

TOWN MEETING SCHEDULES

PALMER

Thursday, June 30
Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee, 5 p.m., Pathfinder

Friday, June 1
Historical Commission, 10 a.m., Palmer Public Library

MONSON

Thursday, June 30
Pathfinder Regional Vocational

Technical High School Committee, 5 p.m., Pathfinder

Tuesday, July 5
Historical Commission, 3 p.m., Hillside School
Community Preservation Committee, 7 p.m., Hillside School
Board of Selectmen, 7 p.m., Hillside School

Wednesday, July 6
Board of Health, 6 p.m., Hillside School
Conservation Commission, 7 p.m., Hillside School

Convoy for Kids...

The 2011 Convoy for Kids will be held on Sunday, July 17, and mother-daughter pair Donna and Dawn Basile, of Ludlow, are busy organizing the ride for motorcyclists and truck drivers that will assemble on First Avenue in Chicopee, pass through Ludlow and end at Crossroads Sportsbar on Route 20 in Palmer. The cost to enter is \$35 for each truck and \$20 for each motorcycle, and registration forms can be found at www.ludlowconvoyforkids.com.

A total of 52 trucks and 26 motorcycles were part of the convoy last year, that raised money for the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield, a nonprofit organization that currently houses 22 families (with 20 more on the waiting

list) whose children are being treated for medical conditions in area hospitals. Traditionally, a number of those families participate in the picnic held in Palmer at the conclusion of the ride. Donna's husband Donald volunteered at the Ronald McDonald House for a number of years, and the family has always been supportive of the facility.

Donna said last year's ride raised \$2,000, and Jennifer Putnam, executive director of the Ronald McDonald House, said she hoped to earmark this year's proceeds for the purchase and delivery of milk to families that are served by the facility.

For more information on the event, visit the website or email convoyforkidsludlow@charter.net or dawn01056@yahoo.com.



Turley Publications file photo

Dawn (left) and her mother Donna Basile are organizing the event for the 15th year on behalf of the Ronald McDonald House in Springfield.

Rotary honors Eric Sanderson

Businessman shuns the limelight

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

PALMER – Although there are many members of the local business community that are worthy of recognition, the best track to follow is to pick out those that do not seek the accolades, said Palmer Rotary Club President Theresa Grove. And so it was in that spirit that she and other Rotarians recently acknowledged Eric Sanderson, owner of Sanderson MacLeod and Flamingo Motorsports, with the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

The award was named in honor of Paul Harris, a Chicago, Ill.-based attorney who helped found Rotary International in 1905, and is bestowed since 1957 in honor of an individual's humanitarian work in the community. And Robert Faulkner, present of the local Rotary Foundation committee, presented the citation at their weekly meeting held at Events by Johnsens on Thursday, June 16, where Eric was joined by his wife Diane, as well as Sanderson MacLeod President Marc Borsari and Vice President Linda Mitchell, herself a Rotarian.

Grove said the Palmer Rotary Club will make a donation to the Rotary Foundation, which supports education, health care and other



Turley Publications staff photo by Douglas Farmer

Business owner Eric Sanderson (left) is presented with the Paul Harris Fellow Award by Palmer Rotarian Bob Faulkner.

services all over the world, in Sanderson's name.

"Eric has supported many causes over the years including the Monson and Palmer libraries, the senior centers and Wing Memorial Hospital," said Mitchell. "The day after the tornado hit the region, he was asking 'What can I do?'"

Sanderson was born and raised in Monson, though he now lives in Palmer, and he owned and operated Quaboag Country Club until 1999. He was brought into Sanderson Mac-

Leod, a Palmer concern that makes twisted wire brushes, by his father in 1968 and became president in 1985.

He is also, said Mitchell, an avid racer in NASCAR's Whelen Modified Tour, winning a championship in 2006.

"I remember he got a bus and brought the Sanderson MacLeod employees to Stafford Motor Speedway," she said.

Palmer Fire Chief Alan Roy told the audience last week that his

agency is one that has benefited from Sanderson's generosity over the years. And it wasn't just a question of resources; members of his family have served on the fire department, as well.

"It must have been 17 or 18 years ago, but I remember after a couple children drowned in Springfield and the fire services didn't have a sled for water rescue, he asked if we had one and I said 'No'," said Roy. "And later, he asked if we had an ATV and I said, 'No'."

"In both cases, he said that we could get what we needed and send him the bill, but he always asked for nothing to be in the paper. I guess he was willing to make an exception in this case."

Still, Sanderson himself, who is not a Rotarian, was reticent about the Paul Harris Fellow Award.

"This is really an honor," he said. "I get an idea in my head and I run with it. I know the local emergency services need everyone's support."

Grove said Sanderson was ultimately her choice to receive the award and that through his actions exemplified the mission that Rotary tries to instill in its members.

"People know about what Eric does, but for me, what stood out was that he does it without seeking recognition," she said. "I was kind of surprised he was all right with the presentation today. But he really deserves it."

Damage presents chance to build fresh

By Emily Thurlow
Staff Writer

MONSON –As towns start to recover and rebuild, Monson "green" builder Reed Coles encourages victims of the damage and devastation to repair and rebuild using sustainable building practices. Coles recently hosted a presentation a Quarry Hill Community School explaining and displaying the process and the products that are involved in building green.

During the presentation, Coles

sat alongside Marc Sternick of Dietz & Company Architects, Paul Huijing, a local builder of energy efficient homes and Beth Paulson, a H.E.R.S. rater at the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) underlining methods for sustainable building practices and materials to use in structures as defined by Energy Star and the United States Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) building codes in a panel discussion. Coles defined "green building" as the process including the design,

construction and operation: energy, water efficiencies, resource-efficient design and materials, indoor environmental quality, maintenance, and the home's impact on the environment.

"In green building, simple practices like the positioning of the house and having the windows facing to the south, capturing passive solar energy will help make a home more energy efficient, thus saving the homeowner money when they do not have to pay more to heat their home in the winter," Coles said.

When planning out the presen-

tation on green building, Coles was working to get Mayor Bob Dixon of Greensburg, Kan. – a town that was 95 percent demolished by a May 2007 EF-5 tornado, estimated at about 1.7 miles wide - that rebuilt itself in green methods to address those attending the meeting, but was unable to attend. Dixon did write Coles a letter that touched upon how green building has helped his community.

The presentation touched on top-

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