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Friday, July 26, 2013

THIS WEEK'S QUOTE

"One must not lose desires. They are mighty stimulants to creativeness, to love, and to long life."

Alexander A. Bogomoletz

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Public hearing set to field beach concerns

LACK OF LIFEGUARDS, UPKEEP ISSUES TO BE DISCUSSED



Jonathan Ruda

BY JOY RICHARD
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

DUDLEY — With summer bearing down on the area during a heat wave over the last couple weeks, selectmen will soon seek budget friendly ideas to update the town's beach.

A public hearing to discuss the beach will be held in conjunction with an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting on Monday, Aug. 5, at 6:30 p.m. According to board Chairman Jonathan Ruda, the selectmen have been looking to rectify the issues at the beach for the last several years. The topic of lifeguards (there cur-

rently are none at the beach, located off of Mason Road) has been discussed in the past, including during recent elections.

Former Selectman Alfred Reich said he pushed to have guards at the lake, but according to current selectmen budget constraints have kept this from happening.

Speaking with Selectman Peter Fox and Ruda, it was clear the topic has been a frustrating cause for the board.

Ruda, who proposed the upcoming hearing, said like many quality-of-life issues, the beach has had to take a backseat during times of economic

distress.

"The board has been wrestling with a long-term solution to a safe, clean and enjoyable town beach since before I was elected," said Ruda. "The result has been only short-term solutions with no long-term plan for funding, staffing and operating. I believe we have most of the ingredients to resolve the problem, but we lack the recipe."

He said he wants to hear the opinions of residents and hopes there will be constructive ideas that could possibly improve the town's recreation

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Making waves

PADDLEBOAT CONTINUES TO DIVIDE WEBSTER RESIDENTS

BY JOY RICHARD
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER — With contrasting opinions locked and loaded, a crowd of residents made their way out to Town Hall to further discuss the incoming paddleboat this week.

With the selectmen's meeting room filled to capacity and citizens spilling out into the hall, selectmen made the choice to move their Monday, July 22 meeting into the town auditorium for the highly anticipated Indian Princess presentation, which was given by local resident Richard Casault.

Many of the residents in attendance stood behind the effort to keep the boat off of Webster Lake, but some came to support the efforts of Indian Ranch and Indian Princess owner Christopher Robert.

Casault started his presentation by telling the crowd that he first studied the ins and outs of the boat on his own after it was first proposed. He said he started working with Indian Ranch after Robert approached him, wanting to know what his findings were.

During the hour-long

PowerPoint, Casault outlined some of what he felt were the most frequent concerns about the boat for residents. He also showed a video of a similar vessel navigating a river to show its speed and maneuvering capabilities.

"As a private citizen I did a lot of research into this," said Casault, flipping through slides of information and boat schematics. "I was hired by [Roberts] in March when he had heard about the work I had done independently. I was also put in contact with the captain before [the boat] was even brought out."

According to the Indian Princess Captain Kevin J. Rabbett, who was also in attendance to help field questions, the boat is currently docked in Brewer Cove Haven Marina in Barrington, R.I.

Prior to the presentation selectmen Deborah Keefe gave a strict outline to residents, stressing that while the paddleboat is a "very controversial topic," the board would not tolerate "outbursts" or "bantering." A

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When rubber meets the road

WEBSTER RESIDENT TO RIDE IN FOURTH PAN MASS CHALLENGE

BY JOY RICHARD
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

WEBSTER — Four years of sweat and endless nights of training have led one local resident to his fourth Pan Mass Challenge (PMC).

For Webster resident George "Patrick" Hodgson, the challenge is not just about fundraising for the cure for cancer, although that is a big part of it, he said. His goal for this challenge is set at \$7,000. For Hodgson, it is about finding a way to "reduce the suffering" of those who are battling the illness.

The 34th ride will take place on Saturday, Aug. 3, and Sunday, Aug. 4. The local starting point will be in Sturbridge at the

Host hotel. Hodgson said he knows all too well what it is like to fight that battle, having been in remission from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for the past two decades, and watching his father and sister deal with the disease too.

Hodgson said his sister is doing well, but his father passed two years ago, as Hodgson was training for a challenge. "The 2011 PMC ride was extremely emotional for me, as it took place just one week after my father passed away due to colon cancer," said Hodgson in his Pan Mass online profile. "Because of my travels in the pre-

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Oxford residents Teri Ann Krasinskas and her husband Adrian pose for a photo with musician and former Poison front man Bret Michaels.

Rocker gets down for a cause

BY JOY RICHARD
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

OXFORD — Locals rejoiced Monday, July 8, after a rock and reality television star brought his talents to southern Worcester County to support an area diabetes camp.

For Oxford resident and Station Night Club survivor Adrian Krasinskas, giving back to those in his community who stood by him during his recovery from tragedy in 2003 was one of the most important things

to him.

Krasinskas and his wife, Teri Ann, came up with the idea to bring Michaels, who Adrian had idolized in his teens listening to Poison, to Oxford for a show to support the Barton Center for Diabetes Education.

Teri Ann said the couple does not have an affiliation with the camp, but know how important it is to children from not only the area, but all over the world.

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Former Poison front man Bret Michaels sings his heart out to a crowd of J. Anthony's in Oxford last week to benefit the Barton Center for Diabetes Education.

Central Mass. residents celebrate local town's history

BY JOY RICHARD
 TIMES STAFF WRITER

OXFORD — Founded only 93 years after the Mayflower landed on the shores of Cape Cod, the town of Oxford kicked up its heels to celebrate with the support of many local agencies and towns.

Residents from all over Central Massachusetts came to the Oxfords for the two-day tercentennial celebration, which has been in the making for the last several years.

According to Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis the event went well from a public safety perspective.

He said along with local police and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

(MEMA) the event went off with little issue.

Evangelidis said his department also provided the clean up for the Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14 event through the Inmate Community Service Program. He said its initiatives like this that can save potentially save communities thousands of dollars.

"The benefits are twofold," said Evangelidis during an interview at Tantasqua Regional High School in Fiskdale, one of the many works sites for the inmates. "For me this is the ultimate win-win. It saves communities millions of dollars and turns lives around."

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