Leaders react to Vatican statement

Top cardinal says Communion must be denied to pro-abortion politicians

"It was just one cardinal. It is just his personal opinion, which he is entitled to, but I don't think it is going to make much difference."

State Rep. Joyce Spiliotis, D-Peabody

Exhibit reveals another side of Patton

Rescuers save tangled whale
Playing the field: Little Leagues adapt to changing times

Organizations grow more sophisticated

By Paul Leighton
Staff Writer

Over the next two weekends, thousands of young athletes across the nation will begin playing in Little League baseball games. However, this year's season will be unlike any other due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Little League baseball is a nationwide organization that provides a safe and fun environment for young athletes to learn the game of baseball. However, the pandemic has forced the league to make several changes to ensure the safety of all participants.

One of the biggest changes this year is the requirement for players to wear masks while on the field. This is in addition to the usual rules of social distancing and hand sanitizing. The league has also implemented a series of safety measures to minimize the risk of the virus spreading.

Despite the challenges, Little League baseball remains a beloved sport for young athletes and their families. The league continues to provide a platform for young athletes to develop their skills and make new friendships.

A big score: Hamilton couple build diamond for the town

By Anna Scott
Staff Writer

HAMILTON — The town of Hamilton is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee this year, and one couple is making sure to add a special touch to the festivities. Paul and Linda Donovan have built a diamond-shaped structure in the town square, which is sure to be a highlight of the event.

The Donovan's diamond was inspired by the town's history and its close ties to the diamond industry. The couple, who have lived in Hamilton for over 20 years, wanted to create something unique that would reflect the town's identity.

"We wanted to create something that would really stand out," said Paul Donovan. "The diamond shape was the perfect choice for this event, as it represents the town's storied history with diamonds."
LEAGUES: Keeping up with modern times

Bussone said, "The good old days are fun, but they're not what you can do today."

League administrators say they've had to adapt to the changing times.

Last year, Little League's national organization required local leagues to conduct criminal background checks on all volunteers. Many leagues also offer more training for their coaches, not only on the fundamentals of the game but also on sportsmanship.

With the rash of highly publicized violent incidents in youth sports over the last few years, league administrators want to make sure their coaches get the message that bad behavior will not be tolerated.

Danvers American League President Bob Gabel said 84 coaches showed up for a training session in Danvers this winter.

Danvers National Little League requires parents of all its players to sign a "zero tolerance" document intended to discourage them from yelling at umpires, coaches or players.

"There's been a push, too, to focus our youth sports organizations on the kids," Gabel said. "It's a reaction to some of the things we've read about people going to court, killing people. We don't want that in Danvers, you're going to get proactive.

Little Leagues have also modernized in other ways. For the first time this year in Topsfeld, parents could sign up their children online.

Topsfeld Little League President Bill Baines said 70 percent of the league's 350 players took advantage of the new service.

In Hamilton and Wenham, the towns' combined Little League organization launched its own line of clothing — T-shirts, jackets and fleece pullovers — to raise money. The league expects to sell 90 percent of the teams require time on the part of volunteers.

Bussone said he plans to use the funds to support the league's Little League 10-year-old fields. He said the league is trying to keep pace with the teams' needs.

"There's a computer, two copy machines and a TV with a wireless camera so coaches and players can watch training videos in the home," Gabel said. "There's even a lightning detector to warn of impending storms.

Beverly will start its 55th season tomorrow, making it the oldest Little League in the state.

REILAND: Former boxford resident recalls D-Day

Reiland, a former Boxford resident who now lives in California, was one of 164 men who jumped off Compny G, 507th Parachute Regiment on June 6, 1944.

When Reiland and his comrades were among the first forces in the invasion known as D-Day.

The invasion of Normandy, which established a foothold for Allied forces in continental Europe, was the largest overseas operation in history.

Reiland had jumped from an airplane 12 times before D-Day. None of them were into enemy fire, but on the day of the invasion, he did.

He didn't question whether he would make the leap. It was his duty to jump, and like most of his comrades, he did it.

On the ground, Reiland and his unit fought toe-to-toe with German troops for 38 days. At the end of the fighting, only 48 men were left in Reiland's unit.

"And we couldn't see anything..."
England to rehabilitate his left knee, which had been seriously injured in the jump at Normandy. He never saw combat again.

Reiland enlisted in Middlebury College in Vermont when the war ended and settled into an ordinary life as a veterinarian. He was an advertising executive in New York City, and later moved to Bonifay and started a computer company.

He was shipped over to Ireland on Christmas Day, 1944.

"Here I was going off to war and I was already a sergeant," he said. "And I knew nothing about nothing."