

The Phillips Area Vitalizer

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Local News**

Wild West Weekend on the SR&RLRR

On the weekend of July 15-16, the Wild West, guns a-blazing, is coming to the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad. Visitors will experience the thrill of the West as armed desperados attempt to rob the train, an event promising to be a redux of Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, only without the dynamite.

The group creating the gun smoke is known as Old Wild West Back East, a gang of reenactors who come together occasionally to recreate history. And not just Western history; some of those who dress in the garb of the Old West do other reenactments as well. Norm Harbinson, for instance, the organizer of the SR&RLRR event, reenacts several time periods/personas: he puts together World War II events highlighting his 502 Parachute Infantry, 101st Airborne, group; he sometimes organizes impressions of German WWII units or Civil War soldiers; and has gone even further back in history to perform Renaissance scenarios.

What should train riders expect on the Western weekend? An attempt to rob the train, certainly, though whether the U.S. Marshal and his posse will arrive in time to thwart the attempt is less certain. And will it happen at Sanders Station? Maybe too many witnesses. At the railyard? Not likely because of too many armed rail fans. Possibly somewhere in the woods in between? Who knows for sure?

So if you're looking for some excitement and a taste of another region's narrow gauge history, come join the Sandy River & Rangeley Lakes Railroad on Saturday and Sunday, July 15-16. Trains run on the hour on Saturday from 11 to 4 and on Sunday from 11 to 3. Fares are \$6 for age 13 and up, \$1 for under 13, and children 5 or younger ride for free. And if you care to, feel free to wear your Stetson and spurs.

Irish Band, Runa, to play at the PACC

Though the band has won wide recognition as one of Ireland's "super-groups," Runa is, above all, about variety. In addition to Irish and Scottish songs, the band adds a range of jazz, bluegrass, flamenco, blues, and traditional music to an evening of lively and energetic entertainment.

Runa consists of vocalist and step-dancer Shannon Lambert, guitarist Fionan de Barra, Cheryl Prashker on percussion, Maggie Estes on fiddle and mandolin, and Zack White on mandolin, vocals, banjo, and flat-picking guitar.

The award-winning band will play at the Phillips Area Community Center on Thursday, July 13, starting at 7 pm. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 students. Refreshments will be available for sale. The concert is sponsored by Tom Saviello, Christine, and Henry.

Eve Yvonne Makilya at the PACC, July 22

Bringing her Kenyan roots with her, vocalist Eve Yvonne Makilya will celebrate an evening of jazz, gospel, and the classics at the Phillips Area Community Center on Saturday, July 22. Tickets are \$10 adults, \$5 for students. Though widely known in the Boston area, Eve comes to Phillips by way of a family connection to the area. The music begins at 7 pm and refreshments will be available for purchase.

News Briefs & Updates . . .

Library Reading Program: The library is looking for ladies who would like to host a Wednesday reading session for kids. The theme is "Favorite Fairy Tales from Around the World" to highlight the Old Home Days theme "My Favorite Fairy Tale." The Reading Program will run each week from 10:30 to 12, with Anna Plog hosting the first session on July 19. If interested in helping, call 639-2665. And bring the kids! The program is free.

Library Studio Sale: starting Wednesday July 19 through the 22, during library hours, hundreds of items at \$1 each will be on sale in the Studio adjacent to the library

Historical Society Auction Items Needed: On Sunday, August 13, the Phillips Historical Society will conduct an auction at the PACC to raise money for the Historical Museum. Preview of items will be 1 to 2, with the auction beginning at 2:15. Auction items are still needed. If you have something you can donate, call David Morgan, 639-3717.

The Narrow Gauge Quilters say they would love to have anyone who likes to sew quilts or would like to learn about creating quilts, join them at their weekly meetings. The group meets at the Phillips Public Library on Thursdays at 1 pm.

Farmers Market Drawing: Come into the Phillips Farmers Market at the American Legion Hall on Saturday, July 15 and become eligible to win a 10-inch pie from Winona Davenport. The market is open from 9 to 1.

New Monday Hours at the Phillips Town Office: The town office will be open 11 to 5:30 on Mondays, with the office remaining open during the noon hour. On Tuesday thru Friday the office will be open as usual, i.e., 8:30 to 12 and 1 to 4.

The SRBA's Monthly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, at the Shadagee Common Room. The Sandy River Business Association's meeting begins at 6 pm and is open to all.

Blood Drive: Mark your calendars for July 28. On that date the PACC will host a Red Cross Blood Drive from 1 to 6 pm. Both appointments and walk-ins welcome and no one will be turned away or have to wait very long. For an appointment call 1-800-733-2767.

Meeting and Event Schedule . . .

July 11 - Selectmen meet Tuesday, 6 pm, Town Office

July 13 - The Irish band Runa plays at the PACC, Thursday, 7 pm

July 13 - Chamber of Commerce meets, Thursday, 6 pm, Shadagee Common Room

July 19 - Sandy River Business Association meets, Wednesday, 6 pm, Shadagee Common Room

July 22 - Eve Yvonne Makilya to sing at the PACC, Saturday at 7 pm

July 25 - Selectmen meet Tuesday, 6 pm, Town Office

Want your event or news in The Phillips Area Vitalizer? Send info to dickm4242@aol.com