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Athol Daily News

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Tripoli falls to Libyan rebels



PORTRAIT DEFACED — Libyan rebel fighters from a Tripoli brigade deface a portrait of Libyan dictator Moammar Gadhafi in Tripoli, Libya, Monday. Libyan rebels claimed to be in control of most of the Libyan capital on Monday after their lightning advance on Tripoli heralded the fall of Moammar Gadhafi's nearly 42-year regime, but scattered battles erupted and the mercurial leader's whereabouts remained unknown.

AP Photo/Sergey Ponomarev

World urges Gadhafi to surrender

By KARIN LAUB and BEN HUBBARD
Associated Press

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libyan rebels claimed to be in control of most of the Libyan capital on Monday after their lightning advance on Tripoli heralded the fall of Moammar Gadhafi's nearly 42-year regime. Scattered battles erupted, and the mercurial leader's whereabouts remained unknown.

The international community called on Gadhafi to step down and moved ahead with post-war planning as euphoric residents celebrated in the Green Square, the symbolic heart of the Gadhafi regime. Colleagues warned he wouldn't go easily. Two of his sons were captured late Sunday.

The Western alliance promised to maintain its air campaign until all pro-Gadhafi forces surrender or return to barracks. NATO warplanes have hit at least 40 targets in and around Tripoli in the past two days — the highest number on a single geographic location since the bombing started more than five months ago, officials said.

The ability of rebels to move into Tripoli in an hours-long blitz showcased the evolution of the opposition fighters who first rose against the regime six months ago, swiftly capturing the eastern part of the vast North African nation but failing to advance westward toward Tripoli even with the help of months of NATO airstrikes.

For months, the rebels — mainly civilian volunteers who took up arms and had little military training — were judged to be big on

Libya *Page 5*

Royalston fundraiser held for town's 250th anniversary

By RHONDA WHITNEY
ADN Correspondent

ROYALSTON — The chili cook-off scheduled for this past weekend in Royalston did not garner enough interest from the residents to come to fruition, but this did not stop the determined 250th anniversary committee from moving forward with their town-wide yard sale in an effort to raise money for the town's 250th anniversary celebration in 2015. The committee is comprised of 20 people, who all have a goal of raising about $60,000 to celebrate the town's anniversary. The planned celebration will include a large parade and fireworks, among other activities and celebrations.

Over the weekend there were 12 yard sale sites on the

Royalston *Page 5*



HEADQUARTERS — The headquarters for the town-wide yard sale in Royalston was manned with several people from the 250th anniversary celebration committee. There were maps of yard sales, and T-shirts and food and drinks for sale.

Photo by Rhonda Whitney



RIDE FOR KIDS — Proprietors of the New Salem General Store, Rick and Lori Oliver, recently donated a special edition Jack Daniels Barrel to the Red Knights Motorcycle Club to be raffled off to support the "Ride for Kids" and the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation. Proceeds from the raffle and other donations made by patrons of the store were over $2,100. At the Ride for Kids on Sunday, the Olivers, as well as members of the Red Knights Mass Chapter 2 were recognized for bringing in $5,676 in donations, making the Red Knights the second highest group for donations to this year's New England event. The event raised a total of $37,626 for the foundation. Above, store customer Jonathan Black draws the winning "barrel" ticket as Rick Oliver holds the basket of tickets and members of the Red Knights look on. The winner was David Schoen of Southampton.

New location, extended hours for supply drive in Orange

ORANGE — The Orange Elementary PTO announced today this is the final week to drop off any supplies residents wish to donate to the Orange Elementary School System.

In an effort to support the schools, the PTO has held several collections, and decided to change the location of the event along with extending the hours.

The PTO will be set up in front of Butterfield School and will also continue to have a container at Walmart. A supply list can be found on the Facebook page "Orange Elementary Schools PTO" and at Walmart.

Those interested in donating supplies may drop them off on Wednesday, Aug. 24 and Sunday, Aug. 28 from 1 to 5 p.m. in front of Butterfield School. This event will help to reduce some of the cost of supplies for the Orange Elementary Schools.

"If we all donate we can help reduce the cost of supplies needed at each school. This is a time to band together as a com-

Orange *Page 5*

SS disability on verge of insolvency

By STEPHEN OHLEMACHER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laid-off workers and aging baby boomers are flooding Social Security's disability program with benefit claims, pushing the financially strapped system toward the brink of insolvency.

Applications are up nearly 50 percent over a decade ago as people with disabilities lose their jobs and can't find new ones in an economy that has shed nearly 7 million jobs.

The stampede for benefits is adding to a growing backlog of applicants — many wait two years or more before their cases are resolved — and worsening the financial problems of a program that's been running in the red for years.

New congressional estimates say the trust fund that supports Social Security disability will run out of money by 2017, leaving the program unable to pay full benefits, unless Congress acts. About two decades later, Social Security's much larger retirement fund is projected to run dry as well.

Much of the focus in Washington has been on fixing Social Security's retirement system. Proposals range from raising the retirement age to means-testing benefits for wealthy retirees. But the disability system is in much worse shape and its problems defy easy solutions.

The trustees who oversee Social Security are urging Congress to shore up the disability system by reallocating money from the retirement program, just as lawmakers did in 1994. That would provide only short-term relief at the expense of weakening

Disability *Page 5*

Old Home Day kick-off parade



KIDS' PARADE — The annual Kids' Parade kicked off the festivities at the recent Wendell Old Home Day. Children of all ages marched, biked, trotted, or rode in the parade. A video of the parade can be watched at www.atholdailynews.com.

Photo by Paula Robinson

Hurricane heading toward US

By DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Hurricane Irene cut power to more than a million people in Puerto Rico, downing trees and flooding streets, before heading out over warm ocean water Monday on a path that could take it to the U.S. mainland by the end of the week.

There were no reports of deaths of major injuries in Puerto Rico, but Gov. Luis Fortuno declared a state of emergency and urged people to stay indoors to avoid downed power lines, flooded streets and other hazards.

"This isn't the time to go out to find out what happened ... This is the time stay in your homes," Fortuno said at a news conference.

The first hurricane of the Atlantic storm season posed an immediate threat to the northeastern coast of the Dominican Republic, though the center of the hurricane was expected to miss neighboring Haiti, which shares the island of Hispaniola. Nearly 600,000 Haitians are still homeless due to the January 2010 earthquake and that country could still see heavy rain and tropical-storm-force winds, said Dennis Feltgen, a spokesman for the U.S. National Hurricane Center in Miami.

"We don't expect to this to get ripped up over the mountains of Hispaniola," Feltgen

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