

BRASS SECTION — Trumpet players from the Orange Community, Petersham Brass and Narragansett Community bands performed with local music students at the third annual Music in our Schools concert held Saturday at the Ralph C. Mahar Regional School. Left-to-right — Sean Wallace, Tim Ploof, Dick Tandy, Adam Whitten and Steve Babineau.

Photo by Jared Robinson

Petersham Country Club closes after 89 years

By JOE MITKO

ADN Staff Reporter

PETERSHAM — One of the oldest golf courses in central Massachusetts, the Petersham Country Club at 240 North Main St. has seen its last hole-in-one. The club has closed and the property is in the process of being sold to Harvard University.

Donald Ross designed this 9-hole gem in Central Massachusetts. Opened on July 4, 1924, this course had been a favorite for golfers throughout the area.

Construction of the course began in October 1922. Originally, the course was to be built on both sides of Route 32.

But, a deal was struck and a land swap made with a neighbor so the nine holes could be built on the East side of Route 32, and golfers would not have to cross the road.

Trees were cut, stone walls removed and boulders blasted. A barn was razed and the farmhouse on the land was remodeled into a clubhouse with plumbing,

and showers for members.

The club prospered through the end of the century. Then came the current slump in the economy and over the past few years, membership dropped from 160 to only 60.

Tim Bishop, former general manager, said the club is officially closed.

He said members have been trying to keep it open for several years now but membership had dropped off as new courses opened and the economy slumped. Golfers found themselves unable to afford memberships in all courses and many gravitated toward the newer courses. "You can't run a club with 20 golfers a day," he said.

According to Clarisse Hart, Outreach & Development Manager for Education & Research Programs at Harvard University, "The Harvard Forest and Petersham Country Club have entered into an agreement under which the Forest will purchase the PCC property, which will connect two parcels of existing

Harvard Forest land. Harvard Forest has not yet determined a long-term plan for the property, but will continue its strong tradition of conserving open space and maintaining public access, in concert with its research and educational mission."

Edith Ellen, director of administration at Harvard, said it is important to note that Harvard was approached about purchasing the golf course. "We did not have any plans to buy a golf course," she said. The purchase is expected to take place this spring. At that time, Harvard will begin to look closely at the property and begin discussions regarding its future.

The members sold a tract of land on the northern edge of the property to Harvard last year in an attempt to keep the club open. Gradually, membership continued to drop and funds owed to vendors continued to climb. A vote was taken, and it was decided to sell the club.

Bishop said there was an

option discussed to lease the golf course from Harvard and run it out of the Curling Club building. Then an examination of the greens showed traces of Chlordane in the soil and it was decided not to lease the property.

Chlordane, a possible carcinogen, was used extensively as an insecticide in the U.S., from its introduction in 1947, through the 1980s. Chlordane was used to kill insects in the soil, to prevent them from damaging food crops, gardens and turf, and was used as a herbicide to control weeds in turf. In 1988, all commercial and domestic use of chlordane in the U.S. was banned by the EPA.

Boston Phoenix closing after 47 years due to decline in ad revenue

By RODRIQUE NGOWI

Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The Boston Phoenix, one of New England's oldest alternative weeklies, is shutting down after 47 years because of a long-term decline in advertising revenue.

Executive Editor Peter Kadzis said Thursday the newspaper, which covered news and the arts, has ceased print publication and is cutting 40 jobs immediately. Its last online issue will be published next week, and 10 more jobs will eventually be shed, he said.

"I cannot find the words

to describe the closure, known as Staff Magazine, in an effort to stem financial losses.

"We are a text book example of a sweeping market-place change," said Kadzis, who has worked at the publication for 25 years. "Our recent switch to a magazine format met with applause from readers and local advertisers. Not so, with a few exceptions, national advertisers. You can see why Warren Buffett favors small market papers over their big city brothers and sisters."

In its parting farewell, the Boston Phoenix posted to fans on its Twitter ac-

counties, with some necessary changes to each, it is our intent to keep the Providence and Portland Phoenixes operating and to do so for as long as they remain financially viable," he said.

Mindich owns the Phoenix Media/Communications Group that also runs the online radio station wfnx.com, the offshoot of a station that left the FM airwaves last year. He said the alternative rock station "will not continue as it is." Officials have yet to determine the station's future.

His firm's next

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