

Globe South

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TOM HERDE/GLOBE STAFF

Young riders kick up dust with their all-terrain vehicles in Pembroke. The president of the New England Trail Riders Association says miles of trails have decreased from 600 to 168.

'I don't doubt some of them do their damage in complete ignorance. I don't think they are out there to hurt the environment. They're out there to have a good time, but our treasured habitats are suffering.'

PINE DUBOIS
*Executive director of the
Jones River Watershed*

Unhappy trails

As towns crack down on ATVs, panel seeks middle ground

By Christine Wallgren
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

To enthusiasts, off-road riding is fun, exciting, and an easy way to get to places in the wilderness inaccessible to traditional vehicles. To others, the activity is noisy, sometimes dangerous, and often damaging to the environment.

Off-road riders are not welcome in many area communities. Some police departments have even resorted to buying their own all-terrain vehicles, or ATVs, to chase down renegades spinning their wheels in places they're not supposed to go. Fines can range up to \$250, but generally run around \$50 per violation — when the riders are caught. And a few

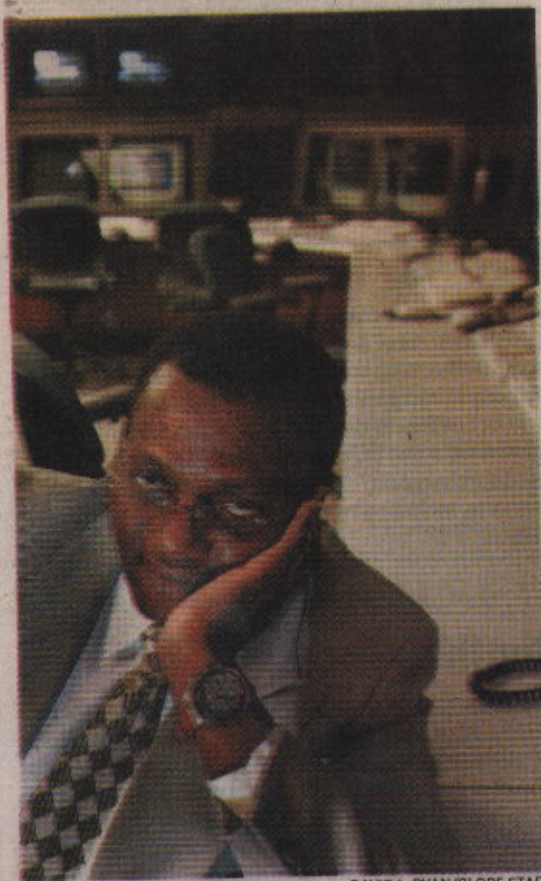
municipalities have upped the ante in the cat-and-mouse game, enacting ordinances that allow authorities to slap stiffer fines on riders caught trespassing on town-owned tracts.

Frank Frey, president of the New England Trail Rider Association, said such crackdowns by the state and local authorities are just making matters worse. "The trails we had for years are being eliminated," he said in a recent interview. "And that's forcing riders onto other properties where they shouldn't be going."

All but six state parks have now been closed to off-road riding. In Southeastern Massachusetts, state forests in Free-

'The trails we had for years are being eliminated. And that's forcing riders onto other properties where they shouldn't be going.'

FRANK FREY
*President of the New England
Trail Rider Association*



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

Tata Agwo of Stoughton hopes to raise funds for the hospital where his mother died.

A mother's death leaves son a mission

Equipment needed for Africa hospital

By Stephanie Neil
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

Standing before the chief medical officer of Presbyterian General Hospital Acha-Tugi in Cameroon, Tata Agwo asked a simple question about his mother's death. "Why?"

The physician paused, searching his memory for the 67-year-old woman who two weeks prior had been admitted to the African village's health facility complaining of chest pains, recalled Agwo. The doctor fumbled through his file, looking for an answer in the patient chart. "Could be syncope," he finally concluded.

But that wasn't good enough. Syncope, or fainting, is just a symptom of a bigger problem, such as a heart condition or hypertension. What was most distressing to Agwo — who, as a systems integration specialist at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, knows

something about hospital procedure — was the absence of any record that his mother had received even so much as a standard electrocardiogram to aid diagnosis.

Agwo, who had traveled to Cameroon to get answers about his mother's death, pressed the young doctor further. Finally the doctor offered an answer of sorts: The cause of death was not known because the hospital's electrocardiogram machine broke two years ago and had never been replaced.

At General Hospital Acha-Tugi, medical equipment dates back to 1964, when American, Swiss, and German missionaries ran the hospital. When they departed, they turned the hospital over to the Presbyterian Church of Cameroon, which didn't have resources to staff it, maintain equipment, or stock medication.

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TOM HERDE/GLOBE STAFF

Musician Dave Foley of Hull with Plymouth Rock Records co-owners Lou Bryant of Sandwich (center) and Mark Bryant of Carver.

Indie label signs local talent, and rockabilly takes root

By Kathleen McKenna
GLOBE CORRESPONDENT

When Mark Bryant caught Dave Foley's act at the British Beer Company in Sandwich last summer, he knew right away that he wanted to sign him to his indie label, Plymouth Rock Records.

He was struck by Foley's voice, which sounds like a cross between Elvis Presley and Hank Williams, with a bit of Johnny Cash thrown in. He was also swayed by Foley's stage presence — and the way he took requests for seemingly obscure songs and ricocheted them back into the crowd as if he had planned to play them all along.

"The guy is a human jukebox, and a huge talent," says Bryant, a devotee of all kinds of American roots music and himself a drummer for his label's band, Lonesome Jukebox.

The next time Bryant went to see

Foley — this time at the Banner Pub in Rockland — he pulled a wooden stool onstage to bang out a drumbeat for the singer-songwriter. After the show, Bryant told Foley about Plymouth Rock, Foley told Bryant about his unrecorded original songs, and a musical alliance was born.

Foley, who has been playing area clubs for more than 20 years, is just the kind of musician that Bryant aims to expose to the public. Since founding Plymouth Rock Records in 1995, he has showcased hard-working local artists who play the roots music that he and his partner and brother, Lou, learned at the knee of their father, Lou Bryant Sr. (The elder Bryant, 83, was the guitarist for Jukebox 4, a South Shore band that played town hall parties after World War II.)

ROCKABILLY, Page 4

REGION

Push is on to use carbon monoxide alarms

By Sandy Coleman
GLOBE STAFF

With the deadline looming for residential property owners to install and maintain carbon monoxide alarms, fire officials, electricians, real estate agents, and owners are in a push to comply with the new law.

Many local officials are reviewing the law, getting the word out to residents, and

familiarizing themselves with the equipment. Brockton-based Columbia Electric Supply hosted a two-hour dinner meeting last week in West Bridgewater to get electrical contractors up to speed. Canton's fire prevention team recently made a 20-minute presentation to the Board of Selectmen that was broadcast on local access cable. Holbrook town officials recently voted to approve new fees for

inspection of carbon monoxide detectors. And Hingham firefighters sent packets of information to local realtors.

"Nicole's Law," which Governor Mitt Romney signed in November, takes effect Friday. It requires carbon monoxide alarms in all homes — single- and multi-family buildings, apartments, condominiums, and townhouses — that have fossil

CARBON MONOXIDE, Page 7

Inside Middleborough man plans to hike over 2,000 miles in wife's memory. Page 8 . . . It's the small inspirations that help us see the big picture. Beverly Beckham, Page 10 . . . Braintree revels in its three sports titles. Page 11

TALK BACK ONLINE
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His mother's death gave him mission

► **HOSPITAL**
Continued from Page 1

Today the neglected structure stands as a symbol of degraded healthcare facilities in underdeveloped countries around the world. What was meant to be a place of healing has become a place of mourning.

"Many patients are dying in the hospital," said Agwo, who lives in Stoughton with his wife and two teenage children. Agwo came to Boston a decade ago from Cameroon, where his brothers and sisters remain, and has since earned a master's degree from Northeastern University.

"There is no doubt that the lack of medication and equipment is a big issue. Is it OK for us to send patients there and give them false hope?"

It's a question that others have asked before him — among them Victor Sologaistoa, who grew up in Guatemala. Like Agwo, Sologaistoa came from a poor country to the United States and found work at a major Boston-area hospital.

While Sologaistoa worked as a respiratory therapist and biomedical engineer at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Newton-Wellesley, he kept his eye on the room full of scrapped equipment that every hospital has. He recognized its potential value in a place where care is poor.

With that in mind, Sologaistoa cofounded the American Medical Resources Foundation, or AMRF, in Brockton in 1988. "I know the need that exists in other countries," Sologaistoa said. "The idea was to provide them with equipment that hospitals were throwing away."

AMRF works with about 60 hospitals, mostly in New England, including South Shore Hospital in Weymouth and Jordan Hospital in Plymouth, gathering everything from ultrasound to dialysis and even anesthesia machines for donation. This year it even has an ambulance to give away.

Which brings the story back to Agwo and that hospital in Cameroon. He wants the ambulance for Kob village in Cameroon.

The night his mother became ill, she was transported by motorbike over a narrow, mud-covered road to the hospital 5 miles away. She survived the ride only to be denied treatment for dehydration



DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF



TATA AGWO

Presbyterian General Hospital Acha-Tugi in Cameroon, where Tata Agwo's mother died. Agwo believes she died because the hospital lacked basic equipment.

But, she added, "he's a great man; his heart is in the right place."

AMRF is familiar with many of the concerns Pullen raises. For that reason it likes to conduct a site visit to assess the hospital's needs. AMRF often receives equipment with missing pieces that must be tracked down from the manufacturer. But between its 55 volunteers, many of whom are retired doctors and engineers, and the volumes of equipment manuals housed at the Station Avenue warehouse, all donated products are updated to the origi-

nal specification prior to shipping. AMRF will follow up with on-site training when needed.

The journey between Stoughton and Cameroon is long, but Agwo is steadfast in his commitment. If the fund-raiser is not successful, he said, he'll take out a loan.

Agwo said he is approaching the situation with the outlook of an African warrior, a topic he's written about extensively since arriving in the United States. A warrior, said Agwo, is someone who fights, but not violently, for success.

'My mother is gone, and I think my energy will be best served by trying to get help for this hospital.'

TATA AGWO
Stoughton resident and systems specialist,
Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

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denied treatment for dehydration for over a day, he said.

Agwo — who worked as administration director at Policlinic Bonanjo Hospital in the Cameroon city of Douala for four years before moving to the United States in 1996 — understands hospital protocol. "A patient either lives or dies based on what you do the first hours," he said.

The idea that his mother died because of a hospital's lack of resources makes him angry, but "my mother is gone, and I think my energy will be best served by trying to get help for this hospital."

Upon Agwo's urging, AMRF has agreed to send more than \$300,000 worth of equipment to Acha-Tugi. Since its inception, the foundation has donated more than \$200 million worth of equipment to 185 hospitals and clinics in poor communities around the world. But before sending out supplies, it requires a \$25,000 payment to cover overhead and shipping costs.

Agwo does not have \$25,000, but he's determined to raise it. Over the past few months he's organized a team of prominent doctors, including the president of the Cameroon Medical Council and representatives from Harvard Medical International, a not-for-profit subsidiary of Harvard Medical School. The group will convene April 14 for a fund-raiser in Boston.

Harvard Medical International — which typically works for a fee helping build infrastructure, faculty programs, and training for hospitals and medical schools — is volunteering its time to the Acha-Tugi project, advising Agwo for the long term, because just getting equipment there is not enough.

"Research has to be done to make sure there is a good fit between what is being delivered and what is needed," said Amanda Pullen, the organization's vice president for knowledge management and communications. "Tata needs to rethink the needs of the hospital system."

For instance, how much does it cost to run this hospital? Is something being donated that costs more to run than to buy something new? And is there someone who could service this equipment if something went wrong? These are all questions Pullen and crew continue to pose to Agwo.

South Shore Hospital: One of Nation's 100 Top Hospitals

March 2006

Dear Colleagues, Supporters and Neighbors:

South Shore Hospital has just been named one of the nation's 100 Top Hospitals for 2005 by Solucient, a national health care information company.

Why did we earn this recognition? According to Solucient, the 100 Top Hospitals were selected based on an objective analysis of their performance.

South Shore Hospital:

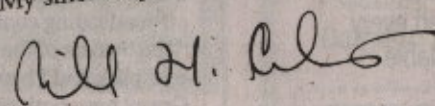
- Cared for sicker patients, who required more complex treatments
- Consistently achieved good results for patients
- Focused on providing safe, quality care

Modern Healthcare magazine has reported that the 100 Top Hospitals are "at the top of their game."

To stay at the top of our game requires an outstanding team. A team that includes not only our medical staff, employees and volunteers—but also our governing Board of Directors, our generous donors, our supportive public officials and other dedicated health care professionals, such as community-based emergency medical service providers.

We should all be proud of what we are accomplishing together to advance South Shore Hospital's charitable mission of healing, caring and comforting.

My sincere appreciation to all of you,



Richard H. Aubut
President and Chief Executive Officer
South Shore Hospital

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