dube, William Russell and Herb Cole, traveled to the farm with the students, said there was a bit of the bittersweet to this trip, as two of her students — Garrett Robbins and Wyatt Timchack — would be graduating in a small ceremony the following morning.

“They are such good guys! They’ll be going on to a work program, and they’re well prepared for it,” she said.

Working cooperatively on the creative projects in Kahn’s Adaptive Art Class is a part of that preparation, but the TLS students also have earned some bucks for their programs with a paper and can recycling program at their school.

“There will be lots of awards at their graduation ceremony. They’ve recycled 115,000 cans and 3,000 pounds of paper in the last four years,” she said.

Some of the funds raised will go to uniforms for the upcoming Special Olympics. Attendees of August’s Maine Boats, Homes & Harbors Show in Rockland will see members of the Camden Hills TLS team collecting cans for the second year in a row.



Aldermere Farm’s Jeremy Lucas, left, and Adaptive Art teacher Russell Kahn hold a poster that depicts the collage’s creative journey. *(Photo by: Dagny C. Ernest)*



A detail of "The Farm" reveals multiple materials used.



Belted Galloways graze just behind the fence on Russell Avenue in Rockport. (Photo by: Dagny C. Ernest)



A newborn calf relaxes while its mother peers warily at visitors at Aldermere Farm June 4. (Photo by: Dagney C. Ernest)



Camden Hills Regional High School students, from left, Garrett Robbins, Katie Kunn and Wyatt Timchack stroll from the Aldermere Farms barn with Ed Tech Herb Cole on June 4, the day before the boys graduated. (Photo by: Dagney C. Ernest)

An advertisement banner featuring the text "AUNT JUDY'S UNIFORMS" on the left, a blue clog shoe in the center, the "Sanita" logo with the tagline "The Original Danish Clog" and "Since 1927" on the right, and a black clog shoe on the far right.

Comments (1)

POSTED BY: RON HOWARD | Jun 16, 2015 04:32

These terrific students have also been coming to our Erickson Fields Preserve throughout the Spring working to prepare the garden beds, helping to seed down some lawn area and assisting with other tasks. They have inspired us with their enthusiasm to help and the work they have undertaken to create for us this beautiful work of art reflects their bright, creative and warm personalities! Thank you all for your gifts!
 Ron Howard
 Aldermere and Erickson General Manager

STAFF PROFILE



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Dagney has been providing Courier coverage of the local arts scene since 1985 and has helmed the multi-paper A&E section since it debuted in 2003. She has been a local performing artist, community and professional, for more than 30 years and spent a decade writing, producing and announcing on-air for several Midcoast radio stations. When not in the NewsNest, Dagney likes to be in motion.

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