Feline Frenzy

Rescue Society Takes in 70+ Cats from One Home

By Brooke Pelletier

If you are looking for a new furry friend to call your own, look no further than Salisbury. Down at 63 Elm Street is the headquarters for the Merrimack River Feline Rescue Society (MRFRS). Founded in 1992 due to an overpopulation of cats in Newburyport, a group of Salisbury women created the organization to help.

After a recent cat-hoarding incident that took place in Salisbury, resulting in an astonishing 70+ plus cats brought to the shelter, the MRFRS has been shocked. However, it is not their first incident with cat-hoarding. Sadly, it has happened before but not quite in this big of a way.

“We took over 70 cats out of an old trailer in Salisbury last year,” said Gaye Piechowiak, head adoption coordinator at the shelter. “They have all been vaccinated, treated, spayed and neutered and are now mostly all up for adoption.” Luckily, the cats, who were named at the shelter after U.S. presidents and their wives were friendly and fairly healthy, even after living on only Mac and Cheese, fed to them by their elderly owner.

“We were all just blown away. The last time we had seen a hoarding incident this big was about 10 years ago with about 52 cats,” Piechowiak said. “But the response has been amazing. We have received wonderful donations and immediately (after) we were interviewed on the news we received dozens of adoption calls.”

When it was founded, “the group took it upon themselves to help with TNR (trap, neuter, return),” said Piechowiak. “They (took) in from homes, then rented an office on Route 1, and finally rented this facility in 2001. They were focused on preventing having all the feral cats from having more kittens outside.”

“We are always looking for volunteers,” said Piechowiak. “There is a group in the morning and in the night. The morning group takes care of (the) sweeping, the food, socializing the fosters, and cleaning up.”

Anyone can help out the shelter, at this time of need or any time, whether it be from simple food donations or coming to fundraisers, every little bit counts.

That may be especially needed after the group took in a its current group of felines this weekend after the cats were discovered in the home of their owner. The total of over 70 cats is the largest number of felines the center has ever taken in at once.

The MRFRS has a variety of programs, including TNR, a spay/neuter clinic once a month, and the Catmobile, which can frequently be seen going around the different towns and shelters. They also have two big adoption events, the Strut for Strays and The Furball, as well as a sponsor cat program. They are, in fact, the only shelter in the state designed on preventing all the feral cats from having more kittens outside.

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**Father of The Bride Hits the Stage**

For a romantic plot, the Triton Drama Program sure knows how to set the scene. Father of the Bride is its newest piece and a crowd-winner. With the main characters played by junior Andrew Pesaturo and senior Danielle Umanita, the two work well together on stage. The entire cast in general put out a very well performed play.

“They are super prepared,” Ms. Natalie Safely, Triton’s drama teacher and the play’s director, told the Triton Voice. “We are all very excited.”

In today’s world, the average cost of a wedding can be upwards to $26,000. In the 1950’s, when the play takes place, it would be closer to $6,000…. in today’s value. Everything from the champagne and food to the bridal shower and dress had to be covered.

**What to Watch**

Coming to Theaters and When to Watch Them

By Brooke Pelletier

Welcome back to another installment of What to Watch. This week, we’ll be talking about upcoming movies in the theaters, plus, the best times to go to the movies.

Recently released to the theaters were some fantastic movies, as well as some bombs.

Some of these movies included *Burnt*, *Our Brand is Crisis*, *The Martian*, *The Last Witch Hunter*, and *Crimson Peak*. Many people love going to the movies, but they always get stuck with either scary-ting kids or loud, rambunctious teenagers. They didn’t know the ideal times to go, until now of course.

If you are looking for a show that offers peace and quiet, it is recommended that you go to a show on either Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday night. A movie before 2 p.m. tends to be quieter, as well as cheaper than a later time. Many of the big crowds are seen during a Friday matinee through a Sunday afternoon, typically on opening nights. Sadly, there is never any guarantee on going to the movies.

**FORGET from page 1**

Forget has worked in the Triton School District for 21 years, and though he was the only candidate for this job position, he said he is surprised and grateful to be chosen.

“I am very humbled and appreciative and will do my best to do the job proud,” he said.

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**CATS from page 1**

that will take the Leominster cats as they sadly don’t live as long. Because it is a contagious disease, most places do not accept these cats. However, the MRFSR has a special room for the special little fur-balls that makes the shelter more loving.

As the adoption coordinator, Pichowiak told Triton Voice: “I got the cats adopted and am in charge of online advertising. I update the website, Facebook, get our ads into newspapers, and take care of the adoption events.”

“Caregiving is an amazing thing,” said Mrs. Maureen Farley, Triton’s natural sciences teacher. “It gives a good sense of purpose, and a calming effect to so it gives people a sense of responsibility.”

“To work here, you need to really care about the cats,” said Pichowiak, “and care about what happens to them. I have been working here since 2003, after I adopted my first cat. I now have five. I love working here.”

If you’d like to make a donation, or even make a new best friend, Triton Voice highly recommends this shelter.

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**A Local Voice from Paris**

Newbury resident Bielby Discusses Aftershocks

Compiled by Hans Ernst

Staff Writer

Iona Bielby, 19, graduated from Newburyport High last year with University of Paris as her college of choice. Iona lives in Newbury. On Friday the 13th of November, Iona woke up to the frequent earthquakes that rocked Paris. She returned two days later though, with the French capital still on high alert. In an interview, she spoke to the Triton Voice about living in Paris during this terrible time.

“Well my school just got back from our fall break, so luckily I was out of the city. But I had friends who were on the streets of the attacks or out on Friday night, and immediately the city shut down. People were forced into their homes, Snapchat had a filter saying we had to be in our homes, etc….

“mean it's still scary now. Like on Monday in class, there was another bomb threat just a street away from us.

“we have to carry IDs and passports on us at all times in case guards want to check us. We're advised to avoid large gatherings. We're advised to walk with buddies. We check the news every morning to see if we'll be in a threat for the rest of the day. It's scary, but everyone's trying to get back to normal. There's a lot of love in the city right now.”

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**SPORTS from page 1**

Emily DeMarco of Newburyport.

“This has really been an incredible season for all of us,” said Quigley. “It was clear that the dedication level on the team this year was higher than ever, and that really showed throughout the season. No one ever gave up and from that we showed what we really are capable of being CAL-large champs.”

Although the talent played a large role in the team’s success, Senior Captain Sadie O’Keefe said she believed it was much more than that.

“It was unreal. We were all so close, such a family, and it really gave the team a sense of togetherness that helped us succeed.”

The team will continue to attempt great strides in the seasons and years to come, largely because of the number of underclassmen top runners than the program has.

Girls Soccer

The Lady Vikes Soccer Team went 8-4-1 in their season, making it to the second round of the playoffs, which they lost against North Reading, 3-1.

The final game of the regular season, which was played against Pentucket, was tied, but Pentucket had to forfeit due to scheduling issues. This allowed the Triton soccer team to enter the tournament.

The team faced Burke in the first round of the playoffs, beating them 7-0. This is the third year in a row that the Lady Vikes made the state tournament, and although it wasn’t a perfect season, many still have hope for positive change in the program.

Although the Lady Vikes did not make it all the way, three players were still recognized for their excellence by the Cape Ann League-- Sophomores Alex and Meredith Kennedy as second team all-stars, and Senior Captain Morgan Snow as a First team all-star.

“Our season certainly had its ups and downs and it was not an easy ride,” said Snow, “if it wasn’t for the team working hard and having confidence in each other, we would not have been able to accomplish what we did. We certainly got lucky with our run to enter the tournament, but I think we truly deserved it with the hard work and the effort we put in day in and day out throughout the season.”

Field Hockey

With a 14-3-3 record, the field hockey team entered the playoffs with their first game against Ipswich, beating them 1-0. The second game, against Manchester-Essex, the team lost 3-1.

Despite the losses, the team was still recognized with highly eligible players by the Cape Ann League with player of the year and first team all-star Samantha Brown, fellow first team all-stars Erin Savage and Emma McGonagle, and second team all-star Noelle Indigaro.

Although the state tournament did not go as planned, the girls are still proud of their accomplishments.

“We stayed competitive the whole season,” senior Jackie Robert. “Each person worked as hard as the