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Holocaust survivor Henny Markiewicz Simon was honored Tuesday as Colchester's first "Scholar in Residence." Simon has been sharing her experiences with students and community members for over 20 years. At Tuesday's ceremony, Simon also received a citation from the State's General Assembly and an award from the school district.

## Holocaust Survivor Named "Scholar-in-Residence"

by Kristina Histen

A Colchester Holocaust survivor was named the town's first "Scholar-in-Residence" Tuesday night, an honor that the chairman of the Board of Education compared to receiving a "PhD from a university."

For over 20 years, Henny Markiewicz Simon has been educating students in the surrounding areas by sharing her experiences about her life as a Jew in concentration camps during World War II.

After surviving one of the worst evils in history, Simon and her husband made

their American home on a farm in Colchester in May 1950. In her memoirs, she wrote, "We worked hard but did not mind. We were free and started a family again," a line which William J. Johnston Middle School (WJMS) teacher Kate English read aloud at the ceremony. Since 1986, after Holocaust deniers spurred her into action, she has shared the story of her life as a Holocaust survivor with countless audiences all over New England including community groups, religious congregations, the Coast Guard Academy, and

most particularly, the students of Colchester, even though it was exceedingly difficult for her, English said.

Simon never graduated high school, although she earned her GED. Recognizing that the Nazis stole Simon's opportunity to finish school, members of the district's Administrative Council and Board of Education (BOE) created the new award. The Colchester BOE "Scholar-in-Residence Award" "honors the generosity of spirit shown by a community member possess-

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ing great depth of knowledge in a particular subject area through experience or study and dedication to sharing that knowledge with the educational community of Colchester,” English said.

Simon was recognized Tuesday for her contributions to students and families as “a gifted and talented woman” by receiving a citation from the State’s General Assembly, presented to her by Connecticut State Senator Eileen Daily and State Representative Linda Orange. She also received an award from the school district.

Bacon Academy sophomore Lizzie Weinick, senior Yulia Manyakina, and English Teacher David Williams, Congregation Ahavath Achim Rabbi Ken Alter, Executive Director of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut Jerry Fischer and English all spoke praises about Simon and her affect on their personal lives and the lives of others.

Weinick was first to speak, calling Simon an “extraordinary woman” who has not only made a difference in her own life, but in every person who hears her story. She first heard her speak at a synagogue with her family and felt Simon was a selfless person in keeping the Holocaust alive. To her pleasant surprise, she heard the speech again in eighth grade, and it was even more fascinating and impressive. She and her classmates had all heard the facts, but never in such a personal way, and everyone’s eyes were glued to her in awe.

“We are fortunate to have such a courageous person in our community,” Weinick said. “She doesn’t want anyone, including herself, to ever forget about history. I can’t think of anyone more deserving of this award.”

Williams was next, and briefly explained the Holocaust Survivor Project he is involved in with six of his students. It was initiated by Holocaust Resource Center contact Linda Christensen though the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut. The students have been involved in an interview process to get to know Holocaust survivors and film them sharing their experiences, knowledge and wisdom. They have already been to Simon’s house twice and will go again in the fall.

Manyakina is one of those students and also spoke about her time spent with Simon at the ceremony. She said that when she first met Simon, her small stature made her seemingly fragile, but in fact, she is very strong and one can tell she is a survivor. Despite everything, Manyakina said, Simon is always seen smiling and when Simon speaks, people feel breathless, relieved, shocked. Because of Simon’s story, Manyakina felt a need to look deeper into the

history of the Holocaust. She visited Germany this past summer and discovered ties to the Holocaust that she never would have known about.

Rabbi to Simon for 13 years, Alter was at a loss of words to explain her to the crowd. “It’s hard to describe someone who has affected our society,” he said, “but I am honored to speak about one of the most outstanding women in Connecticut.”

Alter recalled a reaction from one of the schools she spoke at where priests had approached Simon to ask for forgiveness from them and their ancestors. He talked about how she attends as many community events as she can and always gets the same reactions like “how does she do it” and “wow, I was so moved.”

In a poem he wrote, Alter said, “We focus on the beauty of what life has to offer, but we never forget our history... [You are] teaching us hope, humanity and fortitude... You taught us to get over the pain... God bless you to continue your wonderful work and continue to be an inspiration.”

Fischer quickly mentioned how proud he was of Simon and her spirit. He said she is the youngest in the community to survive and what an impact she has had on students. Those students, he said, will go on to talk about the Holocaust for years to come after the survivors are no longer around to speak the truth.

English closed the ceremony, saying how blessed she was to be able to consider Simon a good friend. Her appreciation of freedom, family and community came from adversity, English said, and she has taught students and community members how to appreciate one’s country, care for others and fight against hate.

“God sent you to our community and your experience has taught us to go on,” BOE Chairman Bill Hettrick said. “There are people you haven’t even met and you have touched their lives forever. You meet the definition of a true scholar. You have taught students and the community more than a history book ever could or a teacher could ever teach about the worst evil in history of all time.”

Simon, with a variety of flower bouquets swung across her shoulder and her “Scholar-In-Residence” plaque held tightly in her hand, stood with pride in front of the packed room of family, friends and community members.

“I am humbled and speechless,” she said. “Never in my life I dreamed to have this honor bestowed on me. I have been through so much physically and mentally. ... Thank you from the bottom of my heart, nothing could honor me more.”

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

It’s definitely felt — and looked — like September this week. Cool nights, pleasant but not particularly warm days, and Tuesday night in the parking lot of my apartment building I spotted several leaves of various colors that had already fallen from the trees. Also, Starbucks has started selling its pumpkin spice lattes, and the package stores have begun carrying Sam Adams Oktoberfest and similar seasonal brews. Make no doubt about it, autumn is nearly here.

While there’s always something a little sad about another summer having come and gone, there are still a lot of nice things about September. The baseball season draws to an almost-always exciting climax (and this season, both the Mets and the Red Sox are involved in tight races), a new TV season dawns (I’m particularly looking forward to *The Office* and *30 Rock*, as well as *How I Met Your Mother*), and, well, there are those aforementioned pumpkin lattes and Oktoberfest beers. Plus, there are lots of fairs and festivals to partake of. This Saturday, for example, offers the Brownstone Festival in Portland. From various arts and crafts items for sale, to tours of the newly-restored Trinity Church, to opportunities to check out antique fire engines and the Portland Farms exhibit at the historical society museum, the festival promises plenty to see and to do .... and to eat.

And speaking of eating, up in Massachusetts, The Big E also starts this weekend, and runs through the end of the month. There are loads of edibles there, including the famous Big E Cream Puff, as well as those delectable fried Oreos I extolled the virtues of last week. And there’s also a lot to see too, including buildings dedicated to various arts, crafts and food items from each of the six New England states. The Connecticut building, for example, offers not only local eats (I saw a Little Mark’s Big Barbecue booth from South Windsor up there a couple weeks ago), but also nationally-known items that just happened to be born in Connecticut, like Legos and Pez dispensers. The last time I was there, I didn’t see any Subway booths in the Connecticut building (the sandwich chain started in Milford, in case you didn’t know). But I’ve got a feeling you could probably come across one in five minutes or less as soon as you drive off The Big E grounds. There are Subways everywhere these days, it seems.

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Many of you have probably heard or read about the presidents of various colleges — including six in Connecticut — banding together in an effort to lower the legal drinking age to 18. The move has stirred up a good deal of de-

bate, and understandably so. And, after giving the matter some thought, I have to say I’m opposed to it. I don’t really see how it would solve anything.

First of all, I really don’t think it would lead to college students drinking more responsibly. I was in college when I turned 21 and when my friends turned 21. It’s not like once we hit that magical age we all of a sudden began sipping from glasses of sherry while we watched the latest installment of *Masterpiece Theatre*. Responsible drinking came more gradually, as we got older and were faced with, well, more responsibilities. People tend to find out when they graduate from college and all of a sudden have to contend with that 9-to-5, Monday-to-Friday job that getting drunk all the time just isn’t really that great an idea. It’s not hitting 21 that makes people drink more responsibly as much as it is hitting all those realities and responsibilities that come with growing up and facing the “real world.”

Simply put, kids get drunk in college because they can. And it’s the life experiences associated with growing up that change things, not any magic number.

Also, few people seem to talk about the high school repercussions of lowering the drinking age to 18. Many high school students are 18 for the last several weeks or months of their senior year. And, think back to when you were in high school. There were plenty of seniors who were friends with juniors and sophomores, who could easily buy beer for their younger friends. So, by lowering the drinking age, not only do you not really solve any problems at the college level, you create a whole host of new ones at the high school level. And they could be dangerous problems at that. I think drinking and driving would become more of an issue; in college, at least you can stumble home to your dorm room after getting smashed at a frat party, whereas in high school, unless the party’s in walking distance, chances are you’re gonna need a ride home.

I’m not dense; I realize high school students still are going to drink if they really want to, regardless of the drinking age. I just don’t see how making it legal and easy for the 18-year-olds to drink — and thereby making it easier for the 15- and 16-year-olds to do so — would help the situation.

Plus, can you imagine walking into your neighborhood bar and seeing it populated by high school seniors? That’d just be weird.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

**Hebron DTC Chair Spends Time at National Convention**by **Sarah McCoy**

One Hebron resident recently took his political views on the road – all the way to Denver, CO.

Democratic Town Committee (DTC) Chair Bill Rudis attended last month’s Democratic National Convention, where he heard from the most powerful members of the party. “Amazing. Electrifying. Inspirational. Phenomenal,” he said of the trip.

From Aug. 25-29, Rudis was in his own political heaven. He heard speeches from Senator Edward Kennedy to the Clintons to Barack Obama himself. Obama accepted the Democratic Party nomination for this year’s presidential election on Aug. 29.

Rudis, a staunch supporter of Senator Hillary Clinton, submitted an application to be a declared delegate earlier this year. He was one of approximately six men vying for the one male Clinton delegate position in Connecticut’s Second Congressional District. Sharon Palmer, of

Waterford, and Dot Mrowka, of Colchester, were the two female Clinton delegates. The Second Congressional District covers all of eastern Connecticut.

At the deciding caucus, held last May in Colchester, Rudis secured the highest number of votes and the right to travel to Denver as a delegate. “I believe, as individuals, we should be involved with the choice of our candidates at the local, state, and national level,” Rudis said of his reasons for seeking to be a delegate.

In the past, Rudis has served as a delegate to state representative and senators, and U.S. representatives and senators but never as a delegate for a presidential candidate.

When he got to Denver, Rudis was joined by the 57 other Connecticut delegates, some there in support of Obama and others for Clinton. Together they listened to speakers, attended DNC meetings, and engaged in discussions with other state delegates that face many of the same concerns. “Fixing a broken health

care system. Addressing education in our country. Our economy. We all have the same concerns,” he said.

During the roll call vote Rudis supported Clinton, until she stopped the vote and called for unanimous support of Senator Obama. That action left a profound impact on Rudis.

“The fact that thousands of DNC delegates would, in 2008, unanimously act and endorse Barack Obama for President of the United States gave me pause and pride that we, as Democrats, have the fortitude and vision to nominate this outstanding man,” he said.

While in Denver, Rudis had the opportunity to meet both Clinton and Obama. “They both thanked us for our support,” he recalled.

Clinton has impressed Rudis for years. “I strongly believe,” he said, “that she has the credentials to serve this country at the highest level and has, by her years of service and involvement and her inexhaustible efforts, acted in the best interest of our nation as a whole.”

# Rain Leads to Attendance Drop at Hebron Fair

by Sarah McCoy

Like ants at a picnic, Saturday's rain put a damper on an otherwise ideal Hebron Harvest Fair.

Attendance at the 38th annual fair was up Thursday, Friday and Sunday, according to Fair Superintendent Steve Beauchene, but that couldn't make up for Saturday, when the threat of rain and then the rain itself kept potential fairgoers away. Last year the Lions counted over 140,000 visitors through their gates during the four-day festival, and prior to that, the numbers approached 170,000. This year attendance dropped to 102,000.

"We had the capacity to do really well," Beauchene said, "but our preliminary numbers show we were down 90 percent on Saturday compared to last year. We just couldn't make up that big of a drop."

The Lions Club actually shut down the fair at 6 p.m. on Saturday because of the heavy rain, the remnants of Tropical Storm Hannah.

Beauchene isn't letting Mother Nature's faux pas dampen his spirits too much. "The concerts were incredible," he said. "The Columbia Fields show was very well-attended, as was America on Sunday."

Columbia Fields has actually already committed to returning to the fair next year.

In addition to the concerts, Beauchene said the family agricultural area and crafters tent were also well-received, as was the midway which, other than Saturday, was packed to the gills. "It was nice to see that the extra effort to flatten and pave the carnival area was worth it," Beauchene said. "We were able to have larger rides and it seemed that the area was very well-attended."

"Every comment I've heard about this year's fair has been positive," he continued.

Tim Dunphy agrees. Dunphy has served concessions at the Hebron Harvest Fair since 1990. Beginning with apple fritters, he and his crew now provide an array of delicious, though not exactly fat-free, options, such as fried dough

and ice cream. "We love the Lions," he said. "They treat you like family and the crowds they draw are always a pleasure."

In the four-day fair, Dunphy reported going through over 2,000 pounds of dough and "mountains" of ice cream. He attends 28 fairs, car shows, festivals and other events throughout the year and, despite his busy schedule, he always returns to Hebron. "It's a fair that keeps getting better and it's always nice to support those who support the community," he said.

Richard Weingart of Franklin can't put a finger on the first time he came to the Harvest Fair. "It was a long, long time ago," the professional hoof trimmer said.

Weingart makes a point to come back each year for a couple reasons. First of all, he enjoys sharing what he does with the curious public, many of whom have never seen a cow get a manicure. Secondly, it's not often that Weingart has almost all of his clients at one place.

"The first question people ask me is, 'Does it hurt?' The second question is, 'How often do you have to do it?'" he said. "No. And about twice a year is what I tell them."

Weingart said hoof trimming is both a functional and cosmetic procedure. If cows' hooves grow too long, he reported, it can be painful for the cow. So each year Weingart brings his trailer to lift the cows to their side and all the tools he needs to cut down the hooves of virtually all the cows gathered at the fair.

For RHAM Middle School student Gary Allen, the fair is the place to be because that's where all his friends are. "It's only my second year coming, but now I wouldn't miss it," he said. "Everyone comes to the fair."

Citing fried dough and the carnival ride Tango, Allen said the fair has been one of the highlights of his year.

It will be a couple more weeks until the Lions have an idea on their revenue from the fair. Beauchene said he expects the drop in attendance to affect their end numbers, but he's not too concerned about the effect it will have on



**James LaBella, left, and his twin brother Michael, both 10 and from Marlborough, race down the slide this past Sunday afternoon at the Hebron Harvest Fair.**

the Lions charitable giving. "That's always been a priority for us," he said. "Fortunately we don't have any major repairs planned for the off-season so that should keep our expenses lower."

Typically the Lions Club holds its annual Night of Giving in May, where they present both national and local charities with donations

largely driven by the fair's revenues. Last year, the club gave away over \$110,000.

With only 362 days until next year's fair, the Lions Club has already begun thinking about the future. Club members will meet later this month to begin preparations for the 39th annual Hebron Harvest Fair.

## Colchester Administration, School Board Members Pleased with CMT Scores

by Kristina Histen

School administration and Board of Education (BOE) members were very excited by the results of this year's Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs).

"Colchester has been named the number one district in the state in terms of improvement," BOE Chairman Bill Hetrick said.

Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Barbara Gilbert presented the results of the tests to the school board Tuesday. In March, 1,462 students in grades 3-8 took the tests.

The third through eighth grade levels of the CMT are designed to assess essential reading, writing and math skills that can reasonably be expected to be mastered by most students at the time of testing. Colchester exceeded both the State and District Reference Groups (DRG) goal in almost every grade in almost every subject.

Test results fall into five categories, from lowest to highest: below basic, basic, proficient, goal, and advanced goal. The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act mandates that 100 percent of students test at proficient by the year 2014.

Students are making significant gains as they progress in school, Gilbert said, and the percentage of students at or above proficient level is increasing. Faculty and administration know where they are headed and have a vision of how to improve, especially in reading focus areas. The new Positive Behavior Support discipline approach has created an environment for strong academic performance, she said.

"Although we've made gains and have a lot to celebrate, we do have room for improvement," Gilbert said.

Teacher leaders are looking at data and collaborating with teachers to target individual students and specific skills for improvement, Gil-

bert said. Instead of looking globally at the district progress, administration can strategically examine what each student needs and provide that extra time and support at all grade levels, she said.

Gilbert said school administration is looking at ways to support special education and low-income students with extra time like after school programs and summer school. They have also designed interventions for boys in the areas of reading and writing to get them more interested, she said.

In reading, administration has seen the growth they've envisioned over time, Gilbert said. "We know we're making progress and we know we'll just get better," she said.

In reading, every grade exceeded the state goal level, with every grade level but third and seventh also beating the DRG percentages.

"There was some growth at every grade level," Gilbert said.

In math, however, the elementary school struggled with meeting goal, she said. Grades 3-5 all dropped percentage-wise compared to last year, and grades 6-8 only increased slightly. Still, every grade surpassed the state goal average, with grades fourth through sixth percentages placing beyond the DRG.

"We are making really great strides in writing," Gilbert said. There was significant progress from third grade last year into fourth grade this year. In writing, every grade once again beat state goal averages, but only the fourth and eighth grade levels surpassed the DRG.

"Everyone is so excited," Gilbert said. "Success has been shared at each building. For the first time ever, we are ahead of the DRG in seven areas."

## State Police Looking Into Area Break-Ins

by Sarah McCoy

State Police are asking for anyone with information on recent house burglaries to contact the Criminal Investigation Unit at the State Police Troop K barracks in Colchester.

Since the beginning of July, the Troop K area — which includes Andover, Hebron, Marlborough and Colchester — has been hit with a rash of burglaries, but there have been no leads. Sergeant Sean Cox, who's supervising the ongoing investigation, estimated that there have been approximately 40 break-ins in the local area. The targeted homes seem to be connected by their limited visibility to neighbors, lack of lighting, and the appearance of being unoccupied, Cox said.

"We're asking people to consider their home from a safety and security standpoint," he said. "Are all doors and windows locked? Are lights on a timer when you're away? Do you have a neighbor or a close friend who can check up on your house when you're not home?"

Cox said the burglars have made their move typically in the mid-morning to early evening hours. Items removed from local houses include jewelry, antiques, electronics, clothing and even spare change. The burglars may first knock on the door to check if someone is home.

"They might ask for directions or try to sell something," Cox warned. "In this day and age

of cell phones, GPS, and maps, there is no reason for anybody to be stopping at a stranger's house asking for directions. That is something everyone should consider suspicious."

Hebron Resident State Trooper Mark Gendron reported that there have been three burglaries in town. That number isn't out of the ordinary, he said, but it appears that all of the area burglaries are connected.

"Be observant," Cox urged residents. "If something or someone looks suspicious, call us. We'd rather come out and it be nothing than the opposite."

While there have been no arrests made, Cox said police are canvassing the areas that have been hit, interviewing neighbors and using forensic science to gather any possible evidence.

Cox said that the investigation has been slow to get off the ground because of the delay in individuals reporting the burglary. "The incident might have happened right after they left for vacation and then we hear about it a week later," he said.

With vacation season coming to an end Cox is hopeful that the burglaries slow or, better yet, end.

Anyone with more information is urged to call Troop K in Colchester at 537-7502.

# Portland Brownstone Festival This Saturday

by Michael McCoy

Just four years ago at this time, Portland festival buffs were either reflecting on another great Harvest Fair over in Hebron or looking ahead to the agricultural fair the following month.

Now, the Portland Brownstone Festival is simply tradition, and the fourth annual celebration is this Saturday, Sept. 13.

Once again, Jeanne Dilworth is the chairman of the festival. She and about 25 other active members of the Brownstone Quorum are responsible for the planning. (Official membership exceeds 200.)

The day kicks off at 8 a.m. with the Ecumenical Youth Group and Senior Center pancake breakfast, held at the Senior Center. The breakfast runs until 10 a.m. The same duo will offer stuffed baked potatoes on the green at 11 a.m. Get there fast, because they completely sold out of spuds last year.

The Brownstone Arts Group's art show and sale begins at 9 a.m. in the downstairs of the Senior Center. The show ends at 2 p.m., but a second and different exhibit will open at 3 p.m. with the rest of the afternoon events at the Riverfront Park.

Also at 9 a.m. will be the farmers and crafters market in the parking lot in front of the town green. This array of goods is put forth in conjunction with the Economic Development Commission and will run until 3 p.m.

From 9 a.m.-2 p.m., the Portland Republican Town Committee will host a tag sale at the American Legion Hall on Freestone Avenue.

Between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., swing by Trinity Church at 345 Main Street for plenty of fun, including a tour of the newly-renovated historic church, combined Portland garden clubs' mini flower shower, and a butterfly garden demon-

stration and display.

The bulk of the festival really gets going at 11 a.m., the same time Family Day starts. This event, put together by Family and Youth Services (especially director Mary Pont) predates the Brownstone Festival, but the two have operated in tandem since 2005. Family Day will include games crafts, bouncing inflatables, a magician, as well as hot dogs and soda for sale.

Simultaneously, the Portland Cellar Savers will once again offer free rides on some of their antique engines. Rides are free, though donations are accepted. Rides start in front of the police department, and stops are made at Trinity Church, the Cellar Savers Museum, and Portland Historical Museum. The Cellar Savers Museum, containing loads of antique fire apparatus, will be open to visitors.

Also at this time, the Friends of the Portland Library will hold a book and bake sale and Susan Squier will oversee her sand art booth. Also notable is Sandy Rodrigues, who will be selling commemorative Brownstone Festival Buttons, raising funds for Operation Fuel.

Other booths and displays include the fire department and dive team, the Portland Emergency Management Team, Portland Garden Club, the Clean Energy Task Force, and the Portland MOMS Club, among others. The Democratic Town Committee will also have a voter registration booth.

For the most part, the festival will pause from 2-3 p.m. However, at 3 p.m., the event will catch its second wind down at the Quarryland Riverside Park at the end of Brownstone Avenue. Those who are coming from the day's previous activities may simply catch a ride on one of

Jeff Kelsey's hayrides. (The rides run from 11 a.m. until around 6 p.m.)

Quarryland Riverside Park is so named because it was essentially made by man. Underneath it is composed of waste rock deposited there during the quarry days of the late 1800s.

One perfect way to celebrate Portland at the Riverfront Park will be catching one of the hikes led by the Meshomasic Hiking Club. Once you've worked up an appetite, you can take part in the town picnic at the park, which will feature free hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, soda and brownies. Again, this whole meal is free. Donations will be accepted however, and all money collected will go to improvements to the park.

If brownies do not completely satiate your sweet tooth, Portland's own 80 Licks will be present, selling its own locally-made ice cream.

While you dine, you can listen to an array of musical offerings by Dave Kuzminski, along with staff and students from his Connecticut Valley Music and Dance School. The Greg Yuska Ensemble will jazz up the afternoon.

Dilworth shared certain enthusiasm over Kuzminski and his crew, mentioning that last year she witnessed "high school students and great-grandparents all enjoying the music."

At 4 p.m., the Cub Scouts will host what Dilworth described as "ol'-fashioned games with prizes for kids of all ages," including the ring toss and a three-legged race. At 5 p.m., Cari and Steve Klick of the Cellar Savers and Brownstone Quorum will conduct a fire-building competition.

In the competition, each adult/kid team will be provided with two matches. They must then hunt for sticks and the like (only natural items

found in the park) to build a fire with. Each fire station will have a coffee can filled with water suspended above it. The first team whose fire is hot enough to boil enough water to spill over and extinguish the fire wins.

The Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park, located a small jaunt down Brownstone Avenue, at the quarries, will also "have a full range of park activities all day." In addition, several groups and booths that will be up the green earlier will relocate to the Quarryland Riverfront Park.

The picnic will wind down around 6 p.m. Shortly before, between 5:30 and 6 p.m., the Brownstone Quorum will draw the winners of its 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$1 each, or \$5 for six. They may be purchased during the picnic or earlier at the quorum's information center on the town green. Proceeds will go to improvements to the park, which the quorum is constantly performing. This includes two more acres than were open to the public one year ago. "I'm 80, and I'm out cutting brush down there," Dilworth laughed.

There will be more going on at the Brownstone Festival than there is room to mention here. Festivalgoers can pick up a program at the information center for a complete listing of activities and times for the entire day.

Parking will be available at Trinity Church, as well as in a town lot at the end of Middlesex Avenue. This latter lot is adjacent to a path that leads directly to the Riverfront Park. The quorum is still looking for volunteers to help oversee parking for the day. Those willing to help may contact Jeanne Dilworth at 342-2260.

## New 24-7 Gym Opens in Colchester

by Kristina Histen

Work out any hour of the day, any day of the week, at Colchester's newest gym.

Co-owned by Jared Weiner and David Santella, Anytime Fitness is located at 493 Westchester Rd. Although it has been open now for only a few weeks, the work out center already has "a couple hundred" members.

Anytime Fitness is a chain of fitness clubs, with more than 700 locations nationwide.

"At Anytime Fitness, we fit your busy schedule and on-the-go lifestyle," the website [www.anytimefitness.com](http://www.anytimefitness.com) said. "Clubs are open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Talk about no more excuses."

With new state-of-the-art strength training and cardiovascular equipment, a variety of classes and personal trainers on site, there's something for everyone, whether it be a first time in the gym beginner or a professional body builder.

"It is a real friendly atmosphere," Weiner said. "We have people at 14, the minimum age, to people in their 70s, coming in here everyday to work out."

What separates Anytime Fitness from the rest of the fitness clubs out there are the equipment, the staff and the "top notch" clients, Weiner said. The treadmills, elliptical machines, weights, etc., are mostly all Nautilus equipment, the newest line of strength machines on the market. Therefore, everything is very user-friendly and easy to adjust. If one doesn't know what to do, diagrams on the machines and personal trainers help show exactly how to use them, while a complete free weight section with racks that can be found in a NFL locker room are the way to go for professionals.

Espresso bikes are available that are like "cardio for the mind" and keeps one engaged while riding it, Weiner said. With its interactive hook up to the Internet, one can race another in the gym or in a different part of the country. There are 30 different courses and five intensity levels, so there's no way to get bored during a work out session.

A 24-hour tanning bed, activated with a membership keycard, keeps that summer tan all year round at a low monthly cost. In a month or so, classes will be held with activities like spin, Zumba (a Latin dance inspired cardio class), step, yoga, pilates and more, to enjoy while

getting in shape.

Anytime Fitness in Colchester is one of the few gyms to have an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), Weiner said. He felt it was necessary to have, but Santella hopes they never have to use it. For those late-night gym goers, a panic button is also available in case of an emergency and to make people feel safer working out after hours. However, the gym is complete with a 24-hour monitoring system with security cameras everywhere to protect clients, Weiner said.

When one signs up for a membership, a free orientation and consultation is scheduled with a personal trainer. "That way, we know you're going to be safe on the equipment," Weiner said. "We want everyone to be successful, we want everyone to reach their goal. That's important because if people aren't reaching their goals, they're not going to come back."

After time with the personal trainer, if the customer then pursues additional time with the trainer, they offer priced packages. There are five personal trainers, including Melissa Ramos, co-owner of Physical Designs, who sub-contracts out of gyms. Her company uses an integrated approach to fitness training and health, teaching endurance to exercise right and nutritional diets. Teaching how to eat right, she said, is not only to lose weight, but also to keep up with eating healthier.

Anytime Fitness' grand opening is only a week away (Saturday, Sept. 20), so people are encouraged to act fast to take part in membership specials. There are, however, always discounts for couples, families, senior citizens and "local heroes," as well as corporate discounts. The local hero discount is especially unique at Anytime Fitness, as it is not offered anywhere else, Weiner said.

"What we do with the military is when they are home on leave and in the area, they can work out for free, whether they are home on deployment or on the base," Weiner said. "They need to be honored and this is the only thing we can do for them besides saying thank you. They do a lot for us and give up a lot for us, and we understand that and we want to make sure they know it."

There are "a bunch of things lined up" for the grand opening, Weiner said, including free



David Santella, left, and Jared Weiner are co-owners of Colchester's newest gym, Anytime Fitness.

months for referrals, free give a ways, demonstration classes, blood screening and body fat analysis. "We want people to come in, love the equipment, be happy and enjoy coming here," Weiner said.

Weiner, a Colchester resident and professional firefighter in East Hartford, and Santella, a Hebron resident and real estate agent, have both owned businesses before, but this is their first together. As always, they had typical construction delays, but got open relatively quickly and are "now jumping in with both feet and getting moving," Weiner said.

"It's nice having your own business," Santella said. "You can control your hours and control your own destiny, that's what I like about it."

Depending on how well this location does, they may look into opening more gyms throughout the state. Since there are Anytime Fitness locations across the country, a membership

keycard will open up one anywhere when people travel.

Colchester residents said they have chosen Anytime Fitness because there is new equipment and friendly people, or, according to a gym member who didn't wish to be named, because they are just "in dire need of improvement of the body." The location has also been key for college students Josiah Lund, an East Haddam resident, and Kyle Zajec, a Moodus resident. They both felt it was a "good atmosphere" and great to see the owners around interacting with their clients.

"Our clubs are geared up with the essential elements of a great workout," the website said. "Our fitness equipment vendors are the best in the industry and our club owners stay current with the latest technology. We offer a wide variety of cardio, strength and free weight equipment to ensure that you get the best possible workout."

# Former Sachem Star Fetches Cape Cod MVP

by Sarah McCoy

A former RHAM High School baseball standout is making big news on a big stage.

AJ Pollock, who grew up in Marlborough before moving to Hebron as a teen, was recently named the Pat Sorenti Award winner as the Most Valuable Player for the Cape Cod Baseball League. "AJ's a kid that deserves everything good that comes to him," Jeff Trundy, Pollock's coach on the Cape this summer, said. "He's certainly an athletic kid but it's the other things that really separate him from his peers. He's got a bright, bright future."

As leadoff hitter and center fielder for the Falmouth Commodores Pollock lead the league in hits (61), doubles (15) and slugging percentage (.566). He ranked second in average at .377 only behind fellow Commodore Jimmy Cesario.

Consistency is the name of the game for Pollock. He approaches every game with the same attitude, play the game right and good things will follow. There were games he did not have a hit (only 6 out of 40), but never more than two in a row. A patient hitter, Pollock said he works on the fundamentals daily and tries not to get too upset on those rare days without a hit.

"Playing on the Cape was great," he said of the summer. "You're not going to find better competition and, with games virtually every night, there's no time to dwell on what you could have done better."

There isn't a whole lot Pollock could have done to play better. He was named the Coca-Cola Player of the Week the last week in July. He was named to the Cape Cod League All-Star Game, where he hit a home run down the right field line with over 9,000 fans in attendance, including over 100 scouts, Trundy estimated.

Also, Pollock hit a home run to tie the game with two outs in the ninth inning against Harwich. The Commodores would go on to win the game in extra innings.

The accolades keep piling on for the RHAM alum and current University of Notre Dame star. In 2006, his senior season, Pollock was named the Gatorade Player of the Year for Connecticut. A year later he led the Fighting Irish in hitting with a .372 average and was named to the 2007 Freshmen All-American teams by both Collegiate Baseball magazine and [PingBaseball.com](http://PingBaseball.com).

This latest award has to feel pretty special though. The Cape Cod Baseball League is known as the premier summer league for college players. It's a wooden bat league typically dominated by pitchers. Just two years ago the top hitter in the league hit .310. Pollock saw his average soar to over .404 at the All-Star break before finishing at .377.

Former winners of the MVP Award include current Red Sox catcher and perennial All-Star Jason Varitek, frontrunner for this year's American League Rookie of the Year Award Evan Longoria and the late New York Yankees cap-



AJ Pollock

tain Thurman Munson.

While on the Cape he had a chance to meet ESPN baseball analyst Peter Gammons and was invited onto the field at Fenway Park to take batting practice. Pollock hit one out there too.

Next June he will be eligible for the Major League Baseball draft. Pollock said he has filled out questionnaires for teams and has plans to meet with representatives from a few organizations. A lifelong Mets fan, Pollock said he would be thrilled to play for any team that has a spot for him.

"I would be shocked if he doesn't get an opportunity to play professionally," Trundy said. "This summer AJ established himself as a highly-touted prospect. He's on everybody's radar."

This comment coming from a man who has coached Red Sox outfielder Jacoby Ellsbury, San Diego Padres shortstop Kahlil Greene, and Houston Astros outfielder Darin Erstad.

In the meantime he's focused on the upcoming Notre Dame season. After a tremendous season in center field, Pollock is vying for the shortstop position on the Irish. It would be a familiar location for Pollock, as he was a four-year starter for RHAM at shortstop.

"I've been taking groundballs everyday," he said. "I feel good. I feel just like I did two years ago when I stopped playing short."

## DUI Stop Ends in Two Arrests in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

A routine DUI pullover ended with an unusual extra charge late last month, according to East Hampton Police

Around 1 a.m. Aug. 26, Officer Jerry Boynton pulled over Francis Dipace Jr., 20, of 133 West High St., according to Chief Matthew Reimondo. Reimondo said Dipace was "making some erratic movements, arousing [Boynton's] suspicions."

As is protocol for any DUI pullover, Boynton called for backup and Sergeant Tim Dowty responded. "It's a pretty dark, rural area down in there," Reimondo said concerning the location of the incident, which was just west of the middle school on Route 66.

Dipace ended up being charged with operating under the influence of alcohol, failure to drive right and failure to obey a stop sign.

However, during Dipace's conversation with police, Daniel Lachapelle, 21, of the same West High Street address, who was in the passenger's seat, tried to get out of the vehicle. However, Dowty would not let him, and Lachapelle became belligerent and continually tried to open the door.

Eventually, Reimondo said, Lachapelle resorted to more aggressive means. "Ultimately, he kicked the door open, almost knocking [Dowty] to the ground," he said. Lachapelle was immediately arrested and charged with interfering with a police officer.

Dowty did not sustain any injuries in the incident, Reimondo said.

Lachapelle and Dipace appeared in court on Sept. 9 and 10, respectively, and were both released on non-surety bonds.

## Serious Motorcycle Accident on Route 66 in Portland

by Michael McCoy

A serious motorcycle accident shut down part of Route 66 in Portland last weekend and resulted in Lifestar being called, Portland Police said.

At about 2:19 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, Dwaine Chase, 43, of Meriden, "collided with the center median guardrail," according to a press release issued by Portland Police. Chase was driving a 2006 Harley Davidson eastbound, when the accident occurred about 330 feet of the turnoff to Gospel Lane (Route 17.)

According to the release, Chase sustained "serious injuries." Sgt. Scott Cunningham

later elaborated that this included a broken leg, broken ribs, fluid in his lungs and a head injury. Protocol indicates that Lifestar always responds when a head injury is involved, Cunningham said.

As of press time, police had not disclosed any further details or causes for the accident, and Officer Peter Paranzino is leading the investigation.

Cunningham said that, as of Monday morning, Chase's condition was listed as "serious but stable." As of press time, he was still in the intensive care unit at St. Francis Care in Hartford.

## Marlborough Police News

9/6-Nicole Dzikiewicz, 32, of 405 Clinton Ave., Bridgeport, was charged with failure to wear safety belt in front seat, improper marker, insurance coverage fails minimum requirements, operating or towing unregistered motor vehicle and operation of motor vehicle when registration or license is refused, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

9/7 — Jean Graham, 36, of 200R Main St., was charged with operating a motor vehicle without insurance operating a motor vehicle without a license and failure to notify DMV of address change, Portland Police said.

## Colchester Police News

9/4-Jennifer Marcaurel, 32, of 3 East Shore Dr., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

9/5-Michael Fiondella, 27, of 147 South Main St., was charged with drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

9/6-Christopher Landry, 27, of 65 Cottage St., Danielson, was charged with four counts of third-degree larceny, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

9/2 — Timothy L. Dove, 50, of 44 Forest St., Hartford, was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant for disorderly conduct and second-degree failure to appear, East Hampton Police said.

9/2 — Thomas F. Boucher, 38, of 130 East High St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and violation of a protective order, police said.

# Obituaries

## East Hampton

### Helen Johnson

Helen Ivanowsky Johnson, widow of Richard E. Johnson, of Middle Haddam, died Aug. 15 at the age of 90. She was predeceased by her parents and brothers Mitchel S. Ivanowsky and Frank S. Ivanowsky.

She leaves her sister-in-law, Elizabeth Starks Ivanowsky, presently residing in Exeter, NH and formerly of Newington. She also leaves her niece, Tanya Ivanowsky Repoli of Port St. Lucie, FL and formerly of Tolland, and a niece and nephew, Janis Ivanowsky Tierney of Exeter, NH and Stephen Mitchel Ivanowsky of Dalton, MA, both formerly of Newington. She also leaves grand-nieces and nephews and their children.

A graveside service will be held in Union Hill Cemetery in Middle Haddam on Saturday, Sept. 13, at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Richard and Helen Johnson Scholarship Fund at Central Connecticut State University, c/o Donald Hamer, 2252 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

## East Hampton

### Helen M. Markham

Helen M. (Spencer) Markham, 90, widow of William E. Markham, died Thursday, Sept. 4, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in Moodus. Born Dec. 30, 1917 in Rockville, she was the daughter of the late Nelson and Nellie Spencer.

Helen was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and a member of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church. She was a woman who dedicated her whole life to caring for her family. She and her brother-in-law Henry owned and operated a greenhouse on her farm in East Hampton for many years. Helen enjoyed gardening, farming and especially caring for her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She leaves to mourn her passing her son, Edward Markham; two daughters, Mary Louise Jones of New Hampshire, and Rose Desjardins of East Hampton, who was Helen's primary caregiver for many years; her beloved son-in-law, Mike Desjardins; 14 grandchildren including granddaughter Heather who had lived with Helen and cared for her as well as granddaughter Robin. She is also survived by many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by a son, William E. Markham; brother-in-law Henry Markham; three grandchildren, Wendi Desjardins, John Markham and Helen Markham.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept 8, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Shelly Timber, Pastor of the Haddam Neck Covenant Church, officiating. Burial followed in the family plot in Skinnerville Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Monday morning before the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 144, East Hampton, CT 06424 or American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450. To leave online condolences or for directions visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com)

## Marlborough

### Patricia A. Daigle

Patricia A. Daigle, 77, of Marlborough, widow of Raynal B. Daigle, died Friday, Sept. 5, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Aug. 31, 1931 in New Hampshire, she had lived in Marlborough since 1963.

Patricia leaves to mourn her passing, her daughter Christina Schultz of Willimantic; three sons, Raynal Daigle Jr. of Marlborough, Robert Daigle of Amston, and Timothy Daigle of Marlborough; four grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

All services will be private at the convenience of the family. The Spener Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

## Colchester

### Fannie Mae Bray

Fannie Mae Turner Bray, 101, wife of the late Robert Lee Bray of Colchester, passed away on Wednesday, Sept. 3. She was born April 7, 1907 in Eastman, GA., daughter of Rev. W.L. and Fannie Mae Crocker Turner. She was a member of the Colchester Federated Church.

Surviving is a daughter, Mattie Bray Knighton of Colchester; a brother, Sam and sister-in-law Hattie Turner; a sister, Lulu Bell Morgan and sister-in-law Eunice Turner, all of Colchester; three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, five great-great grandchildren, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and extended friends.

Funeral service was held Monday, Sept. 8, at the Colchester Federated Church, Main St., Colchester. Visitation was held Monday, Sept 8 at the church.

Memorial donations may be made to Colchester Federated Church in her memory.

## Marlborough

### Kathleen B. Carroll

Kathleen B. Carroll, 62, of Marlborough, passed away Thursday, Sept. 4, at Hartford Hospital, after a valiant struggle with cancer. She was the beloved wife of Walter F. Carroll.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, on Aug. 31, 1946, she was the daughter of the late Malachy and Irene (Robertshaw) Broderick. She was a graduate of Archbishop Prendergast High School. Kathleen spent her professional career as a medical recruiter for Foremost Rehab in Cheshire.

Besides her husband, she is survived by her three loving sons and their families, Tim and Krista Carroll and their children, Jack and McKenna, of Fairfield, John and Michelle Carroll and their children, Riley and Michael, of Glastonbury, and Kevin and Dayna Carroll and their children, Madison and Ryan, of Manchester; a sister, Sally Ann Broderick of Westchester, PA; and a brother, Thomas Broderick of Wallingford, PA.

Calling hours were Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke. A Funeral Mass was held Monday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m. at St. Dunstan's Church, 1345 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury. Burial is private and at the convenience of the family.

Donations in Kathleen's memory may be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450.

## Marlborough

### Roy Lee Cranfield

Roy Lee Cranfield, 50, of Marlborough, passed away unexpectedly Monday evening, Sept. 8, at home. Born May 28, 1958 in Seaford, DE, he was a son of Emma Lou (Trost) Cranfield of Marlborough and the late Phillip Cranfield.

Roy was a 1976 graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron. He had been a Department Manager for area grocery stores for many years. In his spare time, he was an avid fisherman and loved a variety of sports, especially the Mets, Giants and UConn Women's Basketball.

In addition to his mother, he is survived by a brother, Robert Cranfield of Rehoboth Beach, DE; his three nephews, Christopher, Joshua and Jeremy Cranfield; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his father, he was predeceased by a brother, H. Steven Cranfield.

Friends may gather starting 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Memorial Service will follow at 11 a.m., with The Rev. Chuck Redfern, pastor of Fellowship Community Church, Marlborough, officiating. Burial will be private in the Marlborough Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the church, 24 South Rd., Marlborough 06447 or to Compassion International, Colorado Springs, CO 80997-0001.

For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Hebron

### Alan J. Evans

Alan J. Evans, 43, of Amston, survived by Laurie (Romano) Evans and Richard Evans, entered into the Lord's embrace Monday, Sept. 8. Born in Carlisle, England, he was the son of Keith Evans and the late Annie (Cunningham) Evans.

A graduate of Prince Tech, in Hartford, Alan enjoyed a successful career as a self-employed carpenter. A motorcyclist enthusiast Alan enjoyed touring the countryside of eastern Connecticut on his Harley-Davidson.

Sharing in their loss in addition to Laurie and Richard are his father, Keith and his wife Irena, of South Windsor, Alan's brother Patrick A. Evans and his wife, Joan of Burlington, his sisters, Karen Wieleba and her husband, John, of Plantsville, Tracy Levine and her husband, Eric of Glastonbury, and Sandy Cates of Hebron, a special friend. He also leaves seven nieces and nephews, and far too many friends to name.

He will be missed by all who loved him dearly, especially his son, Richie, who wants him to know his mistakes of the past are forgiven, and he will find strength in all of his fond memories.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 10, in the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Rd, Wethersfield. Friends and relatives called on the family at the funeral home before the service.

## East Hampton

### Josephine Lane

Josephine "Josie" (Barone-Klemba) Lane, 72, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Charles Lane, died Friday, Sept. 5, at Saint Francis Hospital, after a brief illness. She was born in Middletown, the daughter of the late Nicholas and Clara (Bartolotta) Barone Sr.

Prior to her retirement, she was employed by the Colchester School system. She enjoyed gardening, crafting gifts and cooking for her family and neighbors.

Besides her husband, she is survived by three sons, Ray Klemba of East Hampton, Ron Klemba of Portland, Bob and his wife Betsy Klemba of Lebanon; three daughters, Deb Ferrara of Cromwell, Dee and her husband Sean O'Leary of Colchester and Denise Klemba of Cromwell; two brothers, Nicholas and his wife Bonye Barone Jr. of Higganum and John and his wife Christine Barone of Middletown; six grandchildren, Rachel, Nate, Matt, Chelsea, Elise and Hunter; two great-grandchildren, Erik and Jaquelyn, who will miss Nana the most, and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her family Josephine will be greatly missed by "The Girls," her lifelong friends, Barb, her sister-in-law, and by Buddy and Precious, her beloved pups.

The family is extremely grateful for the special care and compassion she has received at Saint Francis Hospital, under the guidance of the very special Dr. Peter Tutschka and nurse Bonnie.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, Sept. 10, at the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Friends visited with the family Wednesday before the service. Memorial contributions may be sent to Saint Francis Cancer Center c/o Dr. Peter Tutschka, 114 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06112.

## Portland

### Stephanie E. Gross

Stephanie E. Gross, 22, of Cedar Grove, NJ, formerly of Portland, died suddenly on Saturday, Sept. 6. Born in Brooklyn, NY, Stephanie has lived in Portland and Vernon, and Paterson and Cedar Grove, New Jersey.

Stephanie's friends and family were her life. Stephanie loved music and dancing. She was an animal lover and a movie buff. Steff was a true fashionista with her funky hair colors, punk outfits, body jewelry and colorful tatoos. Stephanie was a true non-conformist who danced to her own tune.

Stephanie is survived by her loving father and step-mother, Richard and Kimberly Gross of Portland, and her mother, Cynthia (Reese) Gross of New Jersey. Stephanie was a cherished granddaughter to Joan and Robert Gross of Sun City Center, FL, and Helen McGuire of Cedar Grove, NJ. She was loved and admired by her sister Jaime-Lee Gross of Courtlandt Manor, NY, and stepsister Katelynn Kelly and stepbrother Shane Kelly, both of Portland. Stephanie is also survived by her father's siblings, a total of 13 caring aunts and uncles and her Aunt Theresa Reese.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 9, at Shook's Cedar Grove Funeral Home, 486 Pompton Ave. (Rt. 23), Cedar Grove, NJ ([www.shookscedargrove.com](http://www.shookscedargrove.com)). The visiting hours were held Monday, Sept. 8.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in her memory to: Juvenile Bipolar Research Foundation, 550 Ridgewood Rd, Maplewood, NJ 07040 or New York Presbyterian Hospital-Westchester Division, Borderline Personality Disorder Center, 21 Bloomingdale Rd, White Plains, NY 10605.

## Colchester

### Gregory Scott

Gregory Scott of Showell, MD, died Friday, Aug. 29, at Mandrin House, Hospice of the Chesapeake, after a six-month battle with brain cancer.

A memorial service bestowing military honors will be held Monday, Oct. 6, at Arlington National Cemetery.

Greg was born May 22, 1946, in Meriden to Mary and Winfield Scott Sr. He lived for 17 years in Colchester, where he was an avid member of the Lions Club.

He is survived by twin daughters, Jennifer Scott of Champaign, IL, and Jaclyn Scott of Fredricksburg, VA; two sisters, Marybeth Bowers of Crownsville, MD, and Sheila Iodice of Arnold, MD; and two brothers, Winfield Scott Jr. of Ocean City, MD, and Douglas Scott, Wake Forest, NC.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Carol.

He received a bachelor's degree from Graceland College in 1976. Greg was a decorated United States Marine who served two tours in Vietnam, where he earned two Purple Hearts, the National Defense Service Medal, the Naval Achievement Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal, among other honors.

## Portland

### Michele L. Violissi

Michele L. Violissi, 38, of Hilltop Drive, Portland, passed away unexpectedly Friday, Sept. 5, at home. Born in Middletown Jan. 19, 1970, she was a lifelong resident and attended local schools.

As a child, she was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary and continued her strong faith throughout her adult life. She was an outgoing, free-spirited individual, non-judgmental and very generous. She had many friends from all walks of life. She loved watching movies, reading books and was a frequent library visitor. Being an avid sun-worshiper, she loved reading her books by the pool. She loved her family and took extreme pride in her daughters.

She is survived by her daughters, Brooke and Brittney Vigneri, of Portland; her mother, Lynette Belcourt Milardo, and her husband, Sebastian "Nebo" Milardo, her father Frank Violissi Jr., and his wife Wendy Violissi, all of Portland; her paternal grandparents, Frank Violissi Sr. and Rita Violissi of Portland; her brother, Frank H. Violissi and his wife Lisa of Portland; her nephews, Tyler and Nickolas Violissi of Portland; her aunts and uncles, Donald and Donna Belcourt and William and Ethel Belcourt; her aunt, Carolann Violissi, and many cousins.

She was predeceased by her maternal grandparents, Howard and Antoinette Belcourt, and her uncle, Theodore Violissi Sr.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Tuesday, Sept. 9. Funeral services were Wednesday, Sept. 10, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and later in the Church of Saint Mary, where Rev. John F. Ashe celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Interment private in the Violissi family plot in the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.

Gifts in Michele's memory may be sent to the Brooke and Brittney Vigneri Education Fund, c/o Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480. For directions or to leave an online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).

## Colchester

### Bertha Emily Bromley

Bertha Emily Bromley, 99, of Lebanon, widow of the late Howard Bromley, passed away Saturday, Sept. 6, at the Liberty Specialty Care Center in Colchester, two days before her 100th birthday. Born Sept. 8, 1908 in Jersey City, NJ, she was the daughter of the late August and Katrina (Bonocker) Kashork. She was a graduate of Lyman Memorial High School in Lebanon.

Mrs. Bromley was a Nurses' Aide at the Mansfield Training Center before her retirement in 1967. In her spare time, she enjoyed knitting, crocheting and quilting, as well as cooking, baking and tending to her garden, where she loved to watch the birds. She had also been active with the Lebanon Seniors.

She is survived by her daughter-in-law, Effie Bromley of Brackettville, TX; six grandchildren, David Kanter of Lebanon, Wayne Kanter of Mooresville, NC, Emily Jacobsen of Omaha, NE, Patricia Bromley of Colchester, Cindy Bromley of Omaha, NE and Katrina Wade of Texas; seven great-grandchildren; and several great-great grandchildren and extended family members. In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by her two children, Doris Kanter and Fred Bromley.

Friends called Tuesday, Sept. 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service followed, with the Rev. Ronald Lake officiating. Burial private in the New Lebanon Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Hospice CT/VNA by Masonicare, 33 No. Plains Industrial Rd., Wallingford, CT 06492. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).