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GNOME WAY!

Kerhonkson's giant gnome: Is he tallest?

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Times Herald-Record
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Kerhonkson - As garden gnomes go, Gnome Chomsky is hard to miss.

A (literally) transplanted New Yorker, the towering creation stands some 13 feet, 6 inches tall in front of a 10-hole edible miniature golf course overlooking Route 209.

The folks who created and planted Chomsky are hoping he measures up to his presumed stature as the Guinness-sanctioned, world's tallest garden gnome in a measuring ceremony slated for tomorrow.

But first, a word about Chomsky's heritage, his *raison d'être*, and his creator.

Maria Reidelbach, a part-time Kerhonkson resident, wrote the book - not about gnomes but about miniature golf. She lives in Battery Park City. As part of a post-9/11 recovery effort back in 2003, she spearheaded the creation of a garden-and-city-sized gnome to watch over lower Manhattan.

That proto-Chomsky was made of chicken wire and wood and was outfitted in flowers. He came north with his creator when she got a hankering to live in the country. Chomsky was already, by Reidelbach's measure, the world's tallest garden gnome.

But when she decided to go for the Guinness World Records book, she found Chomsky would have to be retrofitted with material that was the same as his ancestors' - cement - and so began the concretizing of the grinning roadside colossus.

Chomsky has stood for most of the summer in front of Gnome on the Grange, the 10-hole minigolf



Maria Reidelbach, creator of Kerhonkson's giant gnome, Gnome Chomsky, puts some marigolds in his hand yesterday. He's going for a Guinness record.

Times Herald-Record/KEN BIZZIGOTTI

course.

In coming north, Reidelbach discovered Kelder's Farm, a family operation that specializes in what's called agro-ed - turning farm acreage into an educational experience for the vast majority of young people who think fruits and vegetables are something General Mills cranks out like so much Rice Krispies.

Chomsky presides over what Reidelbach believes is the world's only edible minigolf course.

Each hole in the 10-hole course - they'll be adding eight more soon - is festooned with berries and vegetables.

An occasional chicken has been known to wander by for a snack.

Anyway, a gaggle of local experts and politicians will take Chomsky's measure tomorrow.

Reidelbach will send the results along to the Guinness people, who will, she hopes, give the grinning giant their official gnod of approval.