

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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AHM Teen Center Coordinator Charlie Olbrias takes aim on the felt in a friendly match on one of the center's pool tables. The Teen Center offers activities, support and even a homework group.

Teen Center Coordinator More Than Just 'A Big Kid'

by Sarah McCoy

A self-described "big kid," Charlie Olbrias is finding a home as the AHM Youth Services Bureau's Teen Center Coordinator.

Olbrias took the job a year ago with grandiose plans and the hope of offering students a positive environment. A year later he has every reason to feel proud of his accomplishments.

He has successfully integrated a number of new programs into the mix with a focus on getting kids active.

"For the first two years [of the Teen Center] we were focused on getting the word out and letting the community know that we exist," AHM Director Joel Rosenberg explained. "Now we've come to the next stage and that's to diversify our programs."

With that in mind, Olbrias approached Rosenberg last summer with a plan. There is a small vacant lot across the street from AHM. While most people would see just an empty space, Olbrias saw a football field or wiffle-ball diamond. The two approached the Town of Hebron requesting permission to use the plot of land. The town agreed and since then the new activities have been a hit.

"Kids no longer walk in and plop themselves in front of the computer to play games," Olbrias said. "When it is nice out, there is a football tournament going on. During the winter we play pool every day."

Sports have always been a part of Olbrias's life. He played baseball in high school and college and has since run in ten marathons. Sharing his love of recreation hardly feels like work to him.

"I listen to my friends complain about their jobs and I realize how lucky I am to spend my days with these kids," he said.

Thanks to a grant from the state Department of Education, Olbrias will be able to further delve into a wide variety of subjects this spring as AHM prepares to offer new after-school programs.

The Bon Appetit Club will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays beginning on March 13. Students will learn the basics of cooking and then prepare a complete meal for their parents at the culmination of the six-week program.

The Green Thumb Gardener's Club will begin on March 23 and meet for six Fridays. Each week AHM will host an expert in the field to explain everything from landscaping to growing flowers.

Olbrias will teach the third program, himself. The Fitness and Nutrition Club will begin on April 23. Students will have the opportunity to learn good calories versus bad ones, what vitamins they need and why, and how to exercise without belonging to an expensive gym. "It's not about becoming Hercules," Olbrias explained. "It's about creating a lifestyle that will lead to a long, healthy life."

All of these programs are available free to area middle and high school students.

Changing the programming at the Teen Center was one goal of Olbrias, but he also wanted to change the mindset of the students coming each day. "This isn't my place," he explained. "I want students to take ownership of the Teen Center."

Olbrias said he is happy to schedule different events but would rather hear from students on what they want. "When students care about how the place looks or what we do, that's what gets me fired up," he said. "Over the past year I have seen the students come to really care about this place."

On a given day the Teen Center serves about 12-20 RHAM Middle and High School students. It is open Monday-Friday from 2:30-6 p.m.

Fitness Center Grand Opening This Weekend in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

With warm weather finally beginning to arrive, many of us will emerge from hibernation to find we have a little trouble fitting into our favorite beach duds.

A new East Hampton business called Fit-Trix could make the solution to this problem a bit easier—and perhaps even downright enjoyable.

Fit-Trix, a unique fitness center, opened along Route 66 in East Hampton last month. The endeavor is the realization of Jane Traceski's longtime dream.

Traceski, who is originally from Meriden, spent the last 24 years working as an IT specialist for Aetna. She also spent those same 24 years teaching aerobics in Rocky Hill, Cromwell, Hartford and, most recently, East Hampton, often through parks and recreation programs.

Traceski joked about the role reversal she experienced each day: "I'd go to Aetna every day, and people would tell me what to do. Then I'd go to my other job, and I'd scream at a room full of people...and they'd thank me for it."

"I always wanted to be either a dancer or a teacher," said Traceski. With the new fitness center she found a way to do both.

The impetus for the new endeavor came with her recent retirement from Aetna. "I had been looking for a building for six months, and then this opened up. This was the perfect location and the right size," says Traceski concerning the business's location at 84 East High St., formerly the location of Curves.

By that time Traceski had already invested in the exercise equipment needed for Fit-Trix, leaving it in storage until she found a location for the business. While some of the equipment is brand-new, Traceski was able to acquire a large number of items, virtually new, from someone in Attleboro, MA, through E-bay. She managed to find \$33,000 worth of equipment for about \$7,000!

After about a month of painting, set-up, and other renovations, Fit-Trix opened on Feb. 19. The approach varies somewhat from other fitness facilities. "My dream was to open a fitness center where families could work out together," explains Traceski.

As far as she can tell, this is the only such facility that permits children and adults to exercise side-by-side. The approach is perfect for busy parents. "They don't want to leave their kids, because they've been away from them all day," notes Traceski. Now they don't have to.

As the Fit-Trix logo promises "Kids from 6 to 90 welcome!"

The family-oriented atmosphere is not Fit-Trix's sole novel attribute. Some of the equipment also departs from the traditional. One feature is Dance Dance Revolution, a popular video game. DDR, as it is often referred to, uses a floor pad, where players, quite vigorously, follow directions to step on the right area in rhythm.

Then there is the Bosu, which literally means "both sides up." The Bosu more or less resembles half of a rubber ball, with the other half being a flat surface. With the flat side on the ground, the exerciser stands on the other side, trying to maintain balance. (A brief attempt yielded the realization that it is harder than it may look.)

Fit-Trix has a number of weightlifting machines as well, which Traceski vows are perfectly safe for kids. "There's a myth that lifting weights will damage a child's growth plates, but that's not true," elaborates Traceski.

She went on to say that this is often true of free-weights, but not the safer machines that Fit-Trix employs. Traceski added that safe weight lifting is an effective way for overweight children to lose weight.

In the cardio room, Fit-Trix has the traditional elliptical, treadmill, rowing machine, and bicycle, but it also includes something Traceski refers to as "the circuit." This apparatus combines a video game with exercising. Through pushing and pulling with the upper body, the user makes an onscreen racecar drive faster, the more force he exerts. Not surprisingly, this is quite popular with children.

Traceski has enlisted the help of four employees. Jayme Stewart and Bonnie Mclean are the other full-time instructors. Ken Landry and Dan Galanto both work part-time and are seniors at East Hampton High School. Appropriately enough, both plan to study fitness in college. Asked how the experience has been thus far, Galanto piped up, "Oh, I love it! It's so much fun!"

During all six of its days of operation, Fit-Trix offers a variety of classes at different hours of the day. These include: Low Impact or Step-an energizing aerobic workout for all skill levels - you set your intensity; Strength & Flexibility- uses Body Bars, Medicine Balls, or Bosu followed by a 5-10 minute stretch; Interval Step & Strength- alternating intervals of Step and Weight training, ending with thorough



stretching; Power Step- combines 3minute aerobic and 1 minute anaerobic intervals - keep it low or go crazy!

As an aside, Traceski is not only an aerobics instructor, but a certified personal trainer as well.

Lisa Senick, of East Hampton, and her eight-year-old son Austin have been impressed with their experience over the last month. Senick's husband noticed Fit-Trix's sign on his way home from work, and mentioned it to her. "We did a free trial and we loved it." They have been coming ever since.

Senick added, "It's nice for me, because he [Austin] likes it." Austin, who plays football in Portland, lost five pounds in the first two weeks. "We're hoping he's going to be the best little tackler come fall," said Lisa.

Joe Visco has taken to Fit-Trix's aerobics program. "I needed an alternative to running in the winter time," he said. "I'm in better shape now than when I was 25."

Every once in a while, you may see a couple other staff members wandering around. That would be Madison and MacGyver, Traceski's shitzu toy poodle and Japanese chin respec-

tively. "They're the love of my life," admits Traceski. "They're my kids." The duo does not show up every day. She explains, "If they come every day, then they're too tired."

Traceski obviously could not be happier with this new venture. "Dreams do come true," she said.

Fit-Trix will hold a grand opening celebration this Saturday from noon-3 p.m. and on Sunday, from 1-4 p.m. All are welcome to "Come to socialize, or come to exercise!" The festivities will include a raffle on Sunday, the biggest prize of which will be a week in Orlando.

Of course, in addition to Fit-Trix's many scheduled classes, exercisers may stop by anytime during business hours for independent workouts. Hours of operation are Monday-Thursday from 8 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday from 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; and Saturday from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Fit-Trix offers a one-week free trial to anyone interested in feeling out what the facility has to offer. More information is available at www.fittrixct.org. They may also be reached by phone at 365-0093.

Dorothy Newsch Honored for Contributions to Marlborough Community

by Sarah McCoy

Dorothy Newsch, a long-time Marlborough resident and member of the local Moose chapter, has been selected as the 2007 International Co-Worker of the Year for the State of Connecticut. The award recognizes one woman each year for her contributions to the Women of the Moose and her community at large.

Last Wednesday State Star Recorder Board Member Annette Dulude traveled to the Moose Lodge in Marlborough to present Newsch with her award. "Dottie has embodied what it means to be a Woman of the Moose for over 30 years," said Dulude. "She has a community focus and upholds our virtues of faith, hope, and charity."

The process to choose the International Co-Worker of the Year begins with each of the ten Connecticut chapters choosing their representative. Then each chapter must write a nomination letter, advocating for their selection.

Doing the writing honors this year was Laurie Alos, who has known Newsch for over 20 years. "The biggest reason why Dottie is a perfect choice for Co-Worker of the Year is that actions speak louder than words," Alos said Wednesday night.

Alos and Newsch worked together as a school bus drivers in Marlborough. "She safeguarded the children of our community without thought to her own well-being," Alos wrote in her nomination letter.

Newsch also gives back to the elderly in the community. "What she hasn't done for [the seniors in town] would probably be easier to answer," stated Alos.

She provides the physical needs, driving to doctors appointments and serving hot lunches at the Senior Center. But, Dottie Newsch also has provided emotional support for residents by playing cards, looking at pictures of grandchildren, and just being a friend.

If that wasn't enough, Dottie also volunteers as an officer for the town's ambulance service, helps out at the local food bank, and has packed and shipped boxes for soldiers overseas.

Newsch is an original member of the Marlborough chapter of the Women of the Moose, which began in 1965 and currently has 70 members.

She is a life-long resident of the town and is known as the woman who will do whatever is needed. "It doesn't matter, to her, what the job is. She is always willing to pitch in. To me, that is exactly what it means to be a Co-Worker of the Year," said Alos.

The Women of the Moose run a number of charitable events in town. Currently they are collecting men's clothing for a halfway home. Donations are currently being accepted at the Moose Lodge at 303 South Main St in Marlborough.

300th Benefit Auction Items on the Block Saturday in Hebron

How would you like front row seats at the next RHAM graduation or sporting event, or at an elementary school concert?

Perhaps you would prefer a 'Boy's Night Out' with cigars and brandy in the privacy of your own home instead? Maybe you can start out with a nice dinner at an area restaurant, or even have dinner prepared for you!

These are just some of the exciting possibilities that await savvy bidders at the 300th Celebration Committee Benefit Auction this Saturday, March 31, at the Easter Seals Camp Hemlocks, 85 Jones St.

You can pamper your mind, your body or your pet. You can tour the state Capitol and have lunch with a legislator, or you can relax and enjoy works of art, literature, antiques, or one-on-one health and exercise sessions. You can free your mind with family themed board games and get your yard cleaned at the same time!

Nearly 150 items have been donated to the auction. The list can be viewed at the town's web site www.Hebronct.org under the 300th Celebration link.

Interested bidders also can preview the items for auction from 3-7 p.m. The auction begins at 7:30 p.m. A donation of \$5 will be collected

at the door and complimentary gourmet desserts, coffee, tea, and soft drinks will be served. A cash bar will be available.

The committee is planning a series of observances and events throughout 2008 that will appropriately mark the town's founding in 1708. Committee members are selling a variety of mementos based on the theme "Hebron Rocks." These include candy "rocks," lapel pins, refrigerator magnets and the opportunity to be a permanent part of Hebron's history by having your name inscribed on a rock in a stone wall that will be built in the center of town.

Events now in the planning stages include a community picnic and dance, an old-fashioned baseball game, a Revolutionary Era military reenactment, and a float in the Memorial Day parade commemorating the generations of Hebron veterans who have served in the military during wartime.

The committee also is appealing to individuals and businesses that are interested in helping fund the observances. Tax-exempt donations can be sent to the 300th Celebration Committee at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, Attn: Town Clerk.

Annual AHM Telethon Sets \$60,000 Goal

The 17th Annual AHM Youth Services Telethon—scheduled to take place in about a month—may prove to be the most important fundraiser in the history of the regional youth service bureau, according to AHM Director Joel Rosenberg.

With grant money ever harder to come by, the next several months will be a critical period for the local non-profit, which provides a broad range of community and mental health services for the citizens of Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough.

The Telethon is one of five major fundraisers that the AHM Board of Directors sponsors each year. During the Telethon, volunteer callers phone residents and ask for pledges. This year's goal is \$60,000.

In the next few days local residents will be receiving the 2007 annual AHM appeal letter in advance of the Telethon.

Telethon calling dates are as follows: The Andover Telethon for AHM will take place on May 1, 2 and 3; the Hebron Telethon for AHM will take place on April 30, May 1, 2 and 3; and the Marlborough Telethon for AHM will take place on April 26 and 30 and then again on May 2 and 3.

Volunteers will be calling from each one of the three town halls. For more information about Andover, Hebron, Marlborough Youth Services, Inc. visit www.AHMYouth.org or call 228-9488. Volunteer callers are also still needed for the Telethon.

The Telethon is one of five major AHM annual fundraisers. Other AHM fundraisers this year will include a summer golf tournament and a fall auction. The annual birds of prey exhibition and bird house sale during the winter

Hebron Maple Festival has already taken place. Also planned is a soon to be announced spring and summer car wash event.

Each of these fundraisers is necessary in order to help maintain a wide range of services and activities provided to local children, teens and adults, said Rosenberg.

AHM is one of 99 youth service bureaus in Connecticut. The regional non-profit bureau was formed by a group of citizens in 1983. The agency was formerly incorporated as a private non-profit bureau in 1984 and presently serves as the municipal agent for youth and family programs in Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

Each year more than 6,000 citizens use AHM services or participate in one or more of the bureau's activities. These include youth and family counseling, school-based social work services, juvenile review board, crisis intervention services, adult grief support group, child and teen support groups, peer helpers program, peer mediation programs, Lanterns mentoring program, FRC pre-school program, play and learn groups, home visits, professional training opportunities for childcare providers, social gatherings for parents of preschool children, daily teen center programs, after school homework club, after school cooking club, Jazz for Juniors music ensemble, after school young artists collaborative, RHAM project graduation, summer youth employment, summer teen camp, school vacation teen camps, summer youth theater and more.

AHM is also responsible for securing grant funds for the recently created elementary after school club program in Andover, Hebron, and Marlborough.

RHAM Board Discusses Budget

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education Monday focused on three specific areas as members work toward making a final budget recommendation.

Targeting special education, technology and athletics, the board collected information and input from RHAM administrators. "I don't expect to set a final number tonight," Chairman Al Covino said at the onset of the meeting. "We will do that after the board has collected information from the staff and the public."

A public hearing on the RHAM budget proposal will be held on April 9 at RHAM High School.

One area under scrutiny from the board is a new school psychologist that would split time between the middle and high schools. Currently each school has one psychologist on staff.

Special Education Director Brian Morin argued that two isn't enough for all the evaluations, consultations, and interventions that are required of the school psychologist. With an overall enrollment increase of 41 students expected for next year, Morin doesn't expect the need to go away.

"The combination of the number of students, the number of duties, and the number of caseloads has reached a point, in my opinion, that we are not able to meet the needs of students like we should," Morin stated Monday night.

Covino questioned if this workload could be offset by one of the two social workers currently in place at the schools. Morin responded that the job duties are different and an additional psychologist is needed to handle the growing number of student evaluations. He estimated approximately 104 evaluations are needed each

school year and each takes between 10-15 hours of work.

The Board of Education also raised questions as to the need for two new paraprofessionals requested by Morin for the Special Education Department. There are currently 29 Special Education paraprofessionals at RHAM.

Morin reported that these numbers, "are strictly driven by the services required."

These services could include anything from feeding and diapering to mainstream classroom support.

The next issues the board looked to tackle came in the area of athletics. Feelings ran the gamut in regards to the Pay to Play initiative in place at the schools. Currently students must pay \$125 to play a sport at RHAM and \$25 to be a member of a club.

On Monday board members expressed various thoughts on Pay to Play, including raising the fee, maintaining it, lowering the fee or abolishing the system altogether.

Member Ken Mosher stated that he believes core education programs must come first and the Pay to Play system is one way to increase revenue.

Student representative Ryan Allison, who is a member of the RHAM Football team, offered his view on the system. "There are kids who complain about the fee because a lot of them have to pay for it themselves," he said. "And these students aren't working because they're out playing sports. To me, \$125 seems a little steep."

Board member Jim Cherry agreed saying he would like to see the BOE cut the Pay to Play program by 25% this year with an eye to eliminating it altogether in the future.

signs, but additional funds will be needed. A total of \$10,000 has been requested in this year's capitol improvement budget and has been endorsed by the selectmen.

The Park & Rec Commission is asking for volunteers to help with this project which is targeted for the fall of 2007. A meeting will be held on Monday, April 9 at 7 p.m. in the conference room at the town hall. Anyone who is willing to help with this project is asked to please attend.

Colchester Democrats Endorse Dodd Candidacy

The Colchester Democratic Town Committee voted Monday to endorse Senator Chris Dodd in his campaign to become the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

In addition, Colchester Democratic Town Committee Vice Chair and Democratic State Central Committee member Dorothy Mrowka gave her personal endorsement to Dodd. Democratic Town Committee Chair John Malsbenden has also endorsed Senator Dodd, but he was out of town and unable to attend the March 26 meeting.

"I have known Chris Dodd for many years," said Mrowka. "Chris Dodd was a great congressman. He is a great senator. And he will be a great president. Chris Dodd has always listened to the people of Connecticut. He understands our needs, and he has a proven record of

accomplishment on the issues that matter most to us."

"It is truly an honor to have the support of the Colchester Democrats, and particularly of my friend Dot Mrowka," said Dodd. "I am so excited to have my neighbors in Colchester by my side as I move forward with this journey. It is exactly this sort of early, enthusiastic support that is going to make the difference in my campaign."

Colchester's Democratic Town Committee was one of the first committees to formally endorse Dodd's candidacy. "We're almost a year away from the first votes being cast in this primary election, and already, local Democrats are lining up to offer their support to Chris Dodd," said Beneva Schulte, Communications Director for the Dodd campaign.

Colchester Hires Town Planner With Wealth of Experience

by Jim Salemi

At long last, Colchester has a town planner to call its own—and by the looks of Adam Turner's resume, Colchester should be lucky to have him.

He most recently worked as a project manager for developments on the island of Saipan of the Northern Mariana Islands where he had previously worked as a town planner.

Before taking the job at Saipan, the 45-year-old Turner worked in the Florida Keys as a planner, and before that he worked farther north for the town of Ocala, FL.

While the Mariana Islands are a good half-a-world away, the problems on that island—sprawl and decimation of open space—couldn't be closer to home.

"There was lots of development on the island," he said. "The Japanese were doing a lot of developing, as well as Korea. There was a sudden burst of development in the '80s; the Japanese yen was so strong."

Now Turner looks forward to helping Colchester deal with these issues as growth threatens what is left of New England's village

character. He said he became "enthusiastic" about the prospect of working for the town after reviewing the town's plan of development and open space initiative, long before he interviewed for the job.

"I've seen the town's plan of development. It's impressive. I've seen lots of impressive plans of developments over my career as a consultant. Colchester's plan is impressive, not only because the town did it, but also because it's already implemented," he said.

Turner took his last job on the island of Saipan after a friend and colleague from his consulting days was elected governor of the island. He returned to his native state of Connecticut to be closer to his family, he said.

Besides his gigs in Saipan, Florida and as a consultant, he has worked as a lobbyist in Washington, D.C.

"I look forward to playing a role in Colchester's future and I'm enthusiastic about being here, and where this town is headed," he said.

Fate of Connecticut Farms Topic of Film in Colchester

"Working the Land, The Story of Connecticut Agriculture," a new documentary by Ken Simon will be presented on Tuesday, April 10 at 7 p.m. by the Colchester Historical Society at Jack Jackter Elementary School.

Simon's film chronicles the history of farming in the state and notes the quickly diminishing percentage of Connecticut farmland, from 22,000 farms in 1944 to 4,200 today.

The film features more than 30 Connecticut farms and farmers with nearly 1,000 archival

photographs used for the project. "Working the Land" is produced, written and directed by Moodus resident Ken Simon with narration by Sam Waterson.

Ken Simon's film will be featured on CPTV on April 13, but you can catch a preview of the film April 10 at the Jack Jackter Elementary School Media Room. The school is located at 315 Halls Hill Road in Colchester.

Admission is free and the public is welcome.

Break-in at Pat's Market in Marlborough Nets Cash from Safe

by Sarah McCoy

State police are investigating a burglary at Pat's Market last weekend. According to police reports, someone gained access to the building by kicking in the back door of the store. The incident occurred sometime between 9 p.m. Friday night and 8 a.m. Saturday morning when the store opened for business.

A large amount of cash, kept in the store's safe, was taken in the break-in. The exact amount was not publicized.

Storeowner Jerry Knislis said this week that the store alarm had been disarmed at

11:48 p.m. on Friday night. The lock on the safe showed signs of forced entry, he said.

The thief or thieves were apparently only interested in the cash. There were no other disruptions to the store and Pat's opened for regular business on Saturday morning.

"I have been here 17 years and nothing like this has ever happened before," said Knislis. "You just don't expect things like this in Marlborough."

Anyone with possible information relating to the break-in are asked to contact Trooper Joshua M. Chivers at Troop K in Colchester.

Marlborough Blish Playscape Renovation Project Update

The Marlborough Park & Recreation Commission is proceeding with the Blish Park Playscape renovation project.

An audit was completed at the end of 2006 by Leathers Associates – the original designers of the playscape, identifying several areas of the playscape that will need repair or replacement. According to Parks & Rec chairman Barbara Lazzari, the cost will probably be in the neighborhood of \$40,000.

Fundraising for the project is underway through the sale of house number reflective

East Hampton Police News

3/10 — Sean Smith, 16, of 157 West Rd., Colchester, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Terp Road, approximately one tenth of a mile east of Hog Hill Road. Smith was arrested for traveling unreasonably fast, operating a motor vehicle age 16-17 between midnight and 5 a.m. and evading responsibility.

3/11 — Bryan Noonan, 40, of 81 Bigelow Rd., Colchester, was issued a ticket for creating a public disturbance.

3/16 — Mark Simmons, 17, of 139 Wopowog Rd., East Hampton, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Wopowog Road, two tenths of a mile north of Brook Hill Drive. Simmons was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

3/17 — Janice Logan, 53, of 149 East Shore Dr., Colchester, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

3/17 — Leon R. Naud, 41, of 13 Long Crossing Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for operating while under suspension.

3/17 — Richard Busch, 18, of 13 Sunset Dr., East Hampton, and Carlyle Barnett, 32, of 1 Colony Rd., Enfield, were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Main Street, two tenths of a mile south of East High Street. Busch was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions.

3/17 — Alan J. Kromish Jr., 105 Falls Rd., Moodus, was arrested for violation of a protective order.

3/17 — Jamie Summers, 42, of 116 Colchester Ave., East Hampton, was arrested for larceny 6th degree.

3/17 — Kristi Talmadge, 30, of no certain address, was arrested for criminal trespass 1st degree, criminal mischief 3rd degree and burglary 2nd degree.

3/18 — Denise N. Kniss, 42, of 41 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for failure to drive right and operating under the influence of alcohol.

3/19 — Jason Rich, 31, of 41 Falls Bashan Rd., East Haddam, was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant on operating a motor vehicle while under suspension, failure to have tail lamps and failure to appear 2nd degree.

3/19 — Patrick Scott, 19, of 36 Skinner St., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant on charges of disorderly conduct, criminal mischief and failure to appear second degree.

3/19 — Cody D. Jeffers, 18, of 6 Mott Hill Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for operation of a motor vehicle without insurance.

3/20 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was arrested pursuant to a warrant for disorderly conduct.

3/20 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for possession of alcohol by a minor.

3/21 — Rick M. Gaylord, 35, of 6A North Maple St., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for disorderly conduct.

3/21 — Deanna Ruffino, 31, of 17 Overlook Dr., East Hampton, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

3/22 — Leonard R. Naud, 41, of 7 Markham La., East Hampton, was arrested for disorderly conduct.

Hebron Police News

3/24—Melissa Cusanelli, 49, of Windsor, was arrested for DWI and following another vehicle too closely, according to reports.

3/24—Ronald Cooke, 60, of Glastonbury, was arrested for DUI, police said.

3/25—Police are investigating the theft of seven 100-pound wood sculptures from a yard of a residence on the corner of Chittenden Road and Jones Street. Anyone with any information is asked to call Trooper Chivens at Troop K at 537-7500, ext. 4000.

Colchester Police News

3/26—Police are investigating a burglary into a storage container at a construction site at Route 85 and Old Town Road. Anyone with any information is asked to call the Colchester Police Department at 537-7270.

3/27—Daniel Gallagher, 41, of 51-7 Hayward Ave., was arrested for disorderly conduct, interfering with a 911 call, criminal mischief, criminal trespassing and burglary, according to police.

Obituaries

Colchester

Raymond L. Badger, Sr.

Raymond L. Badger Sr., 84, beloved husband of Dorothy Clemens Badger of Parum Road, Colchester, passed away Tuesday morning, March 20, at his residence. He was born March 6, 1923 in Quincy, MA., son of the late Russell W. and Amelia Rudolph Badger.

Ray was a 20 year career veteran serving in the U.S. Submarine Naval Fleet, veteran of World War II and the Korean Conflict and was proud of his participation in the DDay landings. He worked for Electric Boat as a tech writer and supervisor for 17 years. He later worked for the Town of Colchester for the Colchester Sewer and Water Departments. He was a devoted Red Sox fan.

Surviving besides his wife, Dorothy, he leaves a devoted son and daughter-in-law, Raymond L. Jr. and Sharon Badger of Carson City, NV; a brother, Russell W. Badger Jr. of Florida; and two granddaughters, Sabrina and Jessica.

Burial of ashes will take place on May 1, 2 p.m. at Arlington National Cemetery. There are no calling hours. Belmont Funeral Home of Colchester in care of arrangements.

Portland

Edith E. DeBari

Edith E. Schultz DeBari, 86, of Portland, peacefully passed away Saturday, March 24, at Middlesex Hospital with her family at her side. She was born Dec. 25, 1920 in Middletown, the daughter of the late Rudolph and Caroline Schultz.

She had been employed by the Elmcrest Psychiatric Institute for 45 years and had served as Director of Food Services. In 1991, she was honored for her years of dedication when the Elmcrest Dining Room was named after her. She was an active member of the Altar Guild of Trinity Episcopal Church, a member of the Dietary Managers Association, a lifetime member of the Cugin-Chuggers, a member of the Falcons and a member of the Eagles.

She is survived by her loving son and daughter-in-law Robert and Susan DeBari of Coventry; her granddaughter Susan D. Iyob of Woolrich, NJ; her grandson Christopher M. DeBari of Sturbridge, MA; her great-granddaughter Sofia E. Iyob; her sisters Ruth Erlick and Ellen Harvey of Middletown, many nieces, nephews, and her dear friend Stanley Kokoszka.

Calling hours were Thursday evening in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Funeral services will be held today (Friday, March 30) at 11 a.m. in the Trinity Church, 345 Main St., Portland, with burial following immediately at Center Cemetery, Bartlett St., Portland. Memorial contributions may be made in Edith's name to the Trinity Episcopal Church.

Andover

Charles “Chuck” Skoog

Charles “Chuck” Skoog, 68, resident of Andover Lake since 1946, passed away on March 27. He was born on July 25, 1938, son of the late Henry and Muriel Skoog. Muriel, his caregiver, passed away 20 days prior to Chuck. For a short period prior to his death, Chuck was a resident of Marlborough Health Care.

As a young boy, Chuck could be found either sailing the Flying Dutchman, or hunting and trapping around the Lake. In 1955, at age 16, tragedy struck when he dove into Andover Lake and broke his neck. This accident confined him to a wheelchair. Chuck never looked back, and with his perseverance and outstanding attitude made a life for himself as a quadriplegic. He found a love of music. His career began at the Red Barn Dances on Friday nights as a DJ. It soon developed into a 35-year livelihood. He became known as “The Grandfather of Mobile Music.”

After retiring in 1992, he returned to his childhood passion for the water. Chuck and his nephew Jim could be found building and sailing remote-controlled sailboats around the lake. He also loved sitting at the dock and watching the ducks and geese with their little ones.

Chuck leaves behind his Aunt Astrid Wierzbicki of Manchester; a close cousin, Clifford Skoog of Bolton; two brothers: Bill Skoog and his wife Pam of Columbia; Peter Skoog and his wife Elinor of Andover; and a sister, Astrid Belanger and her husband Bob of Columbia; five nieces and nephews: Jessica, Travis, and Sara Skoog; Jim and Jamie Belanger; and a long-time family friend, Kevin Hoxie of Willimantic.

Chuck's humor and love for life will forever be an inspiration to all who knew him. The sound of music on Andover Lake has been silenced with the passing of Chuck Skoog, but his memory will live on. He is forever in our hearts.

There will be an open house for Muriel and Chuck at their home, 278 Lake Road in Andover, on Sunday, April 1 from 1-4 p.m. Friends and family are invited to share their memories with one another. There will be no calling hours and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

The family asks that in lieu of flowers a contribution be made to the Andover Fire Department, 11 School Road, Andover, CT 06232 of which Chuck was a honorary lifelong member. The Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester is in charge of the arrangements.