On the evening of July 23, it was float, sink, and sometimes swim as the popular Cardboard Boat Race was once again held on Mendon’s Lake Nipmuc. The annual event, sponsored by the Taft Public Library, was just as fun as ever with many boats taking part that were made entirely out of recycled materials. Many of the boats were cleverly created with various themes including an ice cream cone, jaws, and even a rocket ship. In addition to timed races, the cardboard vessels were also given awards in other categories.

And the Winners Are…

Two Person Race
1st Place: Illuminati Confirmed with Greyson and Emmalyn Michael
2nd Place: Rock Shock with Zachary Krager and Blake Leyva
3rd Place: Bangma Ice Cream Dream with Nora & Eliza Bangma

Three or More Race
1st Place: La Garra with Connor Anderson, Gavin Collins, Addie Cormier, Colman Cormier, Addie Brodeur, Chelsea Lane, Jackson Pavlikos, Aidan Francis, Liam Francis, and Marie Wallo
2nd Place: Superman Cart with Chris Lucier, Matthew Lucier, and Colin Glowa
3rd Place: The Love Boat with Kyle Miller, Issac Miller, and Maja Burnett

Family Race:
Jr. with Dom Wormwood, Sophia Vaccia, and Ari Vaccia

Adult Race:
1st Place: Douglas Battle Axes with Kathleen Landers, Pamela Schwartz, Jo Ann Correto, and Ann Holden
2nd Place: The Texan and the Alien with Shana Miller and Christian Burnett

Special Category Award Winners
Supernova Boat Award: Shock Rocker
Go into Ho Award: Bangma Ice Cream Dream
Captain's Choice Award: Jaws
Riptide de Corp: Award: La Garra
Titanic Award: SS Nermoadite with Lernetty & Josephine Bourrier
Pride of Mendon Award: Battleboat with Connor McGrath and Anson Williamson
Out of this World Award: To Infinity and Beyond with Kaeden McIntyre, Giuliana Palumbo, and Owen Worthington

To see more photos of the 2019 Mendon Cardboard Boat Race by Michelle Sanford visit Facebook Town Crier Publications.

Mendon Public Safety Officials Recognized for Life Saving Actions

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

A number of Mendon public safety officials were recognized during a July 15 Selectmen’s meeting for their efforts that ultimately helped save the life of a 16-year-old from New Hampshire.

On the evening of June 19, an emergency call came in stating a teenage male had collapsed at the NEFC Soccer Field on Cape Rd. who was unresponsive without a pulse. A Mendon dispatcher immediately sent police and fire/EMT resources to the field where they found bystanders performing CPR on the teenager, which they then took over.

The Emergency Medical Service crew placed the boy on a cardiac monitor and discovered he was in ventricular fibrillation. He was then shocked putting his heart back into a regular rhythm, which resulted in the teen breathing again. He was then transported to Milford Regional Medical Center.

During the July 15 Selectmen’s meeting, the teen’s mother Dr. Gerri Rubin and his stepfather, John Melvin, who reside in Keene, N.H., attended the meeting to thank everyone involved. Rubin is a pediatrician and Melvin is a retired law enforcement officer. As a result, Life Saving Actions p 3

Warren St. to be Closed Temporarily in the Fall

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

During a July 9 meeting, the Board of Selectmen discussed the upcoming, temporary closure of Warren St. in order for additional parking around the Town Hall to be created.

Selectman Chair Stephen Matellian stated town officials met with members of the state in June to discuss the intersection’s traffic, a possible rotary, and possibly changing the shape of streets in the area. “It was a very informative meeting,” he said.

Warren St. is adjacent to the Town Hall and is part of a multi-street intersection. Over the years, public safety officials have supported closing the street permanently feeling it is unsafe for pedestrians walking to and from the Town Hall as well as pulling in and out of parking spaces associated with the building.

However, for now, Warren St. will be temporarily closed in order to increase parking for the Town Hall from 14 spaces to 21. Parking spaces that run alongside the building now are horizontal. “What we're proposing is head-in parking. That's how we'll pick up the additional parking spaces,” explained Town Manager Derek Brindisi. The handicap parking will be located at a more accessible location right at the curb of the building.

The goal is to have the reconfigured parking spaces completed by winter. “Right now, we have to get the final bid documents back from the engineering firm and then we have to go out to bid, it's a 30 day buy process. We've probably looking at early October to begin the construction,” said Brindisi.

Warren Street Closure p 7

Whatever Floats Your Boat!

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

It’s a family affair for these three as Dom Wormwood rides with granddaughters Sophia and Ari Vaccia in their Jaws themed cardboard boat.

Sisters Nora (left) and Eliza Bangma prepare to launch their vessel, Ice Cream Dream, at the Cardboard Boat Race.

On the evening of July 23, it was float, sink, and sometimes swim as the popular Cardboard Boat Race was once again held on Mendon’s Lake Nipmuc. The annual event, sponsored by the Taft Public Library, was just as fun as ever with many boats taking part that were made entirely out of recycled materials. Many of the boats were cleverly created with various themes including an ice cream cone, jaws, and even a rocket ship. In addition to timed races, the cardboard vessels were also given awards in other categories.
USDA Declares August Tree Check Month

August is the height of summer, and it is also the best time to spot the Asian longhorned beetle (ALB) as it starts to emerge from trees. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is asking the public to take five minutes to step outside and report any signs of this invasive pest. Checking trees for the beetle will help residents protect their own trees and better direct USDA efforts to eradicate this beetle from the United States. The Asian longhorned beetle was first detected in Massachusetts in August 2008 and since then, has resulted in the loss of over 36,000 trees. A current infestation is being fought in Worcester County, so residents there should be especially on guard. “It’s important to look for signs of the beetle now, because it’s slow to spread during the early stages of an infestation,” said Josie Ryan, APHIS’ National Operations Manager for the ALB Eradication Program. “With the public’s help, we can target new areas where it has spread and provide a better chance of quickly containing it.”

The Asian longhorned beetle feeds on a wide variety of popular hardwood trees, including maple, birch, elm, willow, ash and poplar. Nationwide, it has already led to the loss of more than 180,000 trees. In addition to Worcester County, active infestations are being fought in Clermont County, Ohio, and Long Island, N.Y. (Nassau and Suffolk Counties). “Homeowners need to know that infested trees do not recover and will eventually die, becoming safety hazards,” warned Ryan. “USDA removes infested trees as soon as possible because they can drop branches and even fall, especially during storms, and this keeps the pest from spreading to nearby healthy trees.”

It is possible to eliminate this pest and USDA has been successfully doing so in several areas. “This special free tribute dinner recognizes all military members, veterans, first responders and their families, including Blue and Gold Star families. Registration is required for the event as seating will be limited and can be done at ThanksToYanks.org. The dinner will also include speakers, a Flag Tower, Missing Man Table Ceremony, Medal of Liberty Presentation and other ceremonies. For more information or to donate, please visit ThanksToYanks.org, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn and Instagram.

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Rubin told the Selectmen the two understood the seriousness of the situation when they received the phone call about their son and stepson, Charlie.

"The people who saved Charlie jumped into action and came together so well that this could have been a training video on how it should be done," said Rubin. "They all should be commended on their efforts and have our most sincere gratitude for giving Charlie his new birthday."

Rubin added it was also the quick-thinking bystanders and coaches who took the proper action prior to the first responders arriving that also helped save her son’s life.

"He’s alive today because of the quick actions of the coaches on the field, the Mendon Fire Department and first responders. Our lives would have been really different without the actions of your first responders and your town."

Rubin explained Charlie was unable to attend the Selectmen’s meeting to thank everyone because he was recently cleared by physicians to play again and was at a tournament. However, he and his coach did put together a video thanking all those involved, which the emergency responders in attendance at the Selectmen’s meeting watched.

A number of Mendon public safety officials were recognized during a Selectmen’s meeting for their collective efforts to save a teenage boy. Pictured from left to right is (Back Row) Fire Chief Bill Kesler, Fire Lt. Craig Burnham, Firefighter/EMT Philip Rich, EMT Lindsay Kelley, Police Sgt. Matthew Hoar, Police Officer Gregory Palmer, Firefighter David Hickey, Police Chief David Kaczcy. (Front Row) is John Malvin, Dr. Gerri Rubin, Selectmen Chris Burke, Selectmen Lawney Tinio, Firefighter/EMT Assam Taff, and Firefighter Charlie Phipps. Mendon Police Officer Nick Erskine photo

Mendon Senior Center

The Mendon Senior Center serves Mendon residents 60 years of age or older, people with disabilities, and care givers. Hours of operation are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to noon, or call 508-478-6175.

Tuesday, August 6

Button Tree Craft, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13

Mendon History with Jim Buckley, 11 a.m.

Thursday, August 15

Karaoke, 1 p.m.

Saturday, August 17

Sheriff’s Annual Picnic, Shrewsbury, $4 per Person, 11 a.m. Van will Depart Senior Center at 8:15 a.m.

Monday

Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m. Weather Permitting
Food Pantry (First Monday of the Month), 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Whole Foods, 9 a.m.
Cribbage and Bridge, 9 a.m.
Bocce, 9 a.m.

Tuesday

Lunch Club, 12 p.m.
Hand and Foot (Canasta), 1 p.m.

Wednesday

Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m., Weather Permitting
Panera Bread, 9 a.m.

Thursday

Cribbage, 9 a.m.
Wellness Group, 10:30 a.m. (1st and 3rd Thursdays of Month)
Lunch Club, 12 p.m.
Yarn Works, 1 p.m.

Friday

Walking Club, Various Locations, 8:30 a.m. Weather Permitting

Mendon Town Calendar

Thursday, August 8

Conservation Commission, 18 Main St., 7 p.m.

Monday, August 12

Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

All meeting dates, times, and locations are subject to change. For the most up to date information on Mendon meetings, including agendas or cancellations, view www.mendonma.gov/town-calendar

Ice Cream Social with Live Music Performance

The Mendon Senior Center will hold an Ice Cream Social with Live Music on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 p.m. Roger Tinknell will perform 1950s rock, pop and country hits, from Elvis to the Beatles. The singable, danceable songs are so much fun. The show will be followed by an ice cream social featuring make-your-own sundaes. Grandkids are invited to attend this event sponsored by the Friends of Mendon Elders.
A Big Surprise for Mendon Student at Boston Higashi School

Excited young students at the Boston Higashi School in Randolph recently received a huge surprise. A massive 18-wheel truck driven by Teamsters Local 25 President Sean M. O’Brien arrived on the Randolph campus at the time students were completing their morning exercise program. The students all were provided tours of the truck – including the long trailer that can be transformed into an executive conference room or mobile workshop – and each student took turns sitting in the cab and learning how truck drivers safely navigate the open road! Teamsters Local 25 works year-round to raise money to support Autism research and services and is a sponsor of the Boston Higashi School. It has become an annual tradition for O’Brien and other members of Local 25 to visit the students and staff at the Boston Higashi School. Among the excited students is 15-year-old Matthew Bridges of Mendon. Matthew has developed a real bond with O’Brien, who is a frequent visitor to the school.

Matthew Bridges of Mendon behind the wheel as Teamsters Local 25 President Sean O’Brien shows him all about being a truck driver during the visit to the Boston Higashi School.

Food, Fun and Fireworks at Mendonfest

By Melissa Orff
Staff Reporter

It will be an evening of food, fun, and fireworks as the Mendon Festival Committee hosts the first “Mendonfest” on August 24 from 3 to 11 p.m. at Memorial Park.

Mendonfest was born out of feedback from the community hoping for more town-wide events after the Mendon 350th Anniversary celebration.

“We received so much positive feedback about the Block Party [held during the 350th Celebration] that the Brothers of the Brush decided to form a Festival Committee,” said Al Byrne, one of the committee’s members.

The Committee has been working on putting together Mendonfest for many months, planning logistics, soliciting vendors, and finding volunteers and sponsors to put on a large event.

“We have worked hard to get sponsors and the community has been very responsive,” said Byrne.

The afternoon and evening will feature dozens of vendors and local organizations including youth and high school sports, and church groups. “We truly want to keep it to a community supported event and, at the same time, help these groups raise money,” said Byrne.

For the kids, and the kids-at-heart, there will be games and activities including a dunk tank, bouncy house, inflatable obstacle course, and a Corn Hole Tournament.

Southbound Train and South Street Bands will perform live throughout the event and a beer and wine tent will be available for guests over 21.

Hungry participants can grab a hamburger or hotdog or a Chicken Dinner Plate (which can be pre-ordered for $20 at Store. Mendon1667.org). Nibblers can enjoy popcorn, ice cream, cotton candy, fried dough, and more.

A Mendonfest highlight will be a “fantastic” fireworks display at approximately 9 p.m. sponsored by Custom Home Realty of Mendon.

“We are trying to make this event as family-friendly and entertaining as possible,” said Byrne. “It is going to be a lot of fun.”

Supported by the Brothers of the Brush, the Mendon Festival Committee is seeking more volunteers to ensure a successful event.

“We couldn’t hold this event without the Brothers of the Brush support,” said Byrne.

“But we would love to have more volunteers too, even if you can only volunteer an hour or two of your time.” Volunteers can email Byrne at byrne2425@comcast.net.

“We have worked hard to get sponsors and we are hoping for a large event.”

The Committee is estimating about 3,000 people, will attend the event, and hope to make Mendonfest an annual tradition.

There is no rain date for the Mendonfest, due to the difficulty of rescheduling so many participants. For more information, visit Mendonfest.org.
Cartooning with Nathan

Patrons of the Taft Public Library had the chance to learn about character design and illustration in a fun “Cartooning with Nathan” class on July 9 and 11. Taught by illustrator and author Nathan DiPerri, the young cartoonists learned to manipulate and combine simple geometric shapes to create their own original superheroes. The class was part of the library’s Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories. Melissa Orff photo.

Mendon Continues to Build Up Its Fire Department

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

When he first began his position as head of Mendon’s Fire Department, one of Chief Bill Kessler’s goals was to increase the number of on-call and career positions. Slowly but surely, Kessler is working towards that goal. During a July 15 meeting, the Board of Selectmen approved the appointments of three on-call firefighters, a career firefighter/paramedic, and a regular on-call firefighter/EMT.

First up, the Board approved the appointments of regular on-call firefighters Kevin Anderson, Chris Jarvis, and Aram Taft. Initially, in January, the three were appointed as recruits. “Since that point, they’ve have attended the Massachusetts Fire Academy Call Volunteer Recruitment Program,” said Kessler. “They passed that program and passed their certification tests as well. They are now nationally recognized as Firefighter 1, 2 certified and I’d like to ask the Board to appoint them as regular on-call firefighters so they can begin responding with the rest of the troops.”

The new appointments will bring the regular on-call firefighters up to nine. Kessler stated there is another individual preparing to become certified and three more recruits are beginning the program.

Also on the agenda that evening, two other individuals were being considered for appointments to the Department. “That will get our numbers to pretty close to where I think a town of this size can operate okay,” explained Kessler. “We’re going to be setting up three separate groups that will be rotating on coverage. I think we’re getting pretty close to a fair number of people that from both a coverage perspective and financial perspective is a good mix.”

Related to the discussion, the Selectmen then approved the appointment of Brett Lizak as a career firefighter/paramedic, contingent on paperwork being approved. Kessler stated that during the interview process, Lizak “came out on top.” The Fire Chief added that he previously worked with Lizak in Uxbridge and brings extensive experience with him and will help with new recruits. “I’ve known Brett for many, many years. It would be nice to have him back.”

Finally, the Selectmen also approved the appointment of Lindsay Kelley as a regular on-call firefighter/EMT on the condition of her passing the state’s physical abilities test taking place August 1. Kessler explained he was desperate to hire for the position as one career firefighter is out after being injured. Kelley was appointed as a per diem position and has since completed all the necessary training with the exception of the physical abilities test. Kessler explained with the Selectmen’s limited summer meeting schedule he wanted to bring Kelley forward during the July meeting with the condition she pass her final test.

Thanks from the Mendon Senior Center

The Mendon Senior Centers offers thanks to all who have supported their efforts recently. The first thanks go out to everyone who made the June Town-Wide Progressive Yard Sale such a success. The Friends of Mendon Elders raised nearly $3000, which will be used to support enrichment programs for Mendon senior citizens.

Thanks also to Joanne Mondor for creating picture boards of activities and events at the Senior Center. Mondor also leads scrapbooking sessions. The next one is August 8 at 10:30 a.m.
In the event titled "Mildford Mom Speaking Out About Veteran Son’s Suicide" which ran in the July 5 Upton Mendon Town Crier, the last posting for U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Joshua Nunnally was omitted. He was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas, and had an apartment in El Paso, where the U.S. Army found him was a non-hostile, self-inflicted death.

Helping Prevent or Dealing with Suicide

Here are a few resources for those who are feeling despondent and may be contemplating taking their lives. Led by the Department of Veterans Services, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, the Massachusetts Advocacy for Veteran’s Empowerment (SAVE) is a peer to peer program built specifically to help veterans. SAVE is staffed by 15 veterans who have been trained in suicide prevention, peer support, and substance abuse recovery. SAVE staff work with veterans to identify key challenges they face when they return from duty. To contact the SAVE Team, 1-888-844-2838 or save@massstate.mass.gov.

Veterans with any needs, may contact the Veteran’s Agent in their town. In Milford the agent is John Pilla, 508-634-2311 or Pilla@TownofMilford.com, Robin Fletcher serves Mendon 508-473-8461 or Veterans@MendonMA.gov; and Patrick Morris serves Upton, PIMorris@UptonMA.gov. Veterans can also talk to their town’s veteran’s agent or visit Mass.gov/veterans about Chapter 115 of Massachusetts General Laws, a needs-based means program of financial and medical assistance for needy veterans and their dependents in the state.

Other resources which may be accessed by anyone for suicide prevention are: Samaritans Statewide Helpline at 1-800-799-SUICIDE (1-800-799-7843) or NAMHOPE or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (Veterans should press 1).

For families who have experienced suicide many counsellors and books are available to help. Catherine Villani recommends Finding Peace Without All the Pieces: After a Loved One’s Suicide by LaRita Archibald.

Obituary

Paul Joseph Intinarelli
UPON-Paul Joseph Intinarelli, 77, a long time Upton resident, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 24, 2019, in his home. He was the beloved husband of 53 years to the late Karen J. Intinarelli, who passed away in May of this year.

Born in Natick, he was the son of the late Harry and Christina (Faretta) Intinarelli.

He attended Wentworth University where he began his career as a skilled carpenter. After retirement, he was employed at the Blackstone Valley Tech High School in the maintenance department.

Surviving Karen, they built two of their homes in Upton, where their three children were raised. He served in the Army National Guard, was a drummer in his own band, named, “The Trends,” and was a long time member of the Community Covenant Church in Hopkinton.

When he wasn’t spending time with his family, some of his hobbies and interests were painting, fishing, drawing, camping, “cruising” on vacation, and building birdhouses.

We reserved the right to edit any submitted articles as deemed unfit for publication in a family newspaper.

For more information on how to submit letters to the editor please see our policy at TownCrier.us.

Back to school

Section C!

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Free, nourishing meals offered monthly to all in the local community.

Second Tuesday 6-7 p.m. Dinner, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by Food with Friends. 508-473-2000

Last Wednesday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

5:30 p.m. Community Pasta Supper, St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, 61 Wood St. (Rt.135), Hopkinton. Sponsored by the Hopkinton Christian Service Connection. 508-435-4336 or StPaul@hopkinton.org

Every Thursday 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Lunch, St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Small Hall, 27 Pearl St., Milford. Sponsored by St. Vincent dePaul Society. 508-473-2000

Third Thursday 5:30-7 p.m. Supper, United Parish, 1 Church St., Upton.

Upton. Donations accepted. Reservation, three days ahead by calling 508-529-3192.

Last Friday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Sponsored by First Methodist Church of Milford volunteers. 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

Last Friday 4:30-6 p.m. Dinner, Trinity Episcopal Church, 17 Congress St., Milford. Sponsored by the Hopedale Churches (Unitarian, Sacred Heart and Union

Evangelical). 508-473-8464 or office@trinitychurchmilford.org

Call for bids on the following:

AUGUST 2, 2019
The Upton Center
The Upton Center is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Staff is available by phone from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Activities are subject to change. Please call 508-529-4558 with any questions.

Friday, August 2
Distribution of Farmers Market Coupons, 9:30 a.m.

Monday, August 5
COA Meeting, 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, August 6
Shopping Trip to Hannaford’s, Uxbridge, 1:30 p.m.
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis, 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7
Afternoon Movie: Crash, 12:30 p.m.
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, August 8
Shopping Trip to Salvation Army, Shaw’s, Job Lots, Foppema’s, Walmart Loop, Northbridge, 9:15 a.m.

Friday, August 9
Nutrition Talk, 10:45 a.m.
Birthday Bash, 12:45 p.m.

Monday, August 12
Shopping Trip to Shaw’s, CVS, Job Lots, Northbridge, 12:30 p.m.
Senior Moore’s Office Hours, 1:30 to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, August 13
Craft Time with Betty, 10:45 a.m.
Lunch Trip to Dynasty, Hopkinton, 11:45 a.m. departure.

Wednesday, August 14
Shopping Trip to Market Basket, Oxford, 9 a.m.
Trip to the Petting Zoo at the Upton Library, Departs at 12:15 p.m.
Depart for Concert at Kiwanis, 5:15 p.m.

Thursday, August 15
Podiatrist Appts. at the Center, 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. (Please call Center for appt.)

Saturday, August 17
Trip to Sheriff’s Annual Picnic in Shrewsbury, 8:45 a.m. departure.

Monday, August 19
Trip to Art Bradish’s in Grafton and Christmas Tree Shop in Shrewsbury, 11:45 a.m.

Monday, August 5
Tai Chi, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6
Card Players Group, 10 a.m.
Wil Games, 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday, August 7
Computer Class, 9 a.m.
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
Library Table, 11 a.m.
Canasta, 12:30 p.m.

Thursday, August 8
Knit and Crochet Group, 10 a.m.
Bingo, 1 p.m.

Friday, August 9
Strength and Stretch, 10 a.m.
Family Night at the Bandstand

Jerry Seeco & the Milford Jazz Machine kicked off the Family Night at the Bandstand series of free concerts on Thursday, June 27. The concerts are held at Milford Musician’s Pavilion in the Milford Town, the corner of Congress and Walnut Streets, each Tuesday night from 6.30 to 8.30 p.m. now through August 21. Rain dates are the following Thursday. The concerts are sponsored by the Claffin Hill Symphony Orchestra and MyFM. The concert schedule is:

August 6: Swing Night” with The Fantasy Big Band, sponsored by Milford Nissan and Waters Corporation
August 13: Zach Innis and the Honey Bees A Tom Petty Tribute, sponsored by Milford Federal Bank
August 21: The Claffin Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Funeral Home

Blackstone Heritage Corridor

Brings Adaptive Kayaking to Wallum Lake

Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor (BHC) is partnering with All Out Adventures to bring a series of four free, adaptive kayaking events to Wallum Lake at Douglas State Forest, Douglas, on Tuesday, August 27, Tuesday, September 10, Saturday, September 14 and Tuesday, September 17.

With funding provided by a grant BHC received from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, New England Region, this program expands BHC’s recreational programming to those with disabilities. Earlier this year, BHC and All Out Adventures presented a series of five adaptive cycling events in May along the Blackstone River Bikeway in Worcester, and Blackstone.

“We’re grateful to the National Network of Libraries of Medicine for providing funding to offer this amazing program,” said Suzanne Buchanan, Volunteer Coordinator at BHC. “Volunteers of the Blackstone Valley Paddle Club will provide support throughout the program. Join in the fun to make memories, friends, and enjoy this unique recreational opportunity.”

The adaptive kayaking program is open to people with disabilities with a guest. Through the use of tandem kayaks, paddle adaptations, and outriggers, All Out Adventures makes kayaking accessible to people of all levels of ability. Adventures are available at 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m., by advance registration only. Space is limited. Directions and details will be sent upon registration. To register, visit AllOutAdventures.org or call 413-584-2052.

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ADULT CLASSES STARTING IN SEPTEMBER

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508-529-6409
Diane Scouras, Director
27 Oak Dr., Upton
diane@schoolofdance.com
www.dianesschoolofdance.net

Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park August Programming

The Blackstone River and Canal Heritage State Park will sponsor the following events this month. All programs take place at River Bend Farm Visitor Center, 287 Oak St., Uxbridge, unless otherwise noted. Programs are free and open to the public. All ages are welcome but children must be accompanied by an adult. For more information or registration call 508-278-7604.

Nature Story Hour—Every Friday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Rain or shine, enjoy a nature-themed story time, followed by a short nature walk and a craft activity. Appropriate for ages 3-6, siblings are welcome.

Morning Nature Walk—Thursday, August 8 and 22, 9 to 9:30 a.m. Enjoy a one-mile walk along river and the fields. Leashed dogs welcomed. For all ages.

Goat Hill Hike—Saturday, August 10, 1 to 3 p.m. A four-mile, recreational hike on an easy to difficult trail from Goat Hill, Hartford Ave. East, Uxbridge, along the canal to Plummer’s Corner, Northbridge. For all ages.

Art by the Water—Sunday, August 11 and 25, 10 to 11 a.m. A short hike to a sunny field along the Blackstone River for participants to jot down their discoveries. Materials provided, suitable for all ages.

Brown Bag Along the Blackstone—Thursday August 15, from 12 to 1 p.m. Pack a lunch to celebrate Preservation Month, by watching watch an episode of Along the Blackstone, an award-winning series of videos by the National Park Service featuring stories of baseball in the Blackstone Valley.

Learn to Fish—Sunday, August 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. A one-mile guided walk along the Blackstone Canal to learn about the canal’s historical and cultural significance and its role in the farm to factory transformation of the Blackstone Valley. All walks end at start location. On August 11 and 18 meet at River Bend Farm while on August 25 meet at Plummer’s Corner, Church St. Extension, Northbridge.

Boots Along the Blackstone—Thursday August 15, from 12 to 1 p.m. Pack a lunch to celebrate Preservation Month, by watching watch an episode of Along the Blackstone, an award-winning series of videos by the National Park Service featuring stories of baseball in the Blackstone Valley.

Brown Bag Along the Blackstone—Thursday August 15, from 1 to 2:15 p.m. Join an interpreter in a two-mile leisurely walk along the towpath while discussing the stories and history uncovered in the episode of Along the Blackstone watched during Brown Bag along the Blackstone! Woodlands and Watersways, Sunday, August 17 and 24 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. A one-mile walk along the Blackstone Canal to learn how it and agriculture shaped the landscape. Dress for a walk, bring water and insect repellent. For all ages.

Learn to Fish—Sunday, August 18, from 1 to 2 p.m. A one-mile guided walk along the Blackstone Canal to learn how it and agriculture shaped the landscape. Dress for a walk, bring water and insect repellent. For all ages.

Reading New England’s Forests—Saturday, August 24, from 9 to 10 a.m. A guided walk along the Blackstone Canal to learn about the flora and fauna of the Blackstone Valley. For all ages.

Funeral Home

sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Milford Federal Bank
August 21: The Claffin Hill Symphony Summer Winds, sponsored by Consigli Ruggerio Funeral Home

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Family Night at the Bandstand

Jerry Seeco & the Milford Jazz Machine, plays the sax at the first Family Night at the Bandstand on June 27. Harry Platcow Town Crier photo

Mike Crowley, a member of Jerry Seeco & the Milford Jazz Machine, plays the sax at the first Family Night at the Bandstand Concert on June 27. Harry Platcow Town Crier photo

AUGUST 2, 2019
Upton-Mendon Town Crier
Puppets from Outer Space

Meeting A Calf or Two

Learning About Science and Creating Alien Goo!

Kathy Davis of Sparky’s Puppets taught audience members about her collection of puppets and how they are made. The show was called “Stories from Outer Space.” It was presented by the Upton Town Library as part of the Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories. Upton Town Library photo

Youngsters had a chance to meet some new three-week-old calves at Town Line Dairy Farm owned by Crystal Maloney, during an Upton Town Library Preschool Read Around when Learning About Science and Creating Alien Goo! The Library hosts monthly book discussion groups on the summer reading theme of Space with trivia, arts and crafts and exploring the library collection. C.A.R.T. meets every Tuesday from 3:45 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Gathering Room, for ages 18-16. No registration required.

Library Book Discussion Groups

The Library Book Discussion Groups hosts monthly book discussion groups. All groups meet in the Library Gathering room, and discussions last one hour.

Library Book Group meets on the last Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. and alternates fiction and non-fiction titles. On Thursday, August 29, Beneath a Scarlet Sky by Mark Sullivan, historical fiction about WWII in Italy will be discussed.

Upton Reads meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:45 p.m., and following Thursday at 6:45 p.m. to read an eclectic mix of contemporary literary fiction. Island of the Sea Women by Lisa See, a novel about friendship and secrets on a small Korean island, will be discussed August 13 and 15.

Science Tellers recently visited the Upton Town Library to perform Aliens: Escape from Earth. Illustrated is the storyteller with audience members all dressed as aliens. “Years ago, the world was invaded,” the storyteller began. “Aliens! Aliens are here! Aliens are here!” Audience members enjoyed the story and then learned about several science experiments. The event was one of several hosted by the Library as part of the Summer Reading Program, A Universe of Stories. Check the Library website, UptonLibrary.org, for more information.

Upton Town Library photo
Daniels Farmstead Farmers Markets and Tours

Submitted by Jane Henney

Each Sunday, through September 29, the Daniels Farmstead, 286 Mendon St., Blackstone, will be open for a Farmers Market and for tours offered by knowledgeable guides from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The farmstead, which was owned by ten generations of the Daniels family through 1998, teaches visitors about farming life from the 18th Century to the present. The site has been a farm since 1685, with the oldest existing part of the farmstead dating back to 1700, while the majority of the Greek Revival structure was built between 1798 and 1820. Not only can people tour the house and grounds, they can also shop for fresh produce, freshly-baked goodies from Doris’ Kitchen and an array of local vendors with products and crafts. Visitors can plan to stay for the afternoon with a picnic lunch from the grill and cold soft drinks while enjoying music by local performers. All of these activities are free of charge. For more information, visit DanielsFarmstead.org or call 508-726-2042.

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UniBank will be sponsoring a free home buying seminar at its Douglas branch, 4 Mechanic St., Douglas on Wednesday, August 21, 2019 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Seminar speakers include Pam MacDougall, UniBank Mortgage Consultant (NMLS #485225); Karen Mercure, Realtor, The Mercure Group at Keller Williams; Mark Wickstrom, Attorney, Wickstrom Morse, LLP; Paul Baker, Appraiser, Baker Appraisals; Kerri Pomfret, Insurance Agent at Ripple Effect Insurance; Sue Reider, Home Inspector, Keystone Home Inspections. Contact UniBank’s Karen Yacino (NMLS# 688961) at 508-476-2624 or karen.yacino@unibank.com to register. Attendees will be entered for a chance to win a $100 gift card. Sweepsstakes to win gift card is subject to complete official rules which are available at UniBank’s Douglas branch. To enter, individuals must register and attend the seminar. No purchase or account required to enter or win. Must be 18 years of age or older to enter to win. All seminar attendees will receive a $250 mortgage closing cost coupon from UniBank. UniBank’s Free Home Buying Seminar series will be hosted monthly throughout 2019. The bank’s September seminar will take place at UniBank’s Uxbridge branch located at 25 North Main Street. The bank’s October seminar will take place at UniBank’s Shrewsbury branch located at 193 Boston Turnpike Suite 3160. Dates and details will be forthcoming. For up-to-date details, visit UniBank.com

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The First Congregational Church of Milford, 4 Congress St., Milford, is sponsoring an Electronics Recycling Day on Saturday, September 14, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon in the church parking lot. The church ensures that 99 percent of dropped off items will be reused and recycled. All computer monitors, computers, parts and accessories, faxes, copiers, printers, scanners and TVs can be recycled. Recycling fees range from $5 to $35 per item. Cell phones can be recycled at no charge and will be donated to charities that recycle and reuse them. The recycling vendor will erase and shred all hard drives at no additional cost. A drive through process will allow those donating to quickly drop off their items where help will be available. Cash payments only, please.

For more information, contact Martha at 508-904-4471.

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STITCHING INSECTS BOTHERING YOU? Let us ELIMINATE them...
Dell Volunteers at Upton State Forest

On Wednesday, June 26, a group of 15 employees from the Dell (formerly EMC) Hopkinton office volunteered to help with some clean-up at Upton State Forest (USF). Dell encourages its employees to volunteer quarterly in their communities to give back. Thanks to Heather Lemire, a Bay State Trail Riders member, who thought that USF would be a great place for a group of employees to help out.

Bill Taylor, President of the Friends of Upton State Forest, started off with a brief history of the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) and the development of the forest. The group divided to do trail clearing led by Bill and Mary McManus and Suzanne Nicholas and Joyce Sandvik. A third group stayed at the headquarters with Ellen Arnold to help with clean-up and plant flowers around the flag pole.

Thanks to Lemire for thinking of USF where volunteers are always welcome. Thanks to all the Dell employees—Nicole Sweeney, Jon Siegal, Shannon Champion, David Giesecke, William Geller, Ben Jastrab, Jillian Kaplan, Karen Nunes, Cassie McNamara, Courtney McIver, Allan Waters, Nick Petrillo, Jim Graves, David Glynn—who took time out of their day to help and to the group leaders. Trails are always in need of clearing and sprucing up the headquarters provides a pleasant environment for visitors.

Given the importance of the forest and the value it provides to the community, the group leaders ask that anyone interested in volunteering for the next clean-up on USF to contact the Friends of Upton State Forest at 508-883-4522 to reserve a place on the trail or in the headquarters.

Attention Homeowners
Add some color to your home!

Dell Volunteers at Upton State Forest

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Peluso Precision Automotive

By Michelle Sanford
Staff Reporter/Columnist

Whether a vintage car enthusiast or not, pulling into Peluso Precision Automotive in Mendon, one can't help but be impressed with the cars that fill the Blackstone St. lot. Classics such as Mustangs, Corvettes, Chevys, and Pontiac Bonnevilles are eye-catching to say the least. And among vintage car owners, word on the street is Steve Peluso is the go-to-specialist when it comes to transmission repairs and other auto care needs for these specialty cars.

Peluso opened his Mendon business nearly two years ago after working at Lee Myles Transmissions for 33 years in West Roxbury. That said, it's no surprise his love of cars began when he started hanging around a gas station in Dorchester as a young boy. "They kept throwing me out and I kept going back," said Peluso.

Eventually, he went to work for his uncle who owned a small transmission shop in Yarmouth and then in 1984 he purchased the transmission business in West Roxbury. However, after more than three successful decades there, Peluso realized he wanted to do something that focused primarily on his passion for vintage cars. Enter Peluso Precision Automotive.

"I love working on any type of vintage car really but American cars from the 40s through the 70s is my area of expertise," said Peluso. "My specialty is transmission repair, but if you need any vintage auto repair, we should be able to help." Peluso works on modern cars too. "So, give us a call!" he said.

The business's Facebook page is full of glowing reviews from customers who have raved about Peluso's work and his honesty. "Steve is a diamond in the rough. A person whose own passion for classic cars shows through when he's working on yours. It's very hard to find someone who gives you their knowledge and quality of work at a fair price like Steve does," said one customer.

Speaking of rave reviews, Peluso said locating his business to Mendon has been nothing but a positive experience. "Everyone has been phenomenal to me; very helpful and very welcoming," he said.

A vintage car owner himself, Peluso can't name one thing he doesn't love about the specialty cars and isn't afraid to admit he's hooked. "It's a disease," he said smiling. "A good disease, but a disease nonetheless."

Peluso Precision Automotive is located at 93 Blackstone St. in Mendon. Hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday by appointment only. To discuss your vintage car needs, call 508-478-8900. Also check out the Facebook page for some of Peluso's latest work or view sgp358.wixsite.com/pelusoauto.
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Homefield Credit Union Raises Organ Donation Awareness

The issue of organ donation has hit home at Homefield Credit Union. Samantha Cleveland, a Grafton resident and the daughter of Homefield Credit Union employee, Alyssa Cleveland, is need of a kidney.

Samantha had one kidney removed at four when a non-cancerous tumor was discovered. By age 10, she was diagnosed with a Pax 2 multi-symptom gene mutation which began to impact her remaining kidney. Her kidney function is now about 12 percent and a transplant is urgent.

Samantha has opted for a living donor transplant and is on the United Network of Organ Sharing (UNOS) waiting for an appropriate match. So, while the Cleveland family is patiently waiting, they are also taking the opportunity to raise the issue of organ donation. “It is our hope to call attention to this critically important matter, not only to help Samantha, but also to help the thousands of others facing a similar situation,” said Alyssa Cleveland. “The Cleveland family is beyond humbled and forever grateful for our Homefield Credit Union family.”

Without all of Homefield CU’s generosity, we would not have all this positive attention and momentum. Even if a potential donor is not a direct match for Samantha, you may be able to donate to someone else who is desperately waiting.”

Homefield Credit Union President & CEO Karl Moisan said, “The Cleveland’s are a wonderful family and we’ll do everything we can to get the word out with the hopes of helping Samantha find a kidney match. There are currently over 74,000 active candidates currently suitable for transplantation and eligible to receive organ offers. Knowing there are so many individuals in need of and waiting for an organ donation, public awareness is key.”

Anyone interested in learning more about organ donations and helping Samantha can call the UMass Memorial Transplant Team at 508-334-1269 option 4, or visit UMassMemorialHealthCare.org. When contacting UMass make sure to state the contact is about Directed Living Kidney Donor for Samantha Cleveland.

Sheriff’s Annual Senior Picnic

Enjoy a fun filled day in the park with complimentary lunch, raffles and Bingo at the Annual Worcester County Sheriff’s Senior Picnic on Saturday, August 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at SAC Park, 438 Lake St., Shrewsbury. Senior Vans from Mendon and Upton will transport senior citizens from those communities with reservations. Reserve a van seat in Mendon by calling 508-478-6175. In Upton call 508-529-4558. The Mendon van leaves at 8:15 a.m. from the senior center, while the Upton van leaves the Upton Center, Farm St. at 8:45 a.m. Each group has reserved seating that must be claimed by 9:30 a.m. Also contact the local senior center to reserve a table of 10.

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The Taste of the Towns will hold the 14th annual The Taste of the Towns at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain date August 24, at the shelter, 289 West St. (Rt. 140), Milford. Drop off or drop off for donations are 4 to 6 p.m. on the Friday before the sale by or 10 a.m. the morning of the sale at the shelter. Donations of the following, cleaned, gently used items in good working condition are greatly appreciated: household goods, furniture, toys, games, sports equipment, garden items, collectibles, books and tools. Items not accepted are: TVs, computers, monitors, clothing, shoes, mattresses, large appliances, air conditioners, out-of-date electronics, fitness equipment, or baby car seats or cribs.

The cost is $20 for sellers to be listed on the map, and buyers will be able to purchase a map for $5 listing all the sales on the day of the sale beginning at 7:30 a.m. Stop back up to United Parish for lunch and dessert. The sausage & peppers and burgers on the grill will be cooking, snack bar available and an apple crisp booth, featuring the homemade treat served with real whipped cream throughout the day.

Vendors Wanted for St. Gabriel’s Fair VENDOR-Applications are being accepted for St. Gabriel’s 8th annual Harvest Fair to be held Saturday, September 8. The Fair will begin following Mass and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds adjacent to St. Gabriel’s School, Milford. Ten foot spaces will be available at $25. Tables and tents are also available for rent. Please contact Brian Gallaher via email at bgallaher@gmail.com, or 508-529-6011 for more information or an application.

United Parish Town-Wide Yard Sale UPTON-SAVE THE DATE: United Parish is planning their town-wide yard sale in conjunction with Upton’s Heritage Day Celebration on Saturday, September 28. Last year’s event was a success with over 30 locations throughout the town. Interested sellers will be able to register soon at the church and will receive signs and information to help plan for their individual sales. A new feature this year will allow out-of-town or Upton residents to set up tables at the VFW instead of their yard. More information on registering will be available soon.

Costs will be $20 for sellers to be listed on the map, and buyers will be able to purchase a map for $3 listing all the sales on the day of the sale beginning at 7:30 a.m. Stop back up to United Parish for lunch and dessert. The sausage & peppers and burgers on the grill will be cooking, snack bar available and an apple crisp booth, featuring the homemade treat served with real whipped cream throughout the day.

Milford Humane Society Yard Sale MILFORD-The Milford Humane Society will hold their 3rd annual Yard Sale at 9 a.m. on Saturday, August 17 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain date August 24, at the shelter, 289 West St. (Rt. 140), Milford. Drop off or drop off for donations are 4 to 6 p.m. on the Friday before the sale by or 10 a.m. the morning of the sale at the shelter. Donations of the following, cleaned, gently used items in good working condition are greatly appreciated: household goods, furniture, toys, games, sports equipment, garden items, collectibles, books and tools. Items not accepted are: TVs, computers, monitors, clothing, shoes, mattresses, large appliances, air conditioners, out-of-date electronics, fitness equipment, or baby car seats or cribs.

The cost is $20 per person and includes transportation, a $10 Wally’s gift card and admission to the Fabulous, Fearless Family Fun Fair. Proceeds will benefit the St. Gabriel’s Research Campaign, and the Barton Diabetes Fund.

The format for the top 50 vehicles able to win trophies allowing participants the ability to show up in a “Cruise Type” environment and vehicles to park next to will be provided. Light refreshments will also be provided.

The Northborough Library parking lot is accessed by Patty Lane, located behind the building. For more information, visit NorthboroughLibrary.com or email info@northboroughlibrary.com. 

United Parish of Upton is planning their festive United Parish Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 7 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain date December 31. The Fair will begin following Mass and will run from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the church grounds adjacent to St. Gabriel’s School, Milford. Ten foot spaces will be available at $25. Tables and tents are also available for rent. Please contact Brian Gallaher via email at bgallaher@gmail.com, or 508-529-6011 for more information or an application.

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WANTED:

- Regular transportation drivers - no special license required.
- 7D drivers wanted to transport students to and from school in company vehicles. If you are interested but do not have a 7D license we have all the paperwork to get your license and walk you through the process. It’s very easy.
- Must be 21 years of age and hold a valid driver’s license for at least three years.
- Hours are early morning and mid afternoon. These are shift jobs.
- Great if you are retired! Shifts available from 20-39 hours per week.

Monitors also needed!

North Purchase District School Gathering MILFORD- The MILFORD Historical Commission will hold a lawn-gathering at the North Purchase District School, 261 Purchase St., on Sunday, August 18, from 2 to 4 p.m. Visitors will be able to peek inside the 1832, one-room schoolhouse where a teacher would have taught every student grades 1 – 8. Early photos, books and historical maps will be available for viewing on the lawn that included pictures of the local granite quarry and stone industry and the granite industry.

District schools were the education system prior to the establishment of schools. They were supported solely by the families living in their district whereas neighborhood schools were supported by the town through taxes.

Parking is available on Huckleberry Circle which is just beyond the schoolhouse.

Low Hiring Drivers

Transportation Drivers and 7D School Van Drivers and Monitors Needed

WANTED:

- Regular transportation drivers - no special license required.
- 7D drivers wanted to transport students to and from school in company vehicles. If you are interested but do not have a 7D license we have all the paperwork to get your license and walk you through the process. It’s very easy.
- Must be 21 years of age and hold a valid driver’s license for at least three years.
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- Great if you are retired! Shifts available from 20-39 hours per week.

Monitors also needed!

Call Mark’s Transportation at 508-473-3600

Our office is located at 51 East Main St. (Route 16) Milford, MA. Stop in the office to fill out an application from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

September 28, the last day. Limited and accepted on a first come basis. Please come with questions and thoughts. EART (Computer Aided Real Time Captioning) will be provided. Light refreshments will also be provided.

The Northborough Library parking lot is accessed by Patty Lane, located behind the building. For more information, visit NorthboroughLibrary.com or email info@northboroughlibrary.com. 

For more information on an application contact: Donna MacNaughton, Vendor Chair and MacNaughton2@gmail.com. 

The Fair will be held at the Blackstone Valley Regional Woman’s Club Fair (formerly the Upton Woman’s Club Fair) being held on Saturday, November 2 at Blackstone Valley Regional Woman’s Club Fair, 11 Birch St., Milford, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is the biggest and best fair in Upton, and a wonderful opportunity to get into the holiday shopping crowd. Vendors are invited to sell crafts, products and services. Booth spaces are limited and accepted on a first come basis.

For more information and an application contact: Donna MacNaughton, Vendor Chair and MacNaughton2@gmail.com.
Allison Marjorie Shaughnessy.
Franco Jr, Molly Elizabeth King, Ian Lawrence Murphy and David Luke Rausch.

Among the graduates were the following local students. Brittany Gaulin of Mendon
were the following local residents. Brittany Gaulin of Mendon
McGreal, Max Menelaus Mirageas, Ruari Eoin Morrison, Olivia Onorato, Emily Perry, James Patrick Rogan.

Dubois, Alison Goddard, Erin Jane Hartwig, Andre Michael Kinne, Jonathan David Lynch, Kyle Thomas

Upton-Mendon students: Alumni Stadium. Among the graduates were the following

University of New Haven
The following local students received degrees from the University of New Haven, West Haven, Conn., at Commencement ceremonies in May. Mendon-Ashley Whitmore, College of Arts and Sciences, a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a concentration in Investigative Services. Upton-Emily Paine, Henry C. Lee College of Criminal Justice and Forensic Sciences, a Bachelor of Science in Forensic Science with a concentration in Biology Track.

University of Massachusetts Amherst

Among the 897 members of the Class of 2019, who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Marketing and Courtney Galane graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.

RYANT University

Among the 897 members of the Class of 2019, who were awarded a Bryant University degree at the 156th Commencement ceremony on May 18 in Smithfield, R.I. were the following local residents. Brittany Gaulin of Mendon graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Accounting and Upton residents Julia Parvichenko graduated Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree in Marketing and Courtney Galane graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication.

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Valley Tech National Lunch and Breakfast Program

Blackstone Valley Regional Vocational Technical High School has announced its policy for free and reduced lunch and breakfast for those students unable to pay the full price for meals and snacks under the National School Lunch & Breakfast program. Income eligibility guidelines must be met and an application must be completed. Families who have received a letter stating that their child is eligible for the program via direct certification do not have to complete an application. Applications and all information regarding the program may be found by visiting ValleyTech.SchoolLunchApp.com, by stopping by the school office or accessing the school website, ValleyTech.k12.ma.us and clicking under “Parents & Students”/”Food & Nutrition.”

Valley Tech National Lunch at SkillsUSA Nationals

In the final stage of the SkillsUSA competition series, Blackstone Valley Tech students proved their talent, dedication, and education are among the best in the nation earning two gold medals as well as several top-tier placements at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Louisville, Kentucky June 24-29. This year’s championships marked the third time a Valley Tech student successfully ran for national office–Anika Koopman of Northbridge was elected by the House of Delegates to serve a one-year term as Massachusetts Region 1 Vice President, SkillsUSA National Officer. As a National Officer, Anika will represent SkillsUSA through personal appearances and will participate in numerous professional development programs. Additionally, seven National Voting Delegates from BVT represented the school at the conference. The following students from Blackstone Valley Tech were among the nation’s top competitors at the 2019 SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference Championships:

Gold, 1st Place
John Doiron of Douglas, Dental Assisting
Samuel Houle of Milville, Major Appliance Technology

5th Place
Connor Andrews of Sutton and Zachary Rivernider of Mendon, Mobile Robotics

6th Place
Emma Kane of Blackstone, Kierra Kurytko of Uxbridge, Renata Santiago of Milford, and Carissa Penta of Blackstone, Entrepreneurship

7th Place
Demetri Almeida of Milford, Telecommunications Cabling

Students placed outside of the Top 10:
Chief Palestinian Aurelio of Mendon, Photography
Max Breueggemann of Whitinsville, Technical Drafting
Olivia Chesci of Milford, Alyssa Davis of Blackstone, and Sarah Duncan of Bellingham, Promotional Bulletin Board

Dean’s List

The following local students were name to the Spring 2019 Deans List at their respective schools.


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Giving Back by Walking for a Cancer Cure

By Melissa Orff

Staff Reporter

An Upton resident will be walking the Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk for the 18th time to honor those who have battled with cancer, including herself.

Stephanie Freeman is a survivor of Non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and was treated at the Jimmy Fund in 1986. In 2000, when her parents heard that there was a way to give back to the organization that helped save her daughters life, the family began walking to help raise money for cancer research.

“My whole family walked,” said Freeman in an interview with the Town Crier this month. “That’s what I love about the Jimmy Fund Walk, the whole family can be involved.”

Not only is Freeman a survivor of cancer, but her father also battled cancer, strengthening her resolve to do her part to help find a cure for this terrible disease.

Since 2000, Freeman has walked every year except for one year, September 2011, when she was 8 months pregnant. That year her husband walked most of the way on her behalf and she walked the last mile with him to cross the finish line.

Over those years Freeman has raised thousands of dollars and walked hundreds of miles for the Jimmy Fund – anywhere from the 26.2-mile course to the past few years walking the 10k with her husband Seth, her daughter Zoe, and her son Zachary. This year, Zoe, who is seven years old, will be following in her mother’s footsteps by doing her own fundraising to help kids with cancer.

“This has been a great way to teach my kids about helping other people,” she said.

Freeman has turned her personal experience and passion for helping others with cancer into a profession. She has worked as a clinical social worker in pediatric oncology for over 15 years and is currently the East Coast Coordinator for the Children’s Brain Tumor Foundation, coordinating peer mentorship, family support, and programming to connect families and survivors.

“We are all working for the greater good of all the kids,” she said.

Freeman and her family will be thinking about those kids as they lace up their sneakers once again to join their friends and family members in the annual fundraising walk.

The Boston Marathon Jimmy Fund Walk raises the most money of any single day walk in the country. Scheduled this year for Sunday, September 22, funds raised from the Walk will support all forms of adult and pediatric patient care and cancer research at the nation’s premier cancer center, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. The Jimmy Fund Walk has raised more than $135 million in its 50-year history.

To register for the Walk (@JimmyFundWalk), to support a walker, or to volunteer, visit JimmyFundWalk.org or call 866-531-9255. Registrants can enter the promo code NEWS for $5 off the registration fee. Walkers can walk any one of four distance options, so there is a chance for everyone to participate.

To donate to the Freeman team, visit Danafarber. JimmyFund.org/sfr Freeman2019.
Upton-Mendon Town Crier

Upton’s Bradford Gives Micros a Spark

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Colin Bradford, a future Nipmuc Regional High School student, has been a standout behind the plate in his first summer with the team. The next Nipmuc Warrior has enjoyed the experience of playing against older competition.

The future Nipmuc Warrior has also enjoyed the experience of playing against older competition and with more experienced teammates. “I’ve been making some great bonds with them,” Bradford said, “but I caught onto it quickly.”

Bradford has also had to switch from metal bats to the wooden bat CMSBR league. “It was a little bit of an adjustment, going from metal to wood,” he said, “but I caught onto it quickly.”

The future Nipmuc Warrior has also enjoyed the experience of playing against older competition and with more experienced teammates. “I’ve been making some great bonds with them,” Bradford said, “but I caught onto it quickly.”

Bradford has had to make several adjustments in joining the Micros. He has been playing with older players, several of Nipmocs’s players have already graduated high school and he has yet to begin. Bradford has also had to switch from metal bats to the wooden bat CMSBR league. “It was a little bit of an adjustment, going from metal to wood,” he said, “but I caught onto it quickly.”

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The feeling, Bradford said, was mutual. “My coach talked to the Milford coach and I was able to get to the tryouts,” he said. “I thought it would be a great opportunity.”

Bradford rewarded his coach’s faith in several ways. The team’s starting catcher, Bradford has been hitting .368 with nine RBIs and 15 runs scored. “Joel had that separated shoulder but he is starting to throw now, which is good,” Barney said. He has been hitting .368 with nine RBIs and 15 runs scored.

Barney said of the no-hit performance. “I didn’t go into the game thinking about too much, I just wanted to throw a few innings and have a good start. I just threw the ball over the plate and my teammates made the plays in the field.”

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Albert Anderson has a pair of hits in the second game of the series against Franklin, a 4-1 Milford win. “He wants the ball knowing he is going into the Marines,” Barney said. “He is going to play his last game or one of his last games. His stick has been great and he is working through the shoulder injury.”

Anderson has a pair of hits in the second game of the series against Franklin, a 4-1 Milford win that kept the Micro’s season alive and set up the rubber match. At the plate, Anderson has a .386 average with the team’s only home run and 10 RBIs. Several other Milford players have stepped up to the plate, including Jason Luchini, who has seen the most playing time and has been the team’s top pitcher all summer long. “He is a leader,” Barney said of Corsini. “A true competitor.”

Nick Vimitte, another MHS product, is hitting .260 batting fourth from the left side of the plate. “You can’t teach letters,” Barney said with a smile.

Colin Bradford, a future Nipmuc Regional High School student, has been a standout behind the plate in his first summer with the team.
Mendon Pitch League

The Mendon Pitch League is looking for new blood to complement its new management team. The league has withered over the past few years and additional players, both teams and individuals are needed. Games are played at the Mendon Senior Center, Providence St., on most Thursday evenings, starting the first Thursday in September at 7:15 p.m. with play ending about 9:30 p.m. Players are all ages and abilities. The league is a social league, with teams of three players each, playing five games of 15 points. Five dollars per person, per night is collected to cover the cost of rental for the senior center, meals and prizes.

Anyone interested in participating is asked to call the Mendon Senior Center, 508-478-6175 or Wally Matthews, 508-480-7408. Leave your name and phone number and someone return the call with all the information.

Pan Mass Challenge Rolls through Mendon Saturday

Hundreds of Pan Mass Challenge riders on their way from Sturbridge to Bourne will ride through Mendon on Saturday, August 3, beginning at about 6:50 a.m. and continuing until about 9:50 a.m. At shown in the accompanying map their route, from the Uxbridge town line follows Hartford Avenue West, Route 16 (Hastings St), Maple St., Main St., Providence St., Hartford Avenue East, Bellingham St. and Bates St. to the Bellingham town line. Resident are invited to come out and cheer the riders on as they raise funds to help the Dana Farber Cancer Institute discover cures for all types of cancer. One of the riders is the Town Crier Sports Reporter/Columnist Chris Villani. To support his ride, donate at PMC.org/ CV0042. PMC photo

BVT’s Metcalf Wants the Ball in Big Spots

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

Justin Metcalf is used to being on the mound in big situations for Blackstone Valley Tech, which is why he was not fazed by Milford Legion Manager Steve DiVitto giving him the start before Post 59’s biggest game of the year.

The 18-year-old rising senior was on the mound Tuesday night for Milford as it squared off with Sandwich in an elimination game in the state tournament at Fino Field.

“I love it,” Metcalf said hours before first pitch. “I love the high pressure situations. It’s what you play for, so I am glad I got the ball.”

Metcalf pitched in a number of key contests for the successful BVT baseball team and played for Post 59 last summer following his sophomore year with the Beavers. The right hander said he has enjoyed his time in blue and gold.

“It’s been the best team to play for, because it’s a very serious team environment,” he said. “We have a blast, but we also take it very seriously, which is what I like. I am serious about baseball, but I also like to have fun.”

Heading to the state tournament, Metcalf said he needed to work on a few things to sharpen his game, including locating his pitches and keeping the ball down in the strike zone. He will also have to work with his catcher, but that should not be a problem since he will be throwing to Nipmuc’s Jacob Beder.

“Metcalf has also thrown to Mendon’s Danny Johnson, a Mount St. Charles product and one of the best catchers in the area,” Beder said.

In the outfield this summer, Metcalf has posted a .333 batting average and has driven in five runs in 21 at bats for Milford. He has also made eight appearances on the mound and five starts, not including Tuesday’s tournament elimination game in the state tournament at Fino Field.

“I love it,” Metcalf said hours before first pitch. “I love the high pressure situations. It’s what you play for, so I am glad I got the ball.”

In those contests, Metcalf has posted a 3.50 ERA and a 1-1 record, striking out 27 batters in 24 innings pitched.

“Metcalf pitched in a number of key contests for the successful BVT baseball team and played for Post 59 last summer following his sophomore year with the Beavers,” DiVitto said. “He is a gamer, a true competitor and a great kid, always wanting to get better.”

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“I’ve thrown to him in almost every game,” Metcalf said of Beder, who plays on the other side of Pleasant St. “We have been friends since the sixth grade and I played with him when I was younger.”

Metcalf has also thrown to Mendon’s Danny Johnson, a Mount St. Charles product and one of seven players from either Upton or Mendon on this year’s roster.

“It’s been pretty cool,” Metcalf said. “We all played together in little league and a lot of us split up in high school. We absolutely do not want our season to end, we are hoping to go as far as we can.”
Post 59 Shows Dramatic Fade in American Legion State Tourney

By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist

In a double-elimination format, no team wants to be put in the position of having to win on the second day in order to stay alive. That would have been Milford’s fate in the state tournament, had the host team not shown an ability to come through in the clutch.

Down 1-0 against Quincy on the tournament’s opening night at Fino Field, shortstop Chris Brunot dropped a double into right field to bring the tying run across in the bottom of the 7th inning. Leadoff hitter Ben McKenzie, a Hopkinton High graduate, then ripped a single through the middle to score Brunot and give Milford the 2-1 walk-off win. The victory allowed Milford to keep its season going. After Post 59 dropped a 4-0 contest to Lawrence Sunday, it came back to win an elimination game against Shrewsbury by an 8-2 final on Monday night. “Timely hitting is fun when it happens,” Milford manager Steve DiVitto said ahead of the team’s elimination game with the host team not shown an ability to come through in the clutch.

DiVitto said the team didn’t have any problem coming back. “We have done a great job. He’s just been a workhorse back there. Beder will be back there tomorrow,” DiVitto said.

After bringing the state’s final eight teams to Fino Field two years ago, this year’s tourney gave Milford the chance to upgrade aspects of the historic ballpark. New bullpens, a redesigned infield surface, and a $10,000 speaker system are among the on-field amenities featured during the tournament.

“When they play the National Anthem with the Marine Corps band, you close your eyes and you think the band is there,” Gulino said.

The new infield was tested on Monday, when torrential rains came briefly through the area, delaying play for well over an hour. The break in the action gave concession stand workers the chance to keep everyone fed who had been glued to their seats in the heat.

Half the of the 2019 field is the same as when Milford last hosted the state tournament in 2017, resulting in several well attended games. In addition to the contests involving Post 59, Gulino said games with Shrewsbury, Ashland and Greenfield drew solid crowds.

The success of this year’s event left both Gulino and Paster open to the idea of another trip to Milford for the final eight sometimes in the near future. “They tell us it is the best,” Gulino said. “They are happy with us.”

“I can’t answer that for sure,” Paster said when asked whether Milford could get another bid sooner than later. “It depends on who else bids and what the athletic committee decides on, but we are absolutely pleased with Milford and we wouldn’t have any problem coming back.”

The concession stand workers the chance to keep everyone fed who had been glued to their seats in the heat. The new infield was tested on Monday, when torrential rains came briefly through the area, delaying play for well over an hour. The break in the action gave concession stand workers the chance to keep everyone fed who had been glued to their seats in the heat.

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By Chris Villani
Sports Reporter/Columnist
Hosting the American Legion state baseball tournament for the second time in three years, Milford is once again drawing rave reviews from spectators and legion brass alike as a venue complete venue with all the amenities needed for a first-class experience.

“Milford is excellent, they always do a great job,” said state chairman Dick Paster. “They have everything and everyone ready, the people who whatever you need them to do to make things happen. Anything at all we need to do, they have somebody available to take care of it for us.”

“The venue here is everything,” added Milford Legion President Steve Gulino. “It’s the complete ballpark. You’ve got media, a press box, bathrooms, a concession stand, you’ve got everything.”

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