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Charlaina Dimond holds up the same card she used in Girls Nation when she wanted to be recognized. Charlaina spent a week in Washington, DC, last month, as one of two Connecticut girls to participate in the Girls Nation program.

Portland Student Gets Firsthand Look at Washington Government

by Michael McCoy

Spending a week in the nation's capital has only fed one Portland student's hunger to pursue a career in politics.

Charlaina Dimond spent the week in Washington, DC, from July 19-26, where she was one of two Connecticut girls to participate in Girls Nation, not to mention the first ever from Portland.

Girls State is a mock legislative program started by the American Legion Auxiliary that seeks to give young women first-hand experience in the workings of state government. The program culminates each year with Girls Nation, which gives girls a firsthand look at federal government, down in Washington.

At the end of June, Charlaina, 17, was one of nearly 200 girls who spent a long weekend at Eastern Connecticut State University in Willimantic for Girls State. Of those, she and Amanda McGowan of Bristol were selected to attend Girls Nation.

In Washington, Charlaina and the other 95 girls stayed at a local youth center, and spent their days at a 4H Center, debating various bills.

Incidentally, the event took place simultaneously with the male counterpart, Boys State, though they functioned completely separately.

The week also included some sight-seeing, including the Capitol building, the Pentagon, many of the memorials, and the White House, where the girls briefly met President George W. Bush. "He was exceedingly busy," Charlaina said, so they did not have time to ask him questions. However, she did mention that he told them it was extremely important to serve their country.

Charlaina, who said she tends to be considerably liberal, added, "He's more personable in person than he is on TV." Figuring that he is a real person the same as anyone else, Charlaina said, "The media depicts politicians as demons or gods."

Charlaina also got to meet two of Condoleezza Rice's aids (the Secretary of State was visiting Zimbabwe), and at one point the girls got a chance to meet the senators from their state. Only Chris Dodd's aide was available, but Charlaina and her Connecticut cohort Amanda did

meet Joe Lieberman, and left with a sign picture of the three of them.

Lieberman also allowed a few minutes for questions. "They were hard questions that he answered very well," Charlaina said. She said he asked him how he justified supporting McCain in the election when the majority of Connecticut residents are Democrats. Lieberman responded that since he ran as an Independent, he was elected by no single party base and could align himself as he saw fit "without worrying about political party strife."

Speakers for the week included Miss Utah (National Guard Sgt. Jill Stevens) as well as Lithuanian Holocaust Survivor Nesse Godin. Charlaina said Godin "told us that the Holocaust never really ended," a statement Charlaina took to mean that genocide around the world has never really stopped.

However, the meat of the week was the active time spent in session. According to Charlaina, the Senate typically met for two three-hour sessions each day, one in the morning and one in the evening. "By the

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Front Page

time you got out of senate, your brain was fried," Charlaina said, noting that this typically came at around 11 p.m. However, she did remark that this was her favorite part of the week.

Going into the week, Charlaina was hopeful that she might be elected president by her peers. Each girl was either labeled a Nationalist or a Federalist. Out of about 50 Federalists, Charlaina estimated she was one of about 20 in her party to run for the office. She shrugged, "I guess we're all pretty ambitious." Each party votes and the top three votegetters from each party run in the final election.

According to Charlaina, she came in either fourth or fifth, just failing to make the first cut. However, she noted that, "Plenty of girls said, 'Your speech was amazing.'" In the end, Nationalist Barbara Walkowiak of Nebraska won the election. Furthermore, she reported that her cohorts donned her, "one of those senators you either love or absolutely disagree with."

Charlaina was later appointed the office of Solicitor General

Charlaina counted Walkowiak a friend and a kindred spirit and called her "the best public speaker" she'd heard in quite some time. Also, Charlaina laughed, when given the choice to wear either a dress or suit to the banquet, only she and Walkowiak opted for suits.

Overall, Charlaina said, Girls Nation was "a great opportunity to learn about parliamentary procedure." She later added, "I think I did a good job representing Connecticut" and said, "There wasn't a bill that I didn't debate on."

Though 38 bills were on the docket, only six ended up being heard due to time constraints. Charlaina's bill, which concerned healthcare for small business employees, was among those left unheard.

Advising young women who may participate

in Girls Nation in the future, Charlaina suggested "be headstrong" and "debate as hard as you can." She lamented the fact that Connecticut bills seem to be farther down the list of those to be heard. However, she added, "Make sure people know that, yes, we're a small state, but we're big in heart."

Spending time with girls her age who shared her fervor for public policy, Charlaina said she learned "I am not alone in my conviction to make a better America on the whole." Alluding to her future plans, she remarked, "I'll look forward to debating them noting a simulation, but on the floor of the Senate."

Though Charlaina is not eligible to vote in November's Presidential election, she is supporting to Barack Obama's candidacy. "I like that his policy is about hope and change," she said.

Charlaina called Washington her favorite city. She said she hopes to attend college in the city, and ultimately live there, which should come as no surprise since Charlaina hopes to one day be in the U.S. Senate.

Charlaina and her family moved to Portland from Sugarhouse, UT, three years ago. She is the daughter of Doug Dimond and Ronda Overdiek and will be a senior at Portland High School next year. Currently, she is eyeing up Georgetown, George Washington, and American University.

But wherever she ends up, she plans to double major in government or political science, as well as philosophy, with a minor in Women's Studies. She hopes to at some point join the Peace Corps and eventually attend law school.

For more information on the Girls Nation program, or to view's proposed bill, visit girlsnation-auxiliary.com.

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations****by Mike Thompson**

I had to go to Middletown Sunday afternoon, and since it was a nice day (warm, sunny, no rain), I opted to go the old-fashioned way — avoiding the highway, instead going through Glastonbury and Portland, across the bridge and into Middletown that way. It was just a good day for a scenic drive, and apparently many motorcyclists agreed with me, as I passed several bikers while making my way through Glastonbury and Portland. And I was disappointed, though not all that surprised, by just how many of them weren't wearing helmets.

Connecticut doesn't have a state law requiring adult motorcyclists to wear helmets. If you're under 18, you have to wear one. But if you're over 18, it's apparently every man for himself. And from what I've seen, many motorcyclists here in the Nutmeg State opt to just ride without one. I just don't get it. It seems like it would be common sense to want to protect your head if you're biking down the road at speeds of 40, 50, 60 miles an hour. If you get into an accident, you could go flying.

Studies have shown head injuries to be the leading cause of death in motorcycle accidents. Studies have also proven wearing helmets greatly reduces both risk of death and severe brain injuries if you get into a motorcycle accident. I just don't see what the big deal is here. Is feeling the wind blow through your hair really worth all that?

I also don't get exactly *why* Connecticut has no law requiring adult motorcyclists to wear helmets. To make teens under 18 wear them, but not adults, is silly. Yes, those under 18 would be less experienced drivers. But experienced drivers get into accidents too. Just pick up a newspaper or turn on the news. It happens. I mean, if you're going to say motorcyclists can take off their helmets as soon as they turn 18, why not do the same with seat belts? As soon as we turn 18, we just don't have to wear them anymore. They're so annoying anyway. And those buckles can get really hot in the summer sun. Last time I checked, the state seat belt law isn't getting repealed.

I was looking into this matter on the Internet, and came across a chart showing which states require all motorcyclists — not just teenagers — to wear helmets and which ones don't. You might be surprised by the company Connecticut keeps. Or rather, by the company we don't keep. Many of the southern states (Alabama, Louisiana, Tennessee, North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia) all have helmet laws. Our neighbors both to the north (Massachusetts) and west (New York) have them. (In fact, Gov. Rell has commented she's seen motorcyclists cross the border from New York into Connecticut, take off their helmets, and keep on going.) California has mandatory helmet laws. So does New Jersey.

Now, to be fair, there are also states that are like us, with just requiring teens to wear helmets. And there are three states — Illinois, Iowa and New Hampshire — that don't have helmet laws of any kind, for teens or adults. But that doesn't, in my opinion, make it right. If you ask me, they all should have all-ages helmet laws.

One could argue that it should be the responsibility of the individual motorcyclist, that he should be the one making the call in this situa-

tion. And I might buy that if I saw the right calls being made more often. But I don't. When driving back from Middletown Sunday, I was in Glastonbury and noticed, on my right side, a bicyclist and, on my left side, three motorcyclists driving down the road. The bicyclist wore a helmet. The motorcyclists did not. Something's not quite right about this picture.

Now, let me preface the following statement with these words: I like the Red Sox. They'll never replace the Mets in my heart, but I pulled for them when they went all the way in 2004 (heck, the Mets were long finished by the time October rolled around that year anyway), and then again last year when they won it all. But, that being said: Are the Tampa Bay Rays a great story or what? This is a team that had never won more than 70 games in a season. Through Wednesday night, they've won 77. They lead the Red Sox by four and a half games, and the Yankees by 10. Being a Mets fan, I know all too well that anything can happen in September (as the Mets had a seven game lead in their division with 17 games left to play last season — and wound up losing the division by a single game). But I really hope the Rays can hold on and make it into the playoffs.

They've been fun to watch, and they've done with a cast of, while not no-names, certainly not perennial All-Stars either. Of their starting pitchers, Scott Kazmir's probably the only guy most people had heard of before this season. Their infield features guys like Jason Bartlett and Carlos Pena (although Pena does have 25 homers on the season). The big veteran players on the team — Cliff Floyd and Troy Percival — are guys who've had success, but who really seem to be in the twilight of their career.

Despite the lack of marquee, highly-paid names, this team's been getting it done. Led by a strong manager, they're just a scrappy bunch of enthusiastic young players, some of which look to have good careers ahead of them. (They may be on the DL right now, but I don't think Carl Crawford or Evan Longoria — no relation to Eva — are going away anytime soon.) It's just been a real feel-good story, proof that you don't have to spend a lot of money to field a successful team.

It'd be nice if more fans showed up to their games (just 19,000 were in attendance for Wednesday night's game between Tampa Bay and the AL West-leading Angels), but that probably has more to do with the team's location than anything else. With Florida being a state people go to when they retire, you're going to see more Cubs fans, Yankees fans, Mets fans, etc., down there than you do Marlins or Rays fans. Unless one of the teams becomes a perennial contender (and unfortunately Marlins' ownership has a nasty habit of blowing up the team whenever they win a world championship), this will probably always be the case.

Maybe this is the start of a mini-dynasty for Tampa Bay. I'm hoping they make the playoffs this year. I'll even allow them to reach the World Series. They can't win it, though. The world championship belongs to the Mets this year. They're tearing down Shea Stadium at the end of the season; let's send it out with a bang.

See you next week.



State Representative James A. O'Rourke (left), First Selectman Susan Bransfield and Veterans Affairs Commission members Kathy Burke (third in from right), Bill Willinsky (second in from right) and Don Hutchings (right) honored Gunnery Sgt. Mark Johnson (center), a 15-year U.S. Marine Corps veteran who grew up in Portland, at a ceremony last week. Johnson is to begin his third tour of duty in Iraq next month.

Native Son Honored by Portland**by Kristina Histen**

A Portland native was honored by the town last Friday, mere weeks before he was to begin his third tour of duty in Iraq.

Gunnery Sgt. Mark Johnson, a 15-year U.S. Marine Corps. veteran who grew up in Portland, received a proclamation from the town thanking him for his service and a proclamation from the General Assembly on behalf of the people of Connecticut recognizing his commitment to the military.

About 20 family members and close friends attended the ceremony that was held in front of the town's new Veterans' Memorial.

"This proves how much we in town support

the veterans," Veterans Affairs Commission member Bill Willinsky said.

Johnson is currently stationed in California and is scheduled to leave for his third deployment to Iraq early September. He will be leaving his wife, Shannon, and their four children for about one year.

Johnson enlisted in the Marine Corps. right after high school. "As a kid I always wanted to enlist," he said, "but my wife kept me around for a little bit. It gets hard being away from my family, but I love what I do. I enjoy teaching young Marines."

Marlborough Kids Heading Back to School

by Kristina Histen

Ah, it's that time of year again. While parents are rejoicing, their children are sulking at the thought of homework and math tests. Yes, it's back to school time.

But when those soon-to-be-students stuff their brand new backpacks with that never-before-used box of crayons and those bright pink rubber erasers, they can't help but smile. And even though school doesn't start for another few days, their outfits for that first day are already picked out right down to the matching socks.

Try as they might, they are just as excited for school to begin as their parents and the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School is ready for them with open doors.

"It seems like school never ended," Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo said. "We are looking forward to having the students come back. They are usually very excited the first few days and there is a lot of energy in the building."

The first day of school is next Wednesday, Aug. 27. On that day, the goal of the staff is to get the students in their classrooms, feed them and make sure they get home safely, Menzo said. Principal Loraine Giannini echoed his comments, noting how important it is for the first day to run smoothly, hoping no child gets lost or ends up hungry. Even the older children are apprehensive, so a big opening ceremony will be held to welcome everyone back and get them focused on the year.

There will be 674 students settling into their classrooms that day, a "healthy grow" of 11 children from last year, Menzo said.

This year, students can expect a new computer lab, in which all the old computers have been replaced, Menzo said. There will be four new and updated computers in each classroom of the fourth, fifth and sixth grades, he said. Also, thanks to the contributions of the PTO, they were able to install six more smart boards in each grade level from first through sixth, along with ones in the World Language and Art classrooms.

The effort will continue to grow with the China Partnership, Giannini said, as a visitor from their sister school in the Province of Shandong, China, will be in town for a week in September. Giannini will host her in her home and they have a lot of fun activities planned, she said. The visitor speaks both English and Chinese and therefore will be able to interact well with the students. Giannini feels as though this will be a great cultural experience for them, especially because they have become so interested in the country, not only because of her and Menzo's presentations on their experiences over there, but also because of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

As a result of the students doing a lot of work and investigating, there will be full recycling at the school and they will continue with their compost, Giannini said.

"We are slowly moving towards that green school goal of ours," she said.

Over the summer, the staff has worked with Andover and Hebron to refine and improve the way the curriculum is instructed in subjects like math, science, reading and writing, Menzo said. Professional development days will be held on Monday and Tuesday for teachers before school starts to analyze student data in order to formulate action plans to utilize in the classroom, he said.

In addition, three new members will also be joining the elementary school staff: a new fifth-grade teacher, a math/science person to work with the math consultant and a new speech language person, Giannini said. They attended new teacher orientation on Thursday, Aug. 21, where they were able to meet with curriculum supervisors to get accumulated to the building and ready for the school year, Menzo said.

There will be a focus on sharing with the community on what education is doing for the children by using local media to emphasize the many things teachers are involved with in the classrooms, Menzo said, and there will be a lot more parent outreach programs as well.

"In education, the reality of what we do is not always understood," Menzo said. "We want to create a reality to convey to the community what we really do to educate our students. We want to highlight things that we are doing that are very noteworthy because they are making a difference in our children's lives, and it's because of our resources. We couldn't do what we do without the help of the community. We really need to pay tribute to the people in our community."

It will be a challenging year because of the economy, Menzo said, as it will hit everyone. The stress will make people feel uncertain because they won't have control of what the future will bring. He hopes that the education the town provides will be the stabilizing force the people need to feel safe, especially when it comes to their children.

"We need to make [parents] understand that they can trust us and that it is a safe building," he said. "We really want to get parents involved in the nuts and bolts of what we do so they can know how to help engage their children at a different level. It'll be fun, there is never a dull moment. ... We're very fortunate to have the children that come through our doors. They are very excited when they come here and we've created a very engaging environment for them."

Even though the summer went by too quickly, as it does every year, the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School building is ready to go. It looks "fantastic," Menzo said, because the custodians did a great job cleaning it. Teachers are there already, preparing their classrooms for the 2008-09 school year. They are ready and excited for everyone to come back, Giannini said.

So, whether they're willing to admit it or not, those young learners have a lot to be psyched about.

Andover Elementary School Ready for New Year

by Sarah McCoy

Superintendent of Schools Andy Maneggia is ready.

"Open the doors and let's get the school year underway," he said last week.

Maneggia will have to wait just a few more days as the 2008-09 school year will get underway on Wednesday, Aug. 27.

This year the school will feature Smartboards in each classroom from first to sixth grade. This hands-on educational resource allows for students to learn through doing while increasing familiarity with technology. "They allow for greater flexibility in bringing supplementary resources to a curriculum," Maneggia said of the Smartboards.

Over the summer the school finished installing the equipment in the first grade classrooms, signaling the completion of the Smartboard phase in. Funded through the town budget and educational grants, Andover Elementary has equipped all of its first through sixth grade classrooms with Smartboards over the course of the last four years.

Another new initiative that will begin on Wednesday is the school's language arts curriculum. Over the past three years teachers from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough have worked collaboratively to update the elementary schools' reading, language arts, and math curricula. "It's been a multi-town initiative of

teachers getting together to improve teaching strategies and student achievement," Maneggia said.

The curriculum will be delivered to all grade levels and aims to incorporate the state Department of Education standards into each lesson. Over the past two years the school has placed an emphasis on reading and English skills, Maneggia said. This year, he said, there will be a new emphasis on writing.

One area that Maneggia is never able to separate himself from is the school's budget. The Board of Education approved its 2008-09 budget early this year, and the spending plan estimated fuel costs to be \$3 a gallon. This number has since shot up to well over \$4, prompting Maneggia to begin considering how the school might cover this difference.

"We're talking with experts and trying to be proactive to reduce costs," he said.

The picture is a little better now compared to earlier this summer. On July 22, for example, oil was \$4.15 a gallon. But as of Aug. 13, it was at \$3.54. Maneggia has yet to commit to a price, feeling the price may continue to come down. "The trick in this whole thing," he said, "is to find the absolute low point."

He will begin preparing for next year's budget in September.

Time for School Again in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Can anyone believe that the summer, for all intents and purposes, will end in less than a week? Well, perhaps parents can.

One added feature that should be enjoyed by many in town this fall is a new concession window that is being added to the field house at the high school. Now, the booster club will have a convenient nook to sell treats. Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen hoped the window would be finished in time for the fall soccer season. She credited Paul Bengston, director of buildings and grounds, for this new amenity.

"We have some wonderful new hires this year," Doyen said, noting that "several teachers have moved on or retired."

Doyen added, "What we have been doing is investing in our science and social studies program." The school system has been using a program called History Alive for the past few years at the elementary and middle schools, which Doyen called a technology-based curriculum.

"It's very hands-on," Doyen said of the social studies tool and added that it makes particular use of primary source documents.

The progress in the science department involves Project Lead the Way (PLW), a pre-engineering program devoted to increasing students understanding of science and technology. This year, the high school will add its third course to the PLW curriculum, Computer Integrated Manufacturing Systems, which, according to Doyen, "involves a lot of robotics."

"We've been working on that program for several years," Doyen said, who hoped to up the program to five course offerings eventually. Once again Pratt and Whitney gave the school a \$5,000 grant to help administer it. So far, Doyen said, "It's been a tremendous success."

Technical education teachers Ed Sydlowski and Bob Hayes teach the three PLW classes.

Also at the middle school, Doyen said, students who were typically forced previously to choose between chorus and band will now be able to take both.

Another added feature is a new exploratory foreign language program for seventh-graders. Portland offers French and Spanish. Previously, students would choose between the two in seventh grade. Now, they will get a little of both before committing to one in eighth grade.

Speaking of eighth-graders, their algebra course will now count for high school credit.

Teachers return to school next Monday, Aug. 25, and students follow suit on Thursday, Aug. 28.

All five schools will of course hold open houses at the beginning of the school year. Open houses will take place at the middle school on Wednesday, Sept. 17; at the high school on Thursday, Sept. 18; at Brownstone Intermediate on Tuesday, Sept. 23; at Valley View on Wednesday, Sept. 24; and at Gildersleeve on Thursday, Sept. 25.

The first marking period ends on Hal-loween.

Belltown Students Get Back to the Books

by Michael McCoy

While East Hampton students – and parents – counted down the remaining days of summer vacation, Superintendent of Schools Judy Golden last week outlined a few new improvements to lookout for this school year.

This includes a program for autistic students that helps to meet their needs in house, rather than use an outside education provider. This new program is in conjunction with LEARN.

Furthermore, the school has secured rental space on North Maple Street for an alternative education facility, which Golden hopes will enhance the success of corresponding students. Both programs were initiated by Brian Reas, director of support services.

This program will implement Virtual Learning Academy, which Golden called, "an education vehicle to provide course work." This means much of the material can be accessed right from home.

Also, this year, the school is starting a new substitute caller system that will streamline the daily retaining of substitute teachers.

Along the technological lines, Golden hoped that work would start next month on the new security system that was approved earlier in the year. This will complement the new phone system and is designed to keep students safer while.

Golden estimated that high school enrollment would increase by about 15 students from

last year. However, at the time she made this statement, two and a half weeks remained before the students returned to school, so that number could change.

In any event, this brings the high school numbers to roughly 600 students. Golden said East Hampton uses New England School Development Council (NESDEC) to project enrollment. "NESDEC projections don't show a large increase in enrollment in the next few years," Golden said.

Golden has been the East Hampton Superintendent of Schools for a year now and, she said, "I have really enjoyed the community so far." Also, she added, "I have done everything once," figuring that she has now been part of a whole academic cycle in the town.

Golden also said that the school is welcoming around 15 new faculty and staff members, and noted that, by and large, these are not new positions between replacements of those who have retired or have taken positions elsewhere.

Golden seemed be eager to see the students return to school and said, "I'm looking forward to working with everyone over the next year." Furthermore, she called the efforts of her fellow educators "tremendous" thus far.

Teachers and staff return to school on Aug. 27, while new teachers begin on Aug. 25. Students return to their lessons on Sept. 2.

Changes for Staff, Students On Tap for Hebron Schools

by Sarah McCoy

It's a day typically associated with disappointment in the eyes of children everywhere: the first day of school. It marks the end of summer and kicks off a year of tests, homework and studying.

Next Wednesday, Aug. 27, that day will come for Hebron students.

"I can't wait," Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said. "I miss the pattering of feet and voices through the halls. It's been awfully quiet."

Wednesday not only marks the beginning of the school year but also the beginning of a new era in Hebron, as the school transitions to a full-day kindergarten program. There will be two sections of full-day kindergarten for students.

Kindergarten teachers Eileen Baukus and Diane Rees will each teach one section of full-day kindergarten to 18 students. The students were selected through a random lottery last spring, which over 100 parents entered into.

Cruz said she hopes to see the number of full-day offerings increase in the coming years.

"We're hoping, over a three-year period, to expand to six full-day kindergarten classes and three half-day sections," Cruz explained.

Over the course of the school year she and other school administrators will be collecting data and monitoring the two full-day classes to determine if the program is a "good fit" for Hebron. "We have to be able to justify the additional costs if the board [of education] recommends continuing the full-day kindergarten program."

Making the switch from nine half-day classes, as it has been in the past, to two full-day classes and seven half-day classes will cost the town an additional \$71,000 this year.

Another area that Cruz will be monitoring closely this year is the sixth-grade class. In an effort to keep costs down, she recommended to the Board of Education that they not replace a sixth grade teacher who retired at the end of

the 2007-08 school year.

"It was a risk," Cruz said of the decision.

As it stands now class sizes for the sixth grade are 24.5, slightly above the board's recommended number of 24. "We're right there and I think we're okay if we stay there," Cruz said.

Students at all grade levels can expect a big change for the coming school year. They will all be taught following the district's newly-adopted language arts curriculum.

The curriculum was developed by teachers from Hebron, Andover and Marlborough in a collaborative effort that, school administrators feel, will aid in the transition to middle school. (Students from the elementary schools in those three towns are fed into RHAM Middle School in Hebron.)

"It's a tremendous stride for our students," Cruz said of the new curriculum.

In the last three years the district has updated its lesson plans for language arts, reading, and math. "It is comforting to know that we are addressing the standards and framework issues that we have missed in the past," said Cruz.

In addition to the educational upgrades the district has initiated this summer, there have been some physical upgrades too. The parking lot at Gilead Hill Elementary School has been repaved and restriped. And four classrooms have new classroom furniture as the board's furniture replacement cycle kicks off this year.

Cruz will begin compiling information for the 2009-10 budget in just a few weeks. One area of big concern are the rising costs of fuel, electricity, and food. She is exploring avenues of reducing the impact of these items on the overall budget.

Already oil is \$1 more per gallon than the BOE budgeted for this year. "I hope it's enough," Cruz said of the fuel budget. "Superintendents everywhere are hoping for a warm winter."

RHAM Middle and High Schools Set to Fill Again with Students

by Sarah McCoy

"There's nothing more eerie than an empty school building," RHAM Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski said.

Come next Wednesday, Aug. 27, he won't have anything to be afraid of, as the 2008-09 school year will get underway. The RHAM middle and high schools serve students Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

This past week the district held orientations for incoming freshmen, seventh-graders, and new teachers. On Monday, Aug. 25, teachers report for their own orientation to kick-off the school year. Former teacher and renowned speaker Alan November will address the RHAM staff on Monday with a lecture on teaching the 21st century learner.

"Kids are always changing," Siminski said. "We had Gen X-ers, Gen Ys and baby boomers. The notion of a computer was completely foreign to the boomers and now look how it's changed education."

Siminski said that by providing resources to teachers, like Monday's lecture, they will be better prepared to meet the needs of the student learners and thus enhance student achievement at RHAM.

A priority for Siminski this year will be acclimating the two newest additions to the RHAM administration to the school district. Michael Seroussi began as the new principal of the middle school on July 1 and Carl Gross as the new Director of Special Education.

"A key component to our success this year will be getting them off to a good start to be able to provide the services kids need," Siminski said.

The district will also continue its work on creating pacing guides and curriculum maps to ensure consistent, thorough teaching throughout the two schools. In the fall the district will present the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) results to the Board of Education. Siminski said school officials will use this data

to identify areas of focus and strengths of the district.

This summer has been busier than most at RHAM. In addition to the routine maintenance that goes on every summer to prepare the building for the onslaught of students, the district is also in the process of replacing virtually all the flooring on the first floor of the high school.

Soon after the high school construction was completed in 2002, the flooring of the new building began to peel up and bubble. Siminski said the regional school district settled with the contractor responsible for the faulty flooring glue last summer but, by that point, it was too late to complete a floor replacement project before school would be back in session. "Given the scope of the project we felt it was more prudent to wait until the summer shut down," he said.

Siminski said the project is on target to finish before school starts next Wednesday.

The other major construction project executed this summer is the new administrative office branch added to the high school. These offices will be the new home for Siminski, Director of Finance William Mazzara, and administrative assistant Kathy Mund. In lieu of renewing a \$54,000-a-year lease to keep the offices on Liberty Drive in the center of Hebron, taxpayers from the three towns okayed a \$350,000 construction project to move the offices to the school campus.

The project will be paid off using the \$54,000 budgeted for the lease for the next seven years. "It eventually becomes something to eliminate from the budget altogether," Siminski said of at the time of the proposal last spring.

If all goes according to plan, the three central office employees will move to their new offices in September.

On the first day of classes, middle school students are due in advisory at 7:17 a.m., while high school students are due to their first period class at 7:25 a.m.

School Lunch Program Offers Free, Reduced-Price Meals

Area public schools have announced the policy for determining eligibility of children who may receive free or reduced price meals served under the National School Lunch Program. Local school officials have adopted the following family size and income criteria for determining eligibility:

The following income guidelines will be used in Connecticut from **July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009** for determining eligibility of participants for free and reduced price meals in the Child Nutrition Programs.

FREE MEALS/MILK					REDUCED PRICE MEALS				
No. In Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Biweekly Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income	No. In Family	Annual Gross Income	Monthly Gross Income	Biweekly Gross Income	Weekly Gross Income
1	13,520	1,127	520	260	1	19,240	1,604	740	370
2	18,200	1,517	700	350	2	25,900	2,159	997	499
3	22,880	1,907	880	440	3	32,560	2,714	1,253	627
4	27,560	2,297	1,060	530	4	39,220	3,269	1,509	755
5	32,240	2,687	1,240	620	5	45,880	3,824	1,765	883
6	36,920	3,077	1,420	710	6	52,540	4,379	2,021	1,011
7	41,600	3,467	1,600	800	7	59,200	4,934	2,277	1,139
8	46,280	3,857	1,780	890	8	65,860	5,489	2,534	1,267
Each Add'l. Family Member	+4,680	+390	+180	+90	Each Add'l. Family Member	+6,660	+555	+257	+129

Children from families whose income is at or below the levels shown are eligible for free or reduced price meals.

Application forms are being sent to all homes with a letter to parents. To apply for free or reduced price meals, households should fill out the application and return it to the school. Additional copies are available at the principal's office at each school. The information provided on the application is confidential and will be used only for purposes of determining eligibility, and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the year. Application forms for food stamp/TFA households require the child's name, the child's food stamp/TFA case number and the signature of an adult household member. Application forms for all other households require a statement of total household income, household size and names of all household members. The social security number of an adult household member must be included or a statement that the household member does not possess one. The adult household member must also sign the application certifying that the information provided is correct. In certain cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a family has a foster child living with them who is a legal ward of the State of Connecticut, that child is considered a family of one, and monthly personal income from the State must be reported.

Under the provisions of the policy for determining eligibility for free and reduced price meals, schools will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling of the determining official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If he/she wishes to make a formal appeal, a request either orally or in writing may be made to the local superintendents of schools for a hearing to appeal the decision.

In Hebron, contact Superintendent of Schools Eleanor Cruz, 580 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, 228-2577.

In Colchester, contact Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle, 127 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415, 537-7267.

In Portland, contact Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen, 33 East Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

In East Hampton, contact Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden, 94 Main St., East Hampton, CT 06424, 365-4000.

In other districts, contact the Superintendent of Schools' office.

The policy contains an outline of the hearing procedure. Each school and the central office of the school district has a copy of the policy which may be reviewed by an interested party.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if household size changes at any time, the family should contact the school to file a new application. Such changes may make the children of the household eligible for reduced price meals or free meals if the family income falls at or below the levels shown above.

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New Staff and Programs On Tap as Colchester Schools Start Back Up

by Kristina Histen

Where does the time go?

Summer, as always, flew by so fast that it's hard to believe it's time for the school year to begin. While students may be dreading the end of vacation, faculty and staff at the Colchester public schools are excited and ready for their arrival.

"I think all of us can't wait for kids to come back," Bacon Academy Principal Jeffry Mathieu said. "It's nice to plan during the summer, but I think everyone here misses the kids and we're anxious for them to come back."

After survey results from the community and staff indicated that people wanted school to start after Labor Day, it was decided the first day would be on Tuesday, Sept. 2 for all schools.

"The administration has been busy all summer preparing for the new school year," Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle said. Because of this, students and parents can look forward to new educational initiatives, improvements in security and changes in transportation.

To further secure schools and enhance communication with parents, a new emergency notification software program called Global Connect has been instituted and will be tested out in the fall, Loiselle said. Basically, in the event of a crisis or emergency situation, at the push of a button a prerecorded voice message will be simultaneously sent out to every parent's work, home or cell phone number until someone is reached, she said. Over the summer, they have started the installation process and data uploads.

"We know how critical it is to communicate particularly in a crisis situation," Loiselle said. "This software allows us to do that and we're really excited to have that capability."

Security has also been upgraded at both Bacon Academy (BA) and William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS). Through a grant, they were able to install a camera and buzzer system in order to monitor the front doors, Loiselle said. Because one is not immediately in the

office when entering the buildings, the doors will automatically lock after students arrive. Therefore, when parents or others come to visit the schools, they will have to be buzzed in.

To improve the transportation systems at both Colchester Elementary School (CES) and Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS), the number of bus waves has been reduced from three to two, Loiselle said. Hopefully, once students adjust to their new changes and become accustomed to the dismissal process, it is believed that the change in the number of bus waves will result in the children arriving home earlier, Loiselle said.

Technology has been updated as well at both Bacon and WJMS in labs and classrooms in an effort for the older schools to be comparable with the newer elementary schools, Loiselle said. School administration is also trying to set up funds to continue with that upkeep so the older students have the same access to technology as the younger ones that are critical to their school programs, she said.

Because of the school budget passing on the first referendum, the Board of Education (BOE) was able to address the lack of adequate electives at Bacon, Loiselle said. A lot of students were being closed out of classes because there were not enough teachers, she said. As a result, they have added eight new teachers to the Bacon staff (three are new positions), Mathieu said, and have been able to increase offerings in academic electives in technology education, World Language (particularly Spanish) and Mathematics, Loiselle said. Three new classes are also being offered this year: jazz and poetry, a robotics class and a history of filmmaking class, Mathieu said.

"The more opportunity we have to engage students in classes rather than study halls, the better off they are academically," he said.

Loiselle and staff hope students will be pleased with their schedules and notice they have more opportunities available to them.

The passing of the budget and the determination of the BOE also resulted in the expansion of enrichment at the middle school, Loiselle said. They have just hired an enrichment specialist who will work with identified gifted and talented students as well as coach all teachers in design of lessons and activities so that all students that require more challenges will have that opportunity to be challenged, she said. By modifying the lessons, those students that have demonstrated the mastery of the curriculum can continue to learn at high levels, she said.

After receiving a \$60,000 grant from the state, faculty and staff will be able to continue implementing the research based program Positive Behavioral Supports (PBS) at the elementary schools and expand it to the middle and high schools, Loiselle said. PBS is a type of philosophy for school-wide discipline to take a proactive approach to good behavior and reward kids for living up to school expectations, JJIS Principal Deb Sandberg said. It looks at creating positive school environments for students so they make good choices about their behavior and internalize the expectations for being a good student, Loiselle said. There are PBS teams at every school and they are hoping to empower students to take charge of their learning, she said. The elementary schools were named model districts because of this approach, and other schools will be coming to visit and observe, Loiselle said.

Also, seven new teachers, two new paraprofessionals and 25 new families will join the JJIS community, Sandberg said. She's seen almost every one of her teachers already setting up their classrooms and getting excited for school to begin. They are in the process of sending out welcoming letters to both parents and child, encouraging students to bring in their special collections to share with the school in the locked, big glass display showcases in the main

lobby, Sandberg said. She hopes this will encourage kids to learn about their classmates' interests, as well as spark some new interests for themselves. It will give students the opportunity to connect with one another and have something to talk about, she said.

Most of her faculty and staff have volunteered their time this summer to participate in a variety of programs and workshops to prepare for the new school year.

"I can't ask for a better staff," Sandberg said. "They go above and beyond because they really care about the kids and they really care about our school."

Overall, 23 new teachers and four new assistant principals (one at JJIS, one at CES and two at Bacon) have been hired for the new school year after a long, rigorous interview process, Loiselle said. Of the four assistant principals, three have gone to take on principal jobs at other schools (with one retiring), which she believes is because of their positive experiences at Colchester and the qualities of responsibility, leadership and management they have gained.

"We have truly added many outstanding new teachers to join our talented team and we're excited they have come to Colchester," Loiselle said.

While Sept. 2 may be a big day for students, Aug. 29 is an even bigger day for Loiselle. It is the only day of the whole year that she has all 450 staff members, from custodians to teachers, in one room, for a system-wide staff development day.

"I think it's important for me to remind everyone of our mission to ensure success of each and every student," she said. "It is also a time to celebrate our accomplishments as a school community."

So with one week left and a long weekend (but who's counting anyway), the students at the Colchester public schools will have a lot to look forward to for the 2008-09 school year.

East Hampton Teen Trying to Prevent Malaria

by Kristina Histen

Belltown Dental will sponsor a local teen's quest to prevent malaria in Africa.

From 2-6 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26, Belltown Dental will host soon-to-be East Hampton High School freshman Kelsey Urban and her unique clothing and accessory line, Urban Denim Designs, Tracy Danziger, office manager at Belltown Dental, said.

Because the dentist office has a "very nice waiting room," Danziger said Belltown Dental staff felt it would be perfect for Kelsey to set up a mini-store to sell her goods and give out information about malaria, Danziger said. One-third of the proceeds will go to purchase mosquito netting for families in Mozambique, Africa.

"She wanted to do something for the community and felt this would be a good idea," Danziger said. "I know her from our barn, she has a horse, and when she's not showing her horse she has a little business selling gently used denim jackets, hand bags and anything else made from fabric that she can put crystals on.

They are really cute and kind of green because she's reusing things."

According to the web site www.urbandenimdesigns.com, in the spring of 2007, when Kelsey was just in seventh grade, she went to a presentation by Bishop James Curry, Suffragan Bishop in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut. Curry had recently traveled to Mozambique, and talked about how many children die everyday from malaria. He mentioned that it could be prevented if children sleep under mosquito netting during the hours when most mosquitoes are most out, usually from about midnight to 3 a.m.

Malaria kills thousands of people each year, mostly women and children, the website said, and is the biggest issue facing Mozambique. Each family needs only one mosquito net because the nets are so large, it said.

"I knew that I wanted to do something to help the children of Mozambique," Kelsey said on the web site.

Just a few weeks after Curry's presentation,

Kelsey was at a horse show, the website continued. She saw denim jackets for sale decorated with Austrian crystals that were priced over \$200. She noticed that one of the jackets looked exactly like her own but was "embellished with crystals" and priced at \$189, the web site said. She knew her own jacket not only cost a lot less, but that she could make money by embellishing jackets with crystals and selling them.

She decided she would get used denim jackets, decorate them with crystals and sell them. When a jacket is sold, one-third of the selling price is donated to purchase mosquito netting in Mozambique, one third goes back to the business so that it can continue to grow and one-third helps pay for the cost of caring for and showing her horse "Bert," the web site said.

Urban Denim Designs hopes to prevent thousands of people from getting malaria by purchasing mosquito netting, according to the web site. They also want to offer affordably-priced restyled denim jacket and accessories accented

with authentic Austrian crystals, it said. By using recycled jackets, purses and tote bags, it will limit environmental impact and promote the charitable missions of the organizations that sell recycled clothing and accessories, the web site said.

Each item is unique with products like denim jackets embellished with Austrian crystals, purses and tote bags accented with Austrian crystals for girls, teens and women and accessories for dogs, also decorated with Austrian crystals, the website said.

"I think it's fantastic that a young person can do so much to help out other people," Danziger said. "Not only is she a straight-A student, but she rides and shows horses which is like 20 to 30 hours a week, and to do all that on top of it, shows what kind of person she is and what she is capable of."

For more information on Urban Denim Designs, visit www.urbandenimdesigns.com and for more information on preventing malaria visit www.un.org/millenniumgoals.

Colchester Police News

8/13-Christopher Hebert, 18, of 195 Woodbine Rd., was charged with possession of controlled substance, State Police said.

8/14-Sean Quinn, 22, of 26 South Terryville Rd., Storrs, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/15-Leanne Perron, 41, of 29 Chestnut Hill Rd., Hebron, was charged with fifth-degree larceny, State Police said.

8/16-Sean Cooper, 20, of 12 Beechwood Dr., was charged with DUI, evading and operating motor vehicle with no license, State Police said.

8/17-Rafael Avila, 45, of 131 Blakeslee Ave., North Haven, was charged with failure to drive right and DUI, State Police said.

8/18-Dana Willax, 20, of 703 Norwich Ave., was charged with reckless driving, failure to obey the signal of an officer, misuse of plates and no insurance, State Police said.

8/18-Nicholas Delisle, 19, of 127 Bull Hill Rd., was charged with reckless driving and failure to obey the signal of an officer, State Police said.

Andover Police News

8/14-Felix Montalvan, 29, of 240 Laurel St., Hartford, was charged with operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol, possession of controlled substance and restricted turn, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/15-Kelby Georgens, 30, of 353 Parum Rd., Colchester, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, failure to wear safety belt in front seat, operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol and possession of controlled substance, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

8/15-William O'Donnell, 60, of 82 Porter Rd., was charged with driving under the influence of drugs/alcohol and failure to drive right, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

8/5 — Jessica M. Cramer, 31, of 14 Main St., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, East Hampton Police said.

8/6 — William D. Burns, 33, of 41 East High St., was arrested pursuant to a two court-ordered warrants for two counts of violation of probation, police said.

8/8 — Patricia Giamotti, 44, of 1 Bryant Rd., was issued a ticket for a nuisance dog, police said.

8/10 — Thomas F. Boucher, 38, of 130 East High St., was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant on charges of disorderly conduct and second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/10 — Robert W. Demonte Jr., 36, of 24 Flanders Rd., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, reckless driving and operating without insurance, police said.

***8/11 — Brian M. Krajewski, 33, of 145 Chestnut Hill Rd., was arrested for six court-ordered warrants on the following charges: dis-

orderly conduct, third-degree assault, second-degree failure to appear, possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia, operating under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs, operating under suspension, first-degree failure to appear, breach of peace, third-degree assault, sixth-degree larceny, second-degree failure to appear, operating under suspension, second-degree failure to appear, disorderly conduct, two counts of failure to appear, traveling too fast for conditions, operating under suspension and second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/12 — Rodney J. Maclean, 42, of 69 Highland Dr., Hebron, was arrested for speeding, police said.

8/12 — Nicholas Bauer, 20, of 32 Eli Chapman Rd., East Haddam, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree burglary, first-degree larceny, conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary and conspiracy to commit first-degree larceny, police said.

Marlborough School Year Starts Next Week

Elmer T. Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School in Marlborough will open Wednesday, Aug. 27.

School hours are: grades 1-6, 8:35 a.m.-3:05 p.m.; morning kindergarten, 8:35-11:20 a.m.; afternoon kindergarten, 12:20-3:05 p.m.; morning pre-school, 8:50-11:35 a.m.; afternoon pre-school, 12:20-3:05 p.m.

Pre-school peer models will start school on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Registration of New Students: New residents with children entering the elementary school are asked to register them before the first day of school. The school office is open from 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday through Friday during the summer. Early registration will avoid delays and disappointment on opening day. Parents registering children for kindergarten must have a copy of the child's birth certificate and immunization record. New students in grades 1-6 should have copies of their immunization record and their latest report card. Proof of residency in Marlborough is required for all students being enrolled.

"Meet and Greet": The school is closed to visitors during the summer. However, incoming kindergarten students and children new to

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall School are invited to see their classrooms and meet their teachers on Tuesday, Aug. 26, anytime between 8:15-9:15 a.m. The "meet and greet" for preschool students is 1 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 26. This is an introductory meeting only. Open Houses will be held in September to discuss your child's school experience in more detail.

Transportation: Bus schedules are included this week in the *Rivereast*, and are also posted at Richmond Memorial Library, 15 School Dr., on the school web site, www.marlborough.k12.ct.us, and in the school office, 25 School Dr.

It is vital that parents communicate with the school regarding their children's transportation arrangements. The school arranges transportation to and from the child's home address. If transportation will be different from the home address, please contact the school as early as possible so adjustments can be made before school starts. This includes children attending MECCA.

Parents must notify the school office in writing whenever a child will be picked up from school. The note must include the child's full name, the teacher's name, the full name of the

person picking up the child, and the full legal signature of the parent/guardian. Anyone picking up a child from school may be asked for a photo ID.

If parents must drive children to school, they should be dropped off at the "passenger loading zone" in the gymnasium parking lot. Please note that vehicle travel is one-way through this parking lot. Children may not be let out of the car until a member of the school staff is present at the passenger-loading zone to meet them. School staff arrives at the drop off point at 8:15 a.m. Cars should pull up along the sidewalk in the designated area and come to a complete stop before letting children out of the car. Children arriving after 8:30 a.m. must be brought into the office by a parent and signed in.

Health Assessments: All students entering the school for the first time (kindergarteners or new students) must have the blue State of Connecticut Health Assessment Record on file with the school nurse before the start of school. The appropriate form is available at your doctor's office or from the school office.

School Supplies: Every child was given a list of supplies to bring to school on the first day. These classroom supply lists are also avail-

able on our school website.

School Cafeteria: School lunches cost \$2.25 per meal. Meals may be paid for in cash or parents may send in money to put on their child's cafeteria account. Parents will be notified when the balance falls below \$20. Money for school lunches may be sent to the Marlborough School Lunch Program at any time. Indicate your child's name and ID number on the envelope. Free or reduced-price meals are available to families that qualify. Applications are available through the school office and are strictly confidential.

Backpack Restriction: Backpacks may be no larger than 11" x 11" in order to fit into your child's locker. Backpacks or wheeled bags larger than this create a safety concern both on the bus and as children walk through the school corridors and up and down the stairways.

School Handbooks: Parent/Student Handbooks will be sent home on the first day of school in the blue "Zippie" folder. Parents are asked to save these handbooks as a valued source of information throughout the year.

For more information, call the school office at 295-6220.

East Hampton Public Schools Re-Open Sept. 2

Superintendent of Schools Judith A. Golden reminds parents and the entire community that students begin the 2008-09 school year on Tuesday, Sept. 2.

Students attending the town's four schools will receive parent-student handbooks containing information on school routines, important activities and the school calendar. Selected Board of Education policies and procedures will be sent to high school students and their respective parents and will also be provided to all middle and elementary school students on the first day of school.

The elementary schools will start at 8:40 a.m. and dismiss at 3:10 p.m. The middle school will start at 8:05 a.m. and dismiss at 2:35 p.m. The high school will start at 7:35 a.m. and dismiss at 2:15 p.m.

If a student new to the East Hampton Public School System has not yet been registered, forms are available on the web at easthamptonct.org. School offices are open for registration(s) from 8 a.m.-2 p.m. School officials urge parents to register students as soon

as possible. Parents should present transfer information, the child's most recent report card, a full size birth certificate, Social Security number, an up-to-date immunization record and a completed physical examination form (available in each school's main office). Parents will be required to provide proof of residency with a utility bill or other form of verification of current residency. New registrations will not be processed on the first day of school.

Bus routes are published this week in the *Rivereast*. This information will also be posted on the main doors of all the schools. Bus changes received by today, Friday, Aug. 22, will be made for the first day of school. Changes in student transportation location requests will be accepted after Aug. 22 but will not go into effect until Monday, Sept. 8.

The cafeteria will begin serving lunches at Memorial Elementary School, Center Elementary School, East Hampton Middle School and East Hampton High School on Tuesday, Sept. 2. The Board of Education has increase school

lunch prices for this year. The cost of milk will remain the same. Hot lunches at the high and middle schools will cost \$2.50 and hot lunches at the elementary schools will cost \$2.25. The cost of milk will be \$.40.

On Opening Day, Memorial Elementary School students will enter the building upon arrival at school. Students in kindergarten and first grade will go into the cafeteria to meet their teachers. Second and third grade students will be escorted directly to their classrooms. Busing information will be reviewed with each child in his/her classroom to ensure accuracy. Parents should contact the school immediately with any requested changes in pick-up or drop-off locations.

The morning kindergarten and preschool begins at 8:40 a.m. and dismissal is at 11:12 a.m. The afternoon session begins at 12:38 p.m. and dismissal is at 3:10 p.m.

At Center Elementary School, students on Opening Day will, weather permitting, remain on the playground until the bell rings. At that

time, students will line up according to their teachers in the designated areas and they will be escorted by their teachers to their new classrooms. In the event of rain, students will meet in the gymnasium.

Schedules for all middle school students were to be mailed the middle of this month. All busses will be greeted and students will be escorted, as needed, to their first period classes.

Schedules for all high school students were also to be mailed the middle of this month. Any parent or student who has a question about his or her schedule should call the guidance office at 365-4031 to arrange an appointment with a counselor. High School students will receive their official schedule on the first day of school. Students will be directed to where they will receive their official schedule.

Parents are reminded that state law requires every pupil in the public schools to have a physical examination prior to enrollment. Parents must have their child's physician perform these examinations.

Portland Police News

7/24 — A 15-year-old male was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, Portland Police said.

8/7 — Christopher Loveland, 20, of 78 Spellman Point Rd., East Haddam, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

8/13 — Todd B. Goodspeed, 18, of 129 Parker Rd., East Haddam, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, possession of alcohol by a minor and disobeying signal of officer, police said.

8/13 — Jared F. O'Hearn, 18, of 300 You8ng St., East Hampton, was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

8/13 — Brendan J. Turner, 18, of 22 Dog-

wood Dr., East Hampton, was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

8/13 — Thomas J. Doran, 18, of 59 Freestone Ave., was charged with possession of alcohol by a minor, police said.

8/14 — Steven Ellam, 18, of 126 Middlesex Ave. Ext., was charged with second-degree threatening and disorderly conduct, police said.

8/16 — Ramon Quiles, 25, of 34 Chatham Ct., was charged with breach of peace and interfering with emergency call, police said.

8/16 — A 15-year-old female was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of third-degree assault, police said.

8/18 — A 16-year-old male was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Stella Golnik

Stella (Koss) Golnik, 83, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Ernest Golnik, died Sunday, Aug. 17, at her home, surrounded by her loving family. Born April 19, 1925, in Westchester, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Rozalia (Kobylarz) Koss. Stella had lived in East Hampton for more than 40 years. She was a member of the East Hampton Senior Citizens Center.

Besides her husband Ernest, she is survived by her son, Ernest Golnik Jr. and his wife Colleen of Rockville; two daughters, Joann Thomas and her husband Steven of East Haddam and Karen Golnik of Manchester; a brother, Walter Koss of Colchester, and two grandchildren, Stephanie and Zachary Thomas; and her feline companion, Caruso. Stella was predeceased by three brothers, Adam Koss, Joseph Koss and Michael Koss, and three sisters, Mary Koss, Anna Woyнар and Victoria Koss.

The family would like to thank the nurses from Middlesex Hospital Palliative and Hospice Care for all they did for Stella during her lengthy illness.

Friends gathered at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Wednesday, Aug. 20. The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home later that morning, followed by the Funeral Liturgy in St. Mary's Church in Portland. Burial followed in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Monday.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450, or Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

Marlborough

Ellery Weir

Ellery Weir, 85, of Marlborough, passed away early Sunday morning, Aug. 17, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Ellery was born June 13, 1923 in Marlborough to the late Jerome and Della (Way) Weir.

Being a lifelong resident and farmer of Marlborough, Ellery had a great admiration for his farm equipment, especially for his John Deere tractors. Ellery had an active vegetable stand up until his passing, and was well known for his tomatoes. Ellery looked forward to the agricultural fair season where he especially enjoyed the horse pulls. Another one of his favorite pastimes was playing setback with his friends. Ellery had worked for many years for the Town of Marlborough and then for the State of Connecticut D.O.T. Ellery was a member of the Marlborough Grange and the Connecticut Farm Bureau Association.

Ellery leaves behind a loving friend and companion, Linda R. McKelvey and her daughters Arlene and Laura; Laura's daughter Alexandria McKelvey whom Ellery affectionately called "Little Peanut," and his loving cat Touser; also, many other friends and extended family. He was predeceased by his two sisters, Emma Singer and Jessie Weir, and his longtime friend, John "Nelson" Phelps, who Ellery enjoyed hunting, fishing and playing cards with.

During Ellery's last two weeks he needed more care, so Linda's sister, Marion York, was there helping Linda care for him. Ellery was the most caring and appreciative man. He loved life and he loved his garden.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 21, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber, pastor of the Marlborough Congregational Church, officiating. Burial in the family plot in Old Buckingham Cemetery in Glastonbury. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Thursday morning.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Assoc., P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447. To leave online condolences or for directions, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

Colchester

Thomas Robert Nagot

Thomas Robert Nagot, 64, of Colchester and formerly of Ridgefield and Stamford, passed away peacefully on the Feast of the Assumption, Friday, Aug. 15, at home, with his loving wife, Diane (McDonell) Nagot, by his side.

Born Feb. 3, 1944, in Stamford, he was a son of the late Stanley and Blanche (Malinowski) Nagot. Mr. Nagot was a Credit Analyst in Commodities Trading for a number of years. In his earlier years, he was quite athletic and was an avid golfer and tennis player. In his spare time, he enjoyed thoroughbred handicapping and playing poker. After moving to Colchester in 2001, he developed his "green thumb" and enjoyed gardening around his home.

In addition to his beloved wife of 22 years, he is survived by his sister, Pamela Nagot of Clearwater, FL; his brother, Stanley Nagot of Norwalk; his father and mother-in-law, Horace and Eileen McDonell of Naples, FL and formerly of Ridgefield; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Graveside services will be observed at St. Mary's Cemetery, Ridgefield, and be announced at a later date. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Catholic Charities, 238 Jewett Avenue, Bridgeport, CT 06606-2892 or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Thomas Allen Bentley

Thomas Allen Bentley, 51, of Norwich and formerly of Colchester, passed away Tuesday, Aug. 12, at home.

Born Aug. 12, 1957, in East Patchogue, LI, NY, he was a son of Robert Bentley of Woodstock Valley and Odette Normandeau-Bentley of Arcata, CA.

A 1975 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester, he was active in athletics there and was on the wrestling, cross country and track teams. Tom also edited the school newspaper and was a contributing writer. It was during this period that he became an avid reader and consumer of contemporary literature and began writing prose and poetry.

Tom was a home builder in the Colchester area for many years. Tom was known among his friends and acquaintances as a captivating and embellishing storyteller, whose power of description and whose sense of irony delivered his listeners a unique, often absurd perspective on small-town life.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his son, Seth Gilistro of San Antonio, TX; two grandsons, Joshua and Andrew of San Antonio; four brothers, John and wife, Teresa of Arcata, CA, Kevin of West Haven, Neil and wife, Sandra of Topanga, CA and Peter and wife, Lisa of San Diego; a sister-in-law, Denise Bentley of Colchester; nieces and nephews, Ian, Kyle, Alex, Emma, Brianna Bentley and Kayla and Alexander Furrer; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends may call 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 23, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before the celebration of the Memorial Liturgy at 11 AM at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Lyme Disease Foundation, P.O. Box 332, Tolland 06084-0332 or go to www.lyme.org.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Robert R. Watts

Robert R. Watts, 86, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Theresa (Solarz) Watts, entered into eternal rest Tuesday, Aug. 19. Born in New Hampshire, he was the son of the late Raymond and Bina (Small) Watts. Bob was a longtime employee of Monaco Ford, enjoyed antique cars as well as NASCAR racing and being a Ham Radio Operator.

In addition to his wife, Theresa, sharing in their loss are his son, Richard R. Watts and his wife, Laurie of Enfield; his daughters, Debra David and her husband, Stanley of West Hartford, and Pam Dimoff and her husband, Andreas of Marlborough. Bob is further survived by his brother, Edwin Watts and his wife, Edith of Florida; and sisters, Mildred Kelly and Dorothy Paglarilo and her husband, Peter all of Bristol. Bob was blessed with his grandchildren who also share in this loss, Heather Dimoff of Colchester, Kimberly Bowman, and Jessica Dion both of West Hartford, Gregory and Tammy Watts of Ellsworth, ME; and several nieces and nephews. Bob was predeceased by his son, William R. Watts.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 21, at 11 a.m. in the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 50 Naubuc Ave., Glastonbury. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends and relatives called on the family Thursday, Aug. 21, at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks friends to consider memorial donations to the Marlborough Senior Center, 17 School St., Marlborough, CT 06447.

Marlborough

Yolanda DeLucia

Yolanda "Dolly" DeLucia passed away Sunday, Aug. 17. She was 83 years old. Although she was born in New York, she lived in Budd Lake, NJ for eight years and ultimately her last 12 years were lived in Marlborough. She referred to that time as "the best years of her life."

She was fortunate to be blessed with the constant love, support and admiration of her family. Her courageous, humble demeanor was a source of strength for her family and loved ones. The staff at Marlborough Health Care Center became her extended family with their consistent care and compassion.

She leaves behind a legacy of accomplishments through her bloodline; her two daughters, Veronica O'Leary and Claudia Dordal and her husband Steve; her grandchildren, Alexis O'Leary-Herrera and her husband Cristhian, James and Julia Dordal; and her great-grandchildren, Piper and Princeton. She is also survived by her brother, Al DeLucia and his wife Vera; her sister, Mary Angeloro; and her sister-in-law, Joy DeLucia.

A Memorial Service will be Monday, Aug. 25, at 1 p.m. at Trinity Covenant Church, 302 Hackmatack St., Manchester. The Sheehan Hilborn Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave. West Hartford has care of arrangements.

Marlborough

Loren F. Gordon

Loren F. Gordon, of Marlborough, died Tuesday, Aug. 19. Born in Hartford, he was the son of the late Herman M. and Beatrice (Land) Gordon. He leaves his sister, Adrienne Goldfarb of Windsor; and five nephews.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Aug. 21, at the Hartford Mutual Society Cemetery, Wolcott Rd., East Granby. Memorial contributions may be made to The American Diabetes Assoc., www.diabetes.org. For more information, directions, or to share memories of Loren with his family, visit www.weinsteinmortuary.com.

Marlborough

Jon Lawrence Lovett

Jon Lawrence Lovett, 39, of Marlborough, loving husband and best friend of Mandie L. (Brown) Lovett, died unexpectedly Monday, Aug. 18, in Manchester. He was the father of three daughters and a son, Ashley Lynn, Brittney Louise, Hayden Marie, and Casey James, and the beloved son of Joseph L. Lovett Jr. and Jackie (Hoar) Lovett of Marlborough.

He was born in Rockville April 5, 1969 and lived most of his life in Marlborough. Jon was an auto technician, currently working at Capital Garage in Willimantic, and previously at the former Manchester Chrysler Plymouth. Jon was also an ambitious entrepreneur breaking into the travel business. He enjoyed playing golf, coaching girls basketball and softball, playing cards, shooting pool and most of all watching his children grow and working with Mandie to shape their lives. Always outgoing and with a smile, Jon touched everyone he came in contact with in such a special way. Never to be forgotten. There are not words to describe how special a man Jon was and just how loving, caring and sensitive he was.

Besides his wife, children, and parents, Jon is survived by his paternal grandmother, Stephanie (Parciak) Lovett of Manchester, his sister and brother-in-law, Jan and John Sciremammano of Colchester and their children Savanna and Syris, his mother and father-in-law Diann and Andy Brown of Andover; and an extended family of many aunts, uncles, cousins and many, many special friends.

Calling hours were at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester, on Thursday, Aug. 21. Funeral services will be held Friday, Aug. 22, at 11 a.m. at the funeral home. Burial will follow in St. Bridget Cemetery in Manchester. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Jon Lovett Memorial Fund, to be established at the New Alliance Bank in Columbia, which will benefit the programs that Jon was passionate about for children in our community.

To sign the online guest book or for directions to the funeral home, go to www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

