NBLT is testing for accreditation

second round of testing of a new national quality standards for protecting important natural next year. places and working lands forever. million acres of land.

The North Branch Land Trust, hanna River and on Northeastern Pennsylvania's lands that comprise its agricultural heritage. Branch Land Trust has protected cooperation of their landowners wealth of Pennsylvania.

scrutiny of the land trust community will increase public confidence in the work we do, and if we're successful, we'll be in a potan the designation."

was recently selected as one of 23 trusts volunteered to be part of public by shaping this new proland conservation organizations the program, and those selected from 16 states to participate in a to participate represent a diversity of land trust sizes, geographic national accreditation program. locations and types of land pro-The program will recognize land tected. They will help the Comknown as land trusts, that meet ness and efficiency of the program before it goes nationwide

is demanding accountability headquartered in Trucksville, fo- from government and nonprofit cuses its conservation efforts on organizations, independent land the watershed lands that frame trust accreditation will help prothe North Branch of the Susque- vide the assurance of quality and permanence of land conservation the public is looking for," ex-

The accreditation program will more than 7,000 acres with the be tested in 2007 and will be available to interested organizations in seven counties. At the end of starting in 2008. At that time, 2005, the last year for which data land trusts can join the ranks of are available, North Branch Land other nonprofit organizations Trust ranked sixth in number of that gain professional recogniacres protected in the Commontion through accreditation, such as museums, zoos, aquariums, work. Frank Oliver, executive direc- colleges and hospitals. Accreditto, explained "Accreditation is a ed land trusts will be able to disnew credential for land trusts and play a seal indicating to the public a new process for everyone in- that they meet national stanvolved. We think that objective dards for excellence, uphold the public trust and ensure that conservation efforts are permanent.

Van Ryn emphasized, "We are extremely grateful to the land gram of the Land Trust Alliance sition to help and encourage oth- trusts that volunteered to be part er conservation organizations at- of the pilot accreditation program. These organizations are conservation and nonprofit man-The North Branch Land Trust willing to demonstrate publicly agement experts from around the is one of 44 land trusts that are pi-their commitment to high stan-country. For more information loging the program, operated by dards of ethics and operations please visit www.landtrustac-

The North Branch Land Trust Commission, this year. Land community and the American gram."

North Branch Land Trust accomplishes its conservation mission primarily by helping landowners place legally binding conservation organizations, also mission improve the effective- conservation agreements, called conservation easements, on their land. Typically, these agreements are donated by the landowner, The Commission, an inde- and the federal government en-The nation's nearly 1,700 land pendent program of the Land courages such donations through trusts have protected over 11.9 Trust Alliance, was created in the tax codes. Less frequently, 2006. "In an era when the public the Land Trust will seek financial resources to purchase the development rights on land. Ownership of the land does not change with a conservation agreement. Landowners maintain ownership and continue to manage their land's resources within the replained Executive Director of the strictions of the conservation ince its founding in 1994, North Commission, Tammara Van Ryn. agreement, and they can sell the property or bequeath it to their heirs. A conservation agreement simply limits or prohibits development according to the individual easement's specifications. The nonprofit Land Trust relies almost exclusively on memberships, gifts, and grants for its

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission will award the accreditation seal to community institutions that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Commission, an independent proestablished in 2006, is governed a volunteer board of diverse land the Land Trust Accreditation and serve the land conservation creditation.org.

Puzzles, Page 2 Go Figure! 3

 King Crossword Answers Solution time: 21 mins.



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VENUS • June 20 • Rated R; 95 Minutes

Giving a staggering, fearless, defiantly untamed performance, Perer O'Toole, 74, plays Maurice, a still-employable British actor enthralled with a friend's visiting 19 year-old grandniece, Jessie. Although petulant and crude, Maurice ignores those characteristics and sees Jessie as a reason to live. Jessie soon blossoms under Maurice's attention and they become deep genuine friends in this May-December relationship. With Vanessa Redgrave and the great Leslie Phillips.



THE LIVES OF OTHERS • June 27 • Rated R;

This political thriller and human drama won the 2007 Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Set in 1984 East Germany, this heart-jolting film explores oppression and personal liberty under the constant watch of the State Secret Police. With their goal to know everything about the lives of its citizens, the story focuses on the surveillance of a famous playwright,

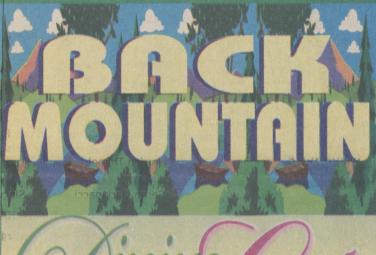
his celebrity actress live-in girlfriend, and the Stasi officer assigned to watch them. The drama unfolds with the officer transforming from a shell of a man leading an empty existence to a human being deeply involved in the couple's lives. In the finale, this turnabout brings surprises and profoundly moving perspectives on lives, actions, and consequences.



AMAZING GRACE • July 18 • Rated PG; 111 Minutes A quintessential historical epic, the film details 18th Century British politician William Wilberforce's life-long mission to end slavery in the British Empire. Although born into a well-to-do merchant family, Wilberforce opts to enter politics and is elected into Parliament at the age of twenty-one. Inspired to serve by humanitarian interests, the young philanthropist soon becomes a leading advocate of social reform. Even though he experiences set-backs, Wilberforce is spurred on in his abolitionist efforts by John Newton (Albert Finney), the remorseful former slave ship caption who wrote the hymn Amazing Grace following a

dramatic religious conversion

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