

Ridgetop Runner

Connecting the Farm School Community

July 3, 2008

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Hail Caesar

The Royalston Shakespeare Company put on a first-class performance of *Julius Caesar* last night, with a superb young cast led by many of the Chicken Coop School's finest actors. Grady's political research during the school year paid off, and he delivered Caesar's lines with just the right touch of pompous campaign rhetoric. As his wife, Calpurnia, Kelsey did her best to save him from political schemers like Lily, but to no avail. Meanwhile, Perry spent most of the play in a woman's wig. Go figure.



Poppy

After spending many summers at the Farm School as a camper, Poppy joins the camp staff for the first time this year. She is working mostly in the forest, where she helps the campers make sense of Reid's silly accents each day. When she is not surfing on oxcarts or collecting true ghost stories, she spends her time as a student at Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge, Mass. She speaks Chinese well enough to win fabulous prizes at competitions, and her gift for communicating with recalcitrant steers has earned her the title of the Ox Whisperer. Her favorite part of working at Sentinel Elm is hanging out with the kids and seeing the farm as they see it: full of surprises and new experiences. If she could be any vegetable, she would be a pumpkin, because it is brightly colored, lots of fun, and it makes everyone happy.

The Rocket's Red Glare

There's no excuse to miss out on the fun this Independence Day, thanks of course to the *Ridgetop Runner's* comprehensive guide to local fireworks. The biggest fireworks display is probably Star-Spangled Springfield, a \$70,000 event complete with musical performances downtown and a fly-over by a pair of F-15 Eagle fighter jets from Westover Air Force Base. If my hometown bias disgusts you, however, remember that many of the other pyrotechnic demonstrations listed below are preceded by parades, food, and live music too. Details can be found online through the town websites, chambers of commerce, and newspapers. All events are within a one hour drive, and many are much closer. If you're thinking about going to one of the shows, please ask around to see if anyone from Maggie's Farm or Sentinel Elm is interested in sharing a ride. Fireworks are so much more fun with a group!

Here are the dates, times, and locations of fireworks demonstrations around the area.

Thursday, July 3

Fitchburg – at dusk, visible from downtown

Holyoke – at dusk on the campus of Holyoke Community College

Rutland – 9:20 p.m. at Memorial Field

South Hadley – 9:30 p.m. from 100 Mosier St.

Worcester – 9:30 p.m. from Bell Hill

Friday, July 4

Amherst – 9:30 p.m., fired from Alumni Stadium at the University of Massachusetts

Brattleboro – 9:30 p.m. Living Memorial Park

Springfield – 9:30 p.m. from Memorial Bridge

Saturday, July 5

Greenfield – 9:30 p.m. from Beacon Field