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Boisterous members of the Portland High School Class of 2009 celebrate with silly string after graduation ceremonies Wednesday evening. As class valedictorian Brenna McKinley told the class, "Today is the day we break out of our bubble and become part of the bigger picture."

Portland High School Holds Graduation

by Michael McCoy

Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said at the start of the Portland High School Class of 2009 Wednesday, "We're graduating this group on the only good night of weather for the next week, maybe the next month," calling it "a good omen."

Hopefully, she's right.

Wednesday saw 78 Portland High School (PHS) students get their diplomas. The exercises, were, as usual held on the Town Hall Green, PHS Principal Andrea Lavery briefly spoke first, assuring the class that, much to their surprise, "We will actually miss you."

Then members of the Class of 2009 got a chance to speak. Class President Allie Cooper used a running metaphor throughout her speech. "Tonight everyone seems happy and ready to roll as we step up to the starting line. You can sense the confidence in some of the runners and feel the fear form the others," she said. She also compared the adversities of life with "cramps and sore muscles," and said weddings, the birth of children and "landing the perfect job" were like "water breaks."

She concluded, "The race of life is not a competition. It is a personal journey, and each one of us has our own race to run. Good luck runner!"

Another member of the Class of 2009, Charlaina Dimond, spoke next, and said she was "always mortified when I hear someone say something along the lines of 'A high school diploma is not that difficult to get.'" She continued, "To me, a high school diploma is a representation of every struggle and hardship over-

come during adolescence and childhood." She added that struggles in life like taking first steps, going to school for the first time, getting to college and avoiding "the temptation to give into senioritis" were anything but easy.

She barely staved off tears as she listed some of those who have helped her get to the evening, first off, her mother: "Words can never express how much gratitude I have for her."

Charlaina closed her remarks by saying, "I have the feeling that no matter where we go, the connections with the people we've formed here in Portland will not end as we leave but rather serve us well in the years to come."

Valedictorian Brenna McKinley, who also turned 18 Wednesday, told her classmates that "in our little bubble we call Portland, we are the most significant people in the world." However, she said the country's high school graduation rate hit a record high this year, with 3.3 million students receiving diplomas, prompting her to wonder just how significant they could be. "Today is the day we break out of our bubble and become part of the bigger picture."

Salutatorian Momina Afrede commissioned her classmates to "take advantage of the present, there, and the now," and led by example by pulling out her own camera and snapping a picture. She later called her class of 2009 "the definition of pride, of hope, of individuality," and switched attention to her elders, saying, "My family and teachers have been there for me through thick and thin." She then asked

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Top Two RHAM Students Have Much in Common

by Sarah McCoy

It's friendship, not competition, that bonds the top two graduating seniors at RHAM High School this year.

Kirsten Salline of Hebron and Adrienne Matunas of Marlborough are valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Class of 2009, and both are scheduled to speak tonight at the high school graduation. The two were separated by a mere .04 of a point.

Kirsten will head off to Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, in the fall. She plans to study chemistry or biochemistry.

Adrienne will attend Middlebury College in Middlebury, VT, with plans to study art or English.

Coming from different towns, and on different teams in middle school, Adrienne and Kirsten didn't meet until their freshman year at the high school. They became friends quickly as they shared classes together and ran together on the school's cross country and track teams.

While both athletics and academics have a certain level of competition, the two girls agreed that it's not part of their relationship. "Sure we're competitive," Adrienne said. "But we're competitive with ourselves not each other."



Kirsten Salline

Kirsten added that it's helped them both work to their potential. "I admire how Adrienne is always working. She stays up really late to do homework or study," she said. "That motivates me to keep going."

Even as their senior year comes to a close, and long after many of their classmates have succumbed to "senior-itis," Adrienne and

Kirsten keep plugging along. For Kirsten, a chemistry project and U.S. History paper still need to be completed. For Adrienne, an English thesis, French paper and that same U.S. History paper. "When all that's done then I'll begin to think about my speech," Kirsten said.

In addition to keeping near flawless grades Kirsten was also a member of the schools track and cross country teams, part of the National Honor Society, the National Latin Honor Society and a player in the band.

Adrienne also ran both track and cross country. She is also a member of the National Honor Society, the National French Honor Society and a player in the school's wind ensemble.

Both girls credited their families and teachers for their success. "At times, when things got really difficult, I'd second guess myself but there was always someone there to support me," Adrienne said.

One of those supports has been high school social studies teacher Mark Logan, who has taught as well as coached the two girls. "They are bright and compassionate girls," Logan said. "They're both fabulous athletes and great students but they're role models in other ways too."

The top seven girls in the cross country pro-



Adrienne Matunas

gram compose the varsity squad team. Kristen, Logan said, would typically finish anywhere between 2-5 on the team, performing best under pressure.

Adrienne flirted with the team's top seven runners, and occasionally would be a varsity runner, but was on the junior varsity team most

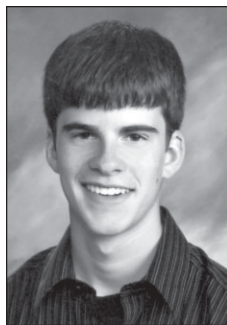
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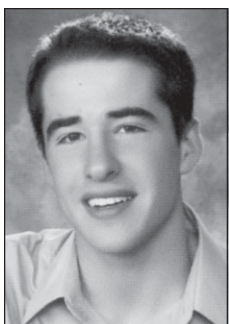
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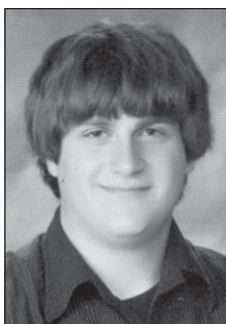
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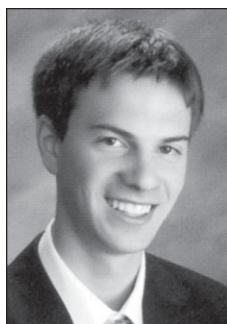
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Popper



Nissley



Ragusa



Jovanelly

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of the time. While Logan said she would be a varsity runner on most other teams, it was her preparation and leadership that stood out to him. "She never complained," he said. "Adrienne's a quiet kid but over the years she's opened up, showed off her sense of humor, and has really become a leader for us."

Logan said he envisions both girls finding success in whatever avenue they choose. "Both of them realize that success comes from everyone pulling together," he said.

The Top 10 in this year's graduating class are: Kirsten, Adrienne, Lynn Kowsz of Hebron, who will attend the University of Connecticut; Kristin Burrington of Andover, who will attend the University of Pittsburgh; Ben Reiner of

Marlborough, who plans to attend Boston College in the fall; Jessica McSweeney of Hebron, who will attend Cornell University; Ryan Popper of Andover, who will also attend Boston College; Daniel Nissley of Marlborough, who plans to attend Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA; Adam Ragusa of Marlborough, who will attend the University of New Haven; and Alyce Jovanelly of Marlborough, who will attend the University of Connecticut.

Commencement exercises for the RHAM High School Class of 2009 will begin at 6 p.m. today, Friday, June 19, on the softball field next to the school, which is located at 85 Wall St. in Hebron. Rain location is in the gym at 6:30 p.m.

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her brother, parents and teachers to stand up and receive a round of applause.

She closed by saying, despite the distance that may separate them in the future, "I know I will always carry a piece of every one of my classmates, teachers, friends, and family in my heart."

Next to the podium was PHS Class of 1959 alum Chris Bluemer, who had come to speak all the way from Atlantis, FL. Last fall, Bluemer contacted Doyen and proposed an idea to have the classes of 2009 and 1959 correspond with each other throughout the year. Though those at the school welcomed the idea, his former classmates were surprisingly uninterested by and large. So, he instead commissioned the help of people he has met over the years. On the Class of 2009's end, the effort was led by Cristina Adams. This ongoing communication between Bluemer and the Class of 2009 led to Bluemer being asked to give the keynote address Wednesday night.

Bluemer donned a pin that said, "Why Be Normal?" which his daughter wore years ago, during a trip to see *Zorba the Greek* on Broadway. He said the opening line of the play was perfect for attending with a young person: "Life is what you do until you die; that is how the time goes by."

When you multiply the 50 years that have passed between the classes of 1959 and 2009 by the 78 members of Wednesday's graduating class, Bluemer said, you get about 4,000 years. "Nearly four millenniums...and my question is: What are you going to do with your slice of that huge chunk of time?"

Bluemer shared with the students his post-

PHS adventures. He said that if his future called him at own graduation, it would tell him he would flunk out of college within a year, "not because you're stupid, but because you just didn't do the work."

However, it would also tell him that within 10 years, he would have graduated from college, worked in Paris for two years (Bluemer said his career involved restructuring failed companies), have been married for nine years, and have three kids, with one already in grammar school. He told the students that if he knew that when he was in their shoes, "I'd be freaked out!"

"I'm not here to tell you what's going to happen," Bluemer said. "Even if I knew, I wouldn't tell you. I wouldn't want to ruin the surprise."

Bluemer said that all too often in life, people throw a dart against the wall, and when no one is looking sneak over and draw a bullseye around where the dart hit. "But life doesn't work like that," he said. Instead, he said you must find a target first, and then take aim.

Having earlier referred to the correspondence project with the Class of 2009 as "dropping a pebble in a pond," Bluemer concluded by returning to those remarks, telling the students, despite where life takes them, to "find some time every now and then to drop a pebble in a pond. Observe and enjoy the ripples. They just might change a life...and it could be yours."

After brief remarks from Board of Education chair Chris Phelps, the students were given their diplomas, one by one. Then after a rendition of the alma mater, turning of the tassles, and an explosion of silly string, the seniors proceeded out just as quickly as they came in.

Football Tournament in Former Resident's Memory

by Chris Seymour

Kenneth Joyce loved getting the kids in the neighborhood together for an impromptu game of football or some pick-up basketball.

This Saturday, June 20, hundreds of people will come together for a flag football tournament in memory of the former Andover resident. The tournament will be held at Riverfront Park on Welles Street in Glastonbury.

The first annual KJ LIFE 5:5 Flag Football Tournament will raise funds for the Kenneth Joyce Foundation, which was established March 21 by Kenneth's brothers and parents "in his loving memory." Flag football games will be played from noon-6 p.m.; check-in is at 11 a.m.

Kenneth, 13, died in a skiing accident in Colorado while on vacation with his family in February 2008. At the time of his death, he was an eighth-grader at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury. He was a member of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

He left his parents, Michael and Pam, and his three brothers: Thomas, 21, who will start his senior year at Tufts University in Boston this fall; Steven, 18, who just graduated Glastonbury High School this week and will start college at Miami University in Ohio in the fall; and Jeffrey, currently a seventh-grader at Smith Middle School. The Joyce family lives in Glastonbury; they moved there from Andover seven years ago.

Kenneth was an energetic and exuberant



youth, who was popular among his classmates. His memorial service at Smith Middle School in late February 2008 was attended by over 1,700 people.

Pam explained the genesis of the foundation in her son's memory. "My husband and I had been thinking about it for a while," she said. "We invited 23 of our friends, but also coaches of Kenneth's and people that were part of his life, over to our house and we had the discussion. And everybody was really anxious to get involved and make it happen."

The foundation's goals are to provide college scholarships; provide financial support to young men and women for opportunities to develop leadership; provide opportunities in athletics; and fund community projects 'along these same ideas.'

According to Pam, Kenneth never actually played flag football, but he was always the one who would gather neighborhood kids together for some competition.

"Kenneth was a big fan of gathering a group of kids in the yard and playing football," she said. "Kenneth loved just kind of playing. 'Come play basketball, come play football, come play lacrosse, come sledding.'"

Kenneth would surely be proud of the gathering slated for Saturday in his honor. "It's more than we expected," said Pam of the number of participants who have pre-registered for the event. "And we've actually still been getting phone calls from people who want to join but we had to close it off. It's been a great, great outpouring."

The flag football event will feature 41 teams with 321 youths entering grades 4-12 next school year. There will be eight youth level teams (grades 4-6), 19 middle teams (grades 7-9) and 14 senior teams (grades 10-12).

There will also be well over 100 volunteers. Explained Pam, "We have 54 volunteers just doing the football stuff, meaning the refs and the field marshals and running the obstacle course. We have the 23 of us that organized it and I bet we have maybe 50 other people for concessions and face painting and registration and all that."

The obstacle course will keep kids busy when they aren't playing flag football. "It's during the downtime, when the kids aren't actually playing games; we're going to have like a little mini combine event with an obstacle course and a 40 yard dash."

Concessions will include hamburgers and hot dogs, sausage and peppers, chicken sandwiches and what the Foundation is calling "KJ LIFE Meals."

Pam explained, "They're going to be a hamburger [or] hot dog and chips. And then we're marketing our own 'KJ LIFE' water, so they'll contain a water bottle and then a little wristband will be kind of taking off on a Happy Meal concept, where the wristband's the little toy."

The wristband will say 'KJ LIFE' on it; LIFE stands for "leadership, inspiration and friend to everyone."

The foundation hopes to make the bottled water a continuous fundraiser. "We contracted through a company in Canada and we've made our own label so we're going to be selling those by the case and by the pallet should anybody wish to buy them in the future," added Pam.

"I'm really hoping to market to some of the other organizations in town," she said, noting "Glastonbury Youth Football has already committed to buying a half a pallet a year."

Robb's Farm Ice Cream in South Glastonbury has donated four big tubs of ice cream for the

event, including a specially-mixed flavor called 'Kenneth's Favorite,' which features a vanilla base with fudge and caramel swirls. "He was a big ice cream fan," Pam said of her son.

The great response from the community for the flag football event has already enabled the Foundation to give out four \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors. One went to a RHAM High School graduate, while three went to Glastonbury High School graduates.

According to Pam, there has been a "huge outpouring of donations." She observed, "We were hoping that the registration fees would cover the cost of the event. At last [check], we had over \$5,000 in registration fees, which is more than covering the costs of our event." In addition, the foundation has received over \$32,000 in donations.

Pam said the foundation "definitely" plans to make the flag football event an annual fundraiser. And, apparently, adults want to get in on the action too. "The biggest request we've had is for a category that adults can play in...graduating seniors, college kids, as well as parents," said Pam, adding that is something the Foundation will consider for next year.

As for future fundraisers, Pam noted that the Foundation hopes to really stress the 'leadership' component of KJ LIFE. "We're hoping in either late fall or winter to have a coaches and captains clinic where we can have some speakers talking about leadership... expectations coaches would have from captains and how kids can try to achieve those expectations and how to grow into becoming a leader," noted Pam. "We really want to involve as many youth organizations as we can."

For more information on the foundation, e-mail kjlif@cox.net or visit www.kjlif.org.

Hebron Officials Putting Final Touches on New Park

by Sarah McCoy

Despite the daily rain and lack of sun, a new athletic field complex on East Street will hold its grand opening in August.

The park, now named Burnt Hill Park, will hold five athletic fields, a pavilion and a park operation building.

Parks and Recreation Department Director Rich Calarco said the project is "on-time" and "within budget."

Currently workers are busy "over seeding" the fields and finalizing the irrigation checks, Calarco said. Calarco expects the septic work to be completed by the end of the month and the bathroom and park building by the middle of July.

"We're pretty much on schedule, despite winter hanging around for longer than usual and all the rain we've been having recently," Calarco said.

He went on to praise his staff and the other town employees who've been pitching in to help keep the work moving. From the Fire Department to the Public Works staff, Calarco said the amount of interdepartmental cooperation

has been outstanding. "This help has kept us within budget," he said.

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) will tour the park to open one of its regularly-scheduled July meetings. It has not yet been determined if the tour will occur on July 2 or 16.

At their meeting last month, the selectmen unanimously supported Burnt Hill Park as the name for the new complex. The name came before the BOS as a recommendation from a committee comprised of representatives from the Parks and Recreation Commission, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Conservation Commission and the Open Space Land Acquisition Committee.

The group solicited park name suggestions at the Hebron Maple Fest in March and committee members then considered the possibilities.

Rob Poudrier, chairman of the Parks and Recreation Commission, said the group was interested in a historic name. However, members wanted the name to steer clear from any contentious issues in town. Many of the sug-

gestions garnered at the Maple Fest dealt with the Peters House, which is located at the entryway to the complex.

"While we are very proud of the story of Cesar and Louis Peters, the Commission felt that given the uncertain status of the home, as well as the sometimes polarizing nature of its preservation, that the park's name should stand on its own," Poudrier wrote in a letter to BOS Chairman Jeff Watt on behalf of the group.

Instead, Poudrier said, the committee opted to recommend Burnt Hill Park as a tribute to Hebron's history. Centuries ago, Native Americans used to farm the property where the park is currently being built. After they were done harvesting the crops the fields would be burned to create compost for the soil.

The area has since become known as the Burnt Hill section of town.

Poudrier and Watt both admitted that the name might bring about some initial confusion as the park isn't located on Burnt Hill Road. However, both men are confident that, with time, the name will stick. "I'm sure it will take

time for people to understand the reasons behind the name and to start associating the name with the park," Watt said. "But as more and more people come from the outside, I feel, the park will become known by its correct name."

Watt also stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission is currently working to install plaques inscribed with the meaning of the park's name throughout the park property to inform visitors of its significance.

The park is located on a 171-acre parcel the town purchased in 2004. In 2007, voters approved a park plan that includes five athletic fields, a pavilion, a parks operation building, and a bathroom. The \$4.5 million project also includes the construction of a trail network along Church Street behind The Church of the Holy Family and rehabbing many of the town's existing facilities.

The Burnt Hill Park Grand Opening will be held on Aug. 15 from 1-7 p.m. (with Aug. 16 as a rain date). Festivities include family games, booths from local businesses, face painting and live entertainment.

Top Two Portland High School Students Look Back

by Michael McCoy

Wednesday night's graduation proved there are 78 young adults in Portland ready to face life. But only two of them topped the class. Brenna McKinley and Momina Afrede are the Portland High School (PHS) Class of 2009's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

Momina, 17, is the daughter of Anwar and Shahana Afrede, and has attended school in Portland ever since preschool.

During high school, Momina said, "I've been really involved with student government." From her freshman year through her junior year, she was secretary of the Student Senate. This past year, she was voted in as president, explaining, "It's kind of like a scaling ladder. I had to show my peers that I'm willing to work." She is also vice president of the 2009 class.

Since she was in eighth grade, Momina has been involved with Upward Bound, a federal program that, among other things, cultivates first generation prospective college students. Through this program, Momina attended Great Hollow Wilderness School every summer, where she roughed it with 15 other girls.

Momina said it was the first time she worked that closely in a group. And she learned there were certain unexpected events that came with the camp, like not showering for a week. "It gets cranky," she chuckled. However, she seems to think it was worth it, commented, "By the end of it, you definitely feel like a family." Also through Upward Bound, she has attended a six-week summer program at Wesleyan University in Middletown ever since her freshman year.

Momina is also vice president of the PHS chapter of the National Honors Society (NHS), and a member of the art club, garden club, and ambassadors club.

One of Momina's fondest memories came late this fall, when she attended the national convention for NHS, held in Orlando, FL. During that time, she and her cohorts had time to visit the parks, but also competed in an academic bowl and composed care packages for the troops.

As far as academics goes, Momina is a big fan of Marietta Shlien. "She's inspired me to pursue a minor in Spanish," she said. She also gave a shout-out to math teacher Bill Varas ("He's a genius") and Charlie Ryan, or "C.R.," her Western Civilization teacher ("He wants to help not just our school, but our community.")

In the fall, Momina will major in biology at UConn, and hopes to eventually become a doctor. "Ever since I was little, I always wanted to be a doctor," and remembers adults getting a kick out of her pronouncing it "woctor" when she was a tot.

But Momina has already taken steps to learn her way around a hospital. During the school year, she has been volunteering several hours a week at Middlesex Hospital. She'll step those hours up this summer, where she will work in the same-day surgery and orthopedic departments.

Of course, the road to becoming a physician is long, and it pays to know what you're getting into. During a National Youth Leadership Forum in medicine she attended as a sophomore, Momina got the chance to witness surgery firsthand. "If I got grossed out it definitely wasn't for me," Momina acknowledged, but fortunately her stomach was strong enough. And that wasn't all. "The best part is," she said, "they let us keep our scrubs."

As for her college choice, she said, "For me, it was no-brainer." One reason for this is her brother, Momin, already has a year under his belt at the University of Connecticut, and is also a biology major. Also, Momina received the school's Day-of-Pride Scholarship, which she said was a grueling process in and of itself. "It's pretty much like applying to college all over again."

Despite her apparent enthusiasm for the future, Momina admitted, "I'm definitely going to miss it," speaking of her days at PHS. "You wish it would have gone by a little bit slower." But, in the same breath she said, "We're opening a new chapter; it's the beginning of adulthood."

And, perhaps above anyone else, Momina is grateful to her parents for her bright future. She praised their "strong work ethic" and called them an "everyday inspiration."

But college comes in the fall; Momina still has the summer in front of her. In addition to continuing work at Middlesex Hospital, Momina looks forward to a summer with her brother, before they both go to UConn. She also plans to stay involved with Upward Bound, figuring, "I want to see other first-generation students get the same opportunity."

Finally, she also plans to get a head start on course work as she takes two UConn classes over the summer. Then, on Aug. 26, it's off to Storrs for freshman orientation.

Brenna McKinley is headed a little bit further west this fall for her college experience; she's off to Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. But at the moment, her attention is on her just-concluded high school experience.

"I just can't believe it's over," Brenna sighed. Brenna grew up in Portland, as well, and is the daughter of Bill and Marlene McKinley. When she wasn't working her way to the top of the class, Brenna split her time between music and sports. During high school, she's been involved in soccer, indoor track, softball (captain of the team this year), as well as the band, which she was vice president off this year. She is also the president of Tri-M, the Musical Honor Society.

Though senior year memories may be the easiest to recall, Brenna tagged making it to the state soccer tournament freshman year as a highlight. The team lost to Valley Regional, but, she remembered, "It seemed like the most important thing in the world." The soccer team hasn't made the tournament since.

This past year, she was the marching band's



Momina Afrede, left, and Brenna McKinley are the salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively, of the Portland High School Class of 2009.

drum major, and will lead them to Washington, D.C. on July 4th weekend, as they represent Connecticut in the national parade. (This honor is a result of Gov. M. Jodi Rell's nominating them for the job after the annual presence at The Big E.)

The trip next month certainly won't be her first time in the capital, and not even her first visit this year. During April vacation, the Class of 2009 took a trip to Washington and saw "every museum possible," according to Brenna. This included the Holocaust Museum, the Spy Museum and a batch of Smithsonians. They also had some free time on the National Mall.

During her senior year, school was made fun, in part, by her creative writing class, taught by Beth McCormick. "I absolutely loved it," she said, adding that the students in the class recently finished writing children's books, which they read to first-graders at Valley View last week.

At Marist, Brenna will study journalism and communications. She hopes eventually to become a magazine editor.

"I've always liked writing. I really like aesthetics and layout design," she said. So, she figured, "I'll combine my interests and make a career out of it."

Brenna said softball was probably her favorite sport to play but doubted she would make the team at Marist, due to it being Division I. However, she still hoped to play intramurals.

Brenna said she entertained the idea of studying at UConn, and was accepted. She was up for the school's Nutmeg Scholarship, but did not end up getting it. But she has no regrets. A visit to Marist prompted her to say, "Oh, wow,

it's the perfect size," and a follow-up visit during the hot weekend in late April confirmed the decision, when she saw students cascading down a slip-and-slide set up on the green. Plus, she earned Marist's Presidential Scholarship, the highest the school awards.

Like her colleague, Brenna also valued her time with Shlien, explaining, "She helped me a lot with my college search" and added that she "supported me with my decision for Marist."

"She treats her students like her own kids," she added.

Brenna also expressed fondness for her assistant soccer coach, Michelle Stotler, who invited all the seniors to her wedding (to James Stotler, a teacher at PHS) last fall.

Last, but not least, she credited her parents. "My parents have been involved with everything I've done," she said, adding they've given her "everything I need and more."

As for her days in Portland, she said, "I'm not actually nostalgic over it," defying her own expectations. But, overall, her feelings are mixed. "I'm excited, but I'm also really scared. I don't know what life's like in New York."

Before she leaves, Brenna will spend the summer as a counselor for the Portland Parks and Recreation Department's Noise Camp, which consists of fun things for the kids like games, field trips and nature walks. Brenna was a counselor last summer, she said, and "ended up loving it," she said. She also plans to work at Angela's Fine Jewelry in town, where she has been employed part-time for the past two years.

Then it's off to Marist, on Aug. 29.

Meet the Bacon Academy Valedictorian and Salutatorian

by Adam Benson

The idea of leaving Bacon Academy draws mixed reactions from the top two students of this year's graduating class.

"I'm ready to move on," Chelsea Poirer, 17, the Class of 2009's salutatorian, said. "It's a bittersweet time, but I'm ready to go to college and get out into the world."

Class valedictorian Jake Barnowski, 18, said he isn't as prepared to let go of the wellspring of memories so quickly.

"I'm not anxious to move on," he said. "I want to go to college, but I'm really scared to leave my friends and everything I've known for 18 years."

On Friday, Jake and Chelsea will lead a class of 225 students into the next phase of their lives and ushering out a group of students who Principal Jeffrey Mathieu said is unique in several ways.

"This class is rare in that they let adults into their lives, and be a part of their development," Mathieu said. "It's that unique of a class, like no other I've ever had."

The current graduating class holds the distinction of being the first in the school's 206-year history to have gone through a mentor/mentee homeroom program, designed to pair a handful of students with an adult role model.

The initiative began in 2006, and has enabled students to forge close relationships with teachers, support staff and other employees at the school.

"It's really to develop those adult relationships so every kid has a mentor to go to so they don't fall through the cracks," Mathieu said.

Mathieu said the spirit of the program spread among the class and into their interactions with

fellow students across grade levels.

"There's a tremendous amount of school pride here," he said. "It's that caring and acceptance that makes this class so different. They cheer and root for each other on the court, on the fields and on the stage."

Jake, 18, the son of Kathy and John Barnowski, plans to attend Northeastern University in Boston and pursue a degree in business management. He also applied to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Connecticut, Boston University and Fordham University in New York.

A member of the golf team all four years of high school, Jake also participated in the National Honors Society, jazz band and Student Council.

Chelsea, the daughter of Lisa and Rennie Poirier, is attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, NY, where she plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering. She also applied to Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, Tufts University in Medford, MA, the University of Connecticut and the University of Rochester in New York.

Chelsea participated in the math, drama and environmental clubs at Bacon.

Despite their disparate college plans, Jake and Chelsea said they're confident their teachers at Bacon Academy and across the Colchester school district gave them the skills they'll need to excel.

Between them, Jake and Chelsea have taken 12 AP classes.

"Even not academically, you learned a lot of life skills at Bacon Academy," Jake said. "A lot of teachers will be in a lesson but go off on a tangent that's really good life advice," Jake said.



Chelsea Poirier, left, and Jake Barnowski are the Bacon Academy Class of 2009 salutatorian and valedictorian, respectively. Chelsea is headed to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in the fall, while John is off to Northeastern University.

Jake's sister – now a junior in college – graduated from Bacon in 2006, and was her class' salutatorian.

Jake said he plans to enjoy his summer and "putting off thinking about college until the last possible minute."

"I'm trying to enjoy the time I still have here,"

he said.

Meanwhile, Chelsea offered up advice for the incoming senior class.

"Enjoy senior year, because it's the last time you'll have with these people," she said.

Bacon Academy's 2009 graduation ceremonies were slated for Friday, June 19.

Cragin Library Director in Colchester Stepping Down

by Adam Benson

After 12 years at the helm of Cragin Memorial Library, Director Siobhan Grogan is stepping down June 26.

Grogan, 54, is moving to Mexico with her husband Spencer and their 5-year-old boxer, Sophie.

"Our kids are grown and we were starting to feel restless," Grogan said Wednesday from her office. "We kind of want to make a change before we get too old to enjoy things."

Grogan joined the library's ranks in 1987 and became director 10 years later. Her biggest accomplishment came in 2002, when she helped oversee the library's expansion from a 4,000-foot building into the 20,000 square-foot facility it is today.

Each year for the past five years, Grogan said, she and her husband have spent a month traveling across Mexico, and have fallen in love with the country's culture, heritage and personality.

Grogan said she might find a job as a librarian at an English-speaking school or in a community library there. Both she and her husband speak conversational Spanish.

"We really like the culture and the people. There's a lot of camaraderie and life in the plazas," Grogan said.

Grogan said she loved her time working with

the town, and expressed confidence the library would continue to thrive.

The facility sees about 400 patrons a day, and has 16,000 cardholders in its database, Grogan said.

Since the economic downturn, Grogan said traffic at the library, located at 8 Linwood Ave., has been even heavier, with more people participating in programs offered through the library and utilizing its computers to take online courses or touch up resumes. Circulation is also up, Grogan said.

"A library is a comforting place, where nobody asks you to state your business or buy anything, and our staff has a kindness toward everybody no matter what their age," she said.

In addition to leaving her job with Cragin, Grogan resigned as the Connecticut Library Association's Region 3 representative and gave up her position as chair of the Connecticut Library Consortium.

Mary Ellen Mahoney, chairwoman of the library's Board of Trustees, said officials will assemble a search committee and hope to have a replacement soon.

"It's going to be incredibly difficult to find someone to fulfill what Siobhan has been doing for the last 22 years. She's been very dedi-

cated, and her programming is phenomenal," Mahoney said. "All the good qualities she displayed are going to be hard to replace."

First Selectman Linda Hodge lamented Grogan's impending departure.

"I think the fact that she's going is awesome, because she's following a dream, but she's going to be missed," she said. "She's brought the library a really long way from when she began."

Hodge said the town has "several qualified people" who have expressed interest in serving as director on an interim basis until a permanent hire is made.

"We are going to take the time and make sure we get it right," Hodge said.

A former schoolteacher and school librarian, Grogan said she enjoyed the challenge of operating a public library over the years.

"I'm proud to have been part of the process. Library work is a lot of fun," she said.

Hodge said town leaders want to make sure Grogan's successor brings to the job the same philosophy and commitment.

"It's one of our most utilized functions in town, and [Grogan has ensured] that the library is a vibrant, living, breathing part of this community," Hodge said.



Siobhan Grogan, Cragin Memorial Library's director since 1987, is leaving her position and moving to Mexico with her husband, Spencer. Her last day is June 26.

RHAM Baseball Coach Heading Up State All-Stars

by Sarah McCoy

Paul Steiner doesn't know who to thank but he wants everyone to know he's grateful.

The longtime RHAM Middle School physical education teacher and current RHAM varsity baseball coach has been named as the head coach for the Connecticut Senior All-Star team. The team will compete against the Massachusetts All-Stars later this month.

"It's pretty cool, considering all the great coaches in Connecticut," Steiner said. "It's a nice honor for me but it's more of a tribute to the former players and assistant coaches we've had here. The recognition is more for our program, not for me."

Steiner was born and raised in East Hartford and went on to graduate from the University of Connecticut with a degree in physical education. While completing his coursework at UConn, he did his student-teaching work in Hebron. After graduating he returned to Hebron and has never left.

From 1974-81, he worked at both Hebron Elementary and Gilead Hill schools in Hebron before accepting a position at RHAM Middle School. Steiner got involved with coaching almost immediately for both baseball and wrestling.

He was named as the varsity baseball coach in 1983 then took a 7 year break to coach at the middle school level. In 1990 Steiner returned to coach the varsity team, a job he still holds today.

He also coached varsity wrestling for 20 years and middle school wrestling for another five before stopping altogether six years ago.

Looking back on his career, Steiner has a difficult time picking out his favorite moments. He fondly remembers his 1993 baseball team that won the Charter Oak Conference championship. Up to that point no RHAM baseball team had ever won a conference title and the 1993 team had to beat a heavily favored Rocky Hill team to take the title.

And there was 2004, a magical year for RHAM baseball. Not only did the team win the Northwest Conference tournament but they went on to win the Class L State Tournament. It is the only state title for the RHAM baseball program.

Then, last week, Steiner's former player A.J. Pollock was chosen in the 2009 Major League Baseball draft. "To have a player recognized by Major League Baseball like that is amazing," Steiner said. "It's so rare, for a coach, to watch one of your players succeed like [Pollock] has. It's been amazing."



Paul Steiner

After graduating six starting seniors the year before, the 2009 RHAM baseball team still managed to qualify for the state tournament. They finished the year 11-10, losing to the eventual state tournament winners, Branford High School, in the opening round of the state tournament. Steiner says he's excited about his current group of players. "We've got some talented kids and we're a pretty young team," he said. "If they continue to work hard special things can happen."

While he's chomping at the bit for the start of next year's high school season, Steiner can now turn his attention to another team. This week, Connecticut's four baseball districts are playing a tournament. The winning team's coach will become Steiner's assistant coach for the Connecticut-Massachusetts game later this month.

The players on that team will be 18 seniors chosen from the four district teams. Steiner expects the team to be chosen next week.

In 2003 Steiner was named head coach of the District 4 team, which won the tournament that year. So, Steiner got to be assistant coach for the Connecticut-Massachusetts game, which was played at Fenway Park that year. A picture of Steiner talking to one of his pitchers during that Fenway experience still adorns his office wall.

"It's a special thing to be a part of this," he said. "I'm just honored to be chosen."

The 2009 Connecticut-Massachusetts Senior All-Star game will be played on June 28 at 1 p.m. at Dodd Stadium in Norwich.

Farmers' Market Ready for Opening in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

Tomorrow, Saturday, June 20, marks the opening of Hebron's own farmers' market. After months of planning, farmers and artisans will set up booths for visitors to come, learn about and buy local products.

"It's exciting," Hebron resident Maureen Murphy said. "It's been a real community effort to start this."

It was Murphy who, months ago, came up with the idea for a Hebron Farmers' Market. She approached the town for their approval and sought to use town owned land. However, due to the construction at the Town Office Building, the best spot available was the south side of Hebron Elementary School.

Wanting to be more in the center of town, Murphy approached the First Congregational Church. Church officials not only liked the idea, they decided to get involved too. Pastor Kevin Zufall reported that the church plans to have a booth throughout the farmers' market season.

"To me it's a win-win situation," he said. "It's an opportunity to mingle and meet people and to let them know that we love and care about them. Plus, it's a way we can support our local farmers"

The Farmers' Market will begin Saturday at 9 a.m. and end at noon. The theme for the week, which will vary throughout the season, is strawberries. Fresh berries, along with vegetables, fibers, eggs, honey, and more will be available from local sources.

The Colchester Civic Orchestra will provide

entertainment for opening day.

Vendors for the event include Hurst Farm from Andover, Botticello Farms and Great Harvest Bread, both from Manchester, Killam & Bassette Farmstead from South Glastonbury, Oliva's Garden in Columbia, and Tara Farm from Coventry.

The Farmers' Market will run each Saturday until Oct. 24. A schedule of events and a listing of what's in season is available on the Farmers' Market website, www.hebronfarmersmarket.com.

Hebron resident Karen Hull has been helping behind the scenes to get the farmers' market off the ground. A farmer with aspirations of making it her career, Hull said she's glad to see something like this in Hebron. "People want to know where their food is coming from," she said. "Plus, all the money goes right back into the community."

Hull also said that within the last week crops have "burst forth," making it an excellent start of the season. "It will only get better when we have some sun to balance all this rain," she said.

According to Murphy, there's been nothing but support for a farmers' market in town. "People everywhere have stepped up to lend a hand," she said. "It seems that every need has been met."

Parking will be available at the First Congregational Church. Visitors are asked not to park at the Town Office Building, to avoid crossing Route 85.

Hebron School Board Sets Plans for Surplus

by Sarah McCoy

Last week the Board of Education (BOE) approved the spending of \$37,000 of anticipated surplus from the 2008-09 fiscal year budget.

Purchases include an \$8,500 database from EASTCONN, parking lot repairs to Hebron Elementary School, \$10,000 worth of "relamping" for both elementary schools, and a tone generator. The balance, which is expected to be around \$16,000, the board authorized to spend on furniture.

"In the past we've given that money back to the town," BOE Chair Jane Dube said. "But, these are items that need to be done and would have been included in the budget if not for the tough economic times."

Dube said the \$37,000 is the best estimate the board has for an anticipated surplus but there won't be anything final until the close of the fiscal year on June 30.

The purchase of the database is a requirement for the school in order to track student progress. This specific type, Dube said, is the most efficient way to complete the task.

The relamping concerns replacing some light fixtures and bulbs in order to be more energy-efficient. There is a long-term expected savings to be realized through this change.

When the portable classrooms were first built at Hebron Elementary School, a wire ran overhead from the main building to the new rooms. Initially the BOE had intended on burying this

wire when the parking lot was improved upon. Feeling that those improvements are still far off, the board felt it appropriate to take care of the wire. The expected cost for the work is \$1,375.

The purchase of a tone generator is related to the bells that start and close the school day. That is a \$775 purchase.

After those expenses the board authorized Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz to spend the remaining of the \$37,000 on furniture. The BOE had developed a furniture replacement cycle about two year ago. However, due the financial climate, the system has yet to be implemented.

The extra money from the current fiscal year will be used to replace those pieces that most need it. "We have desks that are over 25 years old. We've had people fall in the conference room chairs," Dube explained. "This is a safety issue."

The motion to approve all of the expenditures passed unanimously with school board member Kathy Shea abstaining, as she arrived to the meeting in the middle of the discussion. Dube stressed that these are one-time purchases that the board felt, "were needed and not just to use the money up."

The Board of Education will hold their next meeting on Thursday, June 25, at 7 p.m. in the library at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Hebron Police News

6/9-Joseph Currier, 40, of 35 Lafayette Road, Marlborough, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

6/12-Shana Caye, 21, of 6 Quinn Rd., Marlborough, was charged with breach of peace, third-degree criminal mischief and third-degree criminal trespass, State Police said.

Salem Police News

6/16-Sally Abanto, 35, of 319 Hartford Rd., was charged with reckless driving, driving without a license and disobeying a traffic signal, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

6/9-Christopher Turner, 47, of 12 Victoria Dr., was charged with DUI, State Police said.

6/12-Dyan Derringer, 50, of 439 Parum Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening, State Police said.

6/12-Brian Bloom, 48, of East Haddam, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

6/12-Matthew Lavadu, 22, of Glastonbury, was charged with second-degree burglary and second-degree larceny, State Police said.

6/12-Montrel Tompkins, 30, of 209 Center St., Manchester, was charged with risk of injury and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

6/12-Dennis Williams, 31, of Vernon, was charged with disorderly conduct, risk of injury, refusal to submit fingerprints, driving while

intoxicated and operating under a suspended license, State Police said.

6/14-Robert Kuhn, 39, of 1894 Southgate Ln., was charged with possession of cocaine, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

6/14-Timothy Cordova, 24, of 32 Edgewood Dr., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and simple trespass, State Police said.

6/14-Ralph Brown, 48, of Moodus, was charged with evading and operating under a suspended license, State Police said.

6/15-Alan Marshall, 32, of 27 Rudden Ln., was charged with DUI and unsafe movement, State Police said.

Man Killed in Route 2 Motorcycle Crash

A Manchester man was killed in a motorcycle accident near Exit 13 on Route 2 Wednesday, state police said.

Anthony L. Flores, 25, of 91 Elm St. Apt. 407a, Manchester, was driving east on Route 2, police said, when, while traveling around a corner east of Exit 13, he struck the curb and metal guide rail on the left shoulder, police said. He was thrown from the motorcycle and pronounced dead at the scene, according

to Lt. J. Paul Vance. Vance did not know if Flores was wearing a helmet at the time of the crash.

The crash led to Route 2 being closed for a little less than three hours, police said.

Police are still investigating the accident, and anyone with information is asked to call the state police Troop K barracks in Colchester at 537-7500.

Top Two Belltown Students Anxious for the Future

by Michael McCoy

Members of the East Hampton High School (EHHS) Class of 2009 are counting down the days until they become alumni next week, and perhaps none are more excited than the two girls that topped their class: valedictorian Reilly Price and salutatorian Audrey Saunders.

Audrey, daughter of Laura and Michael Sanders, has lived in town since she was five. During high school, she has been on the Model United Nations, serving on their executive board (which included trips to the University of Massachusetts and Yale University) written for the EHHS student newspaper, *The Bellringer*, and has been a part of the National Honor Society, the Interact Club and the Ambassadors. She has even published news stories online.

As far as school goes, Audrey enjoyed the challenge of her Advanced Placement (AP) U.S. History class, explaining, "Getting a five was nice after those long essays we had to write." (A five is the highest possible score on AP tests.) This year, she also loved her AP Literature class, taught by Cristin Keyes Flannery, and her French class, taught by Emily Frederick. Frederick, Audrey said, "really got me to understand French."

Last fall, both girls went on the class trip to Washington, D.C., which included stops at virtually all the Memorials, various Smithsonian Museums and the "Newseum," a new museum that deals with, as the name suggests, news. They also spent a day in Baltimore. In fact Audrey and Reilly even roomed together.

Audrey also loved going to sporting events with her friends. "Basketball is a huge party of our school," she said, and also reminisced about huddling with friends during cold soccer games. Audrey also wondered what would become of the tennis team with four seniors on their way out.

Reilly agreed with her classmates' enthusiasm for sports: "I think, in part, we have an athletic class." She pointed the junior prom as a cohesive experience for the class, and said it primed everyone to show up to dances more often.

Audrey said she "had the most challenging classes this year." She said there is a perception of senior year being "the year of relaxation," but said she found this not to be the case

at all, and added, "The teachers didn't go easy on us."

Audrey admitted, "yeah, senioritis was a big problem for me," and added, "I never used to be a procrastinator before senior year."

Both Audrey and Reilly will speak at next week's EHHS graduation, which will be held Tuesday, June 23, at 6:30 p.m., in front of the high school, which is located at 15 North Maple St. (Rain location is inside the high school gym.) Audrey said she has a mixture of excitement and anxiety about her speech. "I'm kind of nervous I'll mess up," she said, but added, optimistically, "I have a chance to be truly involved with graduation."

Reilly, the daughter of Molly and David Price, has spent her whole life in Belltown. She has an 11-year-old sister named Abby.

For all four years of high school, she has played soccer and tennis (and was captain this past year), and was also on the Model United Nations. She was also a member of the Ambassadors, National Honor Society and the Yearbook Club. Also, she has volunteered on Friday afternoons at the public library, helping with a program for kids.

Like Audrey, she loved her AP U.S. History class, which she took as a junior, and also mentioned AP Art, citing "the relaxed nature of the class."

Reilly also said senior year was nothing to sneeze at, but said she "found it a lot more manageable than last year," despite having three AP courses to juggle.

Of course, leaving behind an alma mater yields mixed emotions, but when asked how they felt as a whole, both girls simultaneously chirped, "Definitely excited."

"I can't want to leave," Audrey said, figuring she was now at a "standstill."

"I'm floating, and I'm ready to move on," she said. But don't think she's not sentimental, as she added, "Of course we're both going to miss our friends and family and everything, but we'll see them again."

"I feel like I've gotten a lot out of this school, but now I've outgrown it," said Reilly who, after visiting 20 schools and applying to 12, decided to attend Bucknell University in Lewisburg, PA, in the fall. She plans to double major, in environmental science and political science.



Reilly Price, left, and Audrey Saunders are the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, for the East Hampton High School Class of 2009. They each will speak at the school's graduation ceremony next Tuesday

"It came down to the scholarship I got," she said of the school, explaining that it came down to Bucknell and Lehigh University in Bethlehem, PA. "I made my decision last minute."

Next fall, Audrey is bound for Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH, where she plans to double major in sociology and English.

Audrey said she's "always been interested in journalism" and called herself a "pretty passionate reader of *Glamour*, specifically [contributor] Marianne Pearl." In addition, she said she tended to take up political issues in her writing for *The Bellringer*.

Audrey commented that every time she tells someone she plans to major in English, they assume she wants to teach. But, she figured, "There's so many other things you can do with an English degree."

Audrey applied to seven schools, and said, "I ended up getting wait-listed at almost every one." So, "I decided to go with a school that really wants me" and said now she is happy the

process worked out the way it did.

Before she leaves for college in late August, Audrey hopes to spend time with her friends and family, while working at Rainbow Toys in town.

Reilly has spent multiple summers at a "rustic all-girls camp in northern Ontario," which she said has left her with a love of nature. In addition, she said, "I love arguing about politics." So, in an attempt to combine these interests, she hopes to become an environmental lawyer. One of the things that drew her to Bucknell was the abundance of field study their program includes, and during her freshman year, she will travel to Death Valley in California.

This summer, Reilly has trips planned to Martha's Vineyard, Block Island and Canada. As for work, she offered this plea: "I'm looking for a job anywhere, so please hire me if you're reading this." It's doubtful she'll have to do them same in four years with two degrees under her belt.

No Charges Filed Against Bartender in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

No charges will be filed against the bartender at a local bar, after the establishment was investigated for allegedly serving alcohol to an East Hampton teen who died in a March accident.

On March 26, Robert Kochuk, 19, was driving on North Main Street, lost control of his truck and struck garbage cans and a tree, according to East Hampton Police. He did not survive the crash.

A week later, Kochuk's friends and family sent a letter to the Connecticut Liquor Commission, carbon copied to several other state and local officials, including Gov. M. Jodi Rell. The letter accused Dalton's Pub, located in town, of serving Kochuk alcohol that night; the letter, which was signed by about 200 people, also alleged that serving minors was not an uncommon occurrence at Dalton's.

Town Council Chair Melissa Engel sent a similar letter to the same officials, which also stated that Dalton's has been accused of serving to minors in the past.

Meanwhile, police have been piecing together the events leading up to Kochuk's death.

After receiving toxicology and reports and conducting many interviews, police said that last month they applied for an arrest warrant for East Hampton resident Bonnie Rau, who police said was tending bar the night of the ac-

cident. The charges were for serving liquor to a minor and serving an intoxicated person.

However, early this month, the state's attorney's office rejected the warrant application. East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said the warrant was denied on the grounds that evidence was not conclusive that Rau knew Kochuk was underage, since he provided a phony identification.

Reimondo said the investigation concluded that Kochuk consumed alcohol at Dalton's and was there "for a period of time."

Sgt. Michael Green, who led the investigation, said Kochuk, who worked as a diesel mechanic, got off of work in Windsor around 10 p.m., and got to Dalton's around 10:45 or 11 p.m., and stayed there until sometime after 1 a.m. Green could not specify exactly how much alcohol was in Kochuk's system, but called it a "high level" and well over the legal limit of 0.08 percent.

Green said Kochuk probably had something along the lines of three beers and one shot at Dalton's, but said police suspected he had more alcohol elsewhere.

When asked if claims of this sort against Dalton's were a common thing, Green said, "There's a lot of conjecture, especially in a small town like this."

As for the interview with Rau, Green said, "She seemed very genuine," and she told po-

lice that "without even prompting him, [Kochuk] provided ID."

Green also said the liquor commission is still conducting an investigation of their own.

Caty Lynch is the owner of Dalton's Pub and said, "I couldn't feel more horrid about the whole incident." But, she said in no uncertain terms, "Dalton's is not a place that serves minors."

Furthermore, she said, "Bonnie is one of the best carders in the world."

She said the bartenders at Dalton's are trained exhaustively on carding, the process of verifying people's IDs. She said she recently carded a set of twins, who actually ended up being 32 years old. She said, anyone who appears under 30 is supposed to be carded, a practice she said they strictly adhere to.

"The day that we sell to minors is the day that a bartender gets fired," she said.

Lynch said Dalton's does not even let someone step up to the bar to order multiple drinks without seeing IDs for everyone that person is ordering for, certainly not a length that every bar goes to.

Lynch said there is often a lot of hostility from customers when being carded, but said they do it nonetheless. Recently, she said some one was at Dalton's for a birthday party and became belligerent when asked or identifica-

tion. Lynch said she made him leave the bar, and he even elbowed her on the way out.

She said the bar often offered rides home to intoxicated people and said, "If I'm here I'll take someone home. "We do the best that we can." However, Lynch said, unfortunately, fake IDs have become far more sophisticated in recent years, thanks to the Internet.

Lynch also said that Rau asserted Kochuk was not intoxicated when left the bar. "I don't think we're responsible for what happened." However, she seemed far from indifferent. Lynch said a drunk driver actually killed her sister, so "I couldn't be more sympathetic or empathetic."

"It is tragic what happened," she said. You just can't get a child back. You could put me in a strait jacket if I lost my son."

Rau said Kochuk presented a very realistic-looking fake ID, and also acted like he was of legal age, and not doing anything wrong; she said he remained at the bar after ordering and casually conversed with other customers.

Rau also reiterated what Lynch said, that Kochuk did not appear drunk when he left the bar.

Rau said the whole thing is a sad situation, and mentioned that she has young kids of her own. "I would never do anything to hurt anybody," she said.

Rell's Budget Proposal Spells Trouble for AHM

by Sarah McCoy

If Gov. M. Jodi Rell's latest budget proposal is adopted, AHM Youth and Family Services' budget is in even more dire straits than expected.

At the beginning of the month, Rell announced her proposed budget. Visibly absent from that budget was a \$6 million grant previously given to support the 62 family resource centers across the state.

AHM Director Joel Rosenberg said that, historically, this money is split evenly, with each youth service bureau receiving approximately \$100,000. Earlier this year that money was reduced by \$5,000. Now, however, the AHM's entire Family Resource Center (FRC) program is up in the air with only a few weeks until the start of the next fiscal year.

"The state has made such an investment on family resource centers in the past," Rosenberg said. "We agreed with them that it was a program worth supporting. It's frustrating and disappointing to be receiving this news at this point."

The AHM FRC began over 10 years ago, according to Rosenberg.

AHM has experienced sizable financial hardships in the past year. The Town of Hebron appropriated an additional \$20,000 to the youth bureau this past winter and all three member towns have increased funding for the 2009-10 fiscal year. "We were struggling before this," Rosenberg said of Rell's proposed budget.

AHM's FRC, which is for families with children from birth to age 5, takes many different forms, all based on the goal of providing comprehensive child development services and family support. Some aspects of the program include home visits to equip parents to be their child's first and most influential teacher, the Play and Learn program to prepare families for entry into a school system, and for referrals to other agencies if children need additional support.

"Everyone touts prevention and early intervention. Here's a program that's doing those things," Rosenberg said. "The Family Resource Center is a proven bridge builder."

For instance, a couple of years ago, FRC staff partnered with Gilead Hill School in Hebron to write a grant to promote early literacy and getting families comfortable with the school environment. Other referrals are often made to speech pathologists, occupational or physical therapists, or psychologists in order to provide the correct interventions for kids as early as possible.

"It offers peace of mind that I'm doing the right thing for my kids," said Brenda Bula, a Marlborough resident, and participant in the

Play and Learn group with her two daughters. "The group has supported me through the joys and difficulties of parents. It would be a devastating loss to the community."

State Senator Edith Prague (D-19th), whose 11-town district includes Andover and Hebron, agrees. "What a disaster," she said of the absence of family resource center funding in Rell's proposed budget. "This is a very important issue. Just because it's written out of the Governor's budget doesn't mean it's written out of ours," Prague said of the budget that the Democrats are currently working on.

The legislative session is set to reconvene today and Prague hopes, at that time, there will be more answers than questions regarding the budget. One thing's for sure, Prague said state democratic officials are not accepting the Governor's proposed budget and they are developing their own proposal.

State Representative Pam Sawyer (R-55th), whose district includes all three AHM towns, said she plans to fight for family resource center funding but also stated the difficulties facing state politicians as they attempt to both meet needs and control spending. "We're looking at a 21 percent deficit this year and a 24 percent deficit next year," she said. "Youth service bureaus aren't alone in the spending cuts."

Sawyer went on to say that she believes in the program as it offers things no other programs do. "They should receive state funding," she said.

Becky Murray, FRC Program Coordinator, couldn't say one way or another if the program would continue to operate if state funding were taken away but, she did say that the program "would have to take a very, very different form."

For instance, the home visits are based on a curriculum that requires the visits to be free. That, Murray said, couldn't happen. "We would need to increase or create fees for our users," she said.

Increasing costs is one thing that Murray wants to avoid because, she said, it's often the people who can't afford the costs that need the most support. "Plus," Rosenberg added, "It's been AHM's policy not to turn people away based on their inability to pay. What do we do then? How can we still meet our commitments?"

Either way Rosenberg is eager for a decision. "Even if the answer is 'no,' we need to hear it," he said. "We can't operate in this current state of limbo."

The state legislature has yet to approve a spending budget for the coming fiscal year, which begins on July 1.

Residents, Officials Look at Plans for Marlborough Business Park

by Adam Benson

Now the real work begins.

Residents and town officials on Wednesday got a final look at design plans for a proposed 76-acre business park in Marlborough's north-east end, after months of meetings between a consultant firm and the town's land-use boards and commissions.

Standing in front of a map showing a full build-out of mixed-use commercial and industrial properties and a maintained thoroughfare connecting Jones Hollow Road with the grounds, Economic Development Commission (EDC) chairman Greg Servodidio urged those in attendance to stay active in the process but also praised the work already achieved on the ambitious project.

"This is another important milestone, but it's just that. It's yet another milestone on a long journey which may at some point in the future look like that, but there are still a lot of steps to be taken," he said. "I think what's most significant is the feedback from you all, and our land-use boards are incorporating that into zoning plans."

Officials said following the presentation they'll spend the next few months drafting zoning ordinances, permitting requirements and other logistical priorities necessary to attract new industry to the area before offering another update to the public sometime in the fall.

The site, located on more than 100 acres at the northeast interchange of routes 2 and 66, has been targeted as a host for a business park since 2000.

Marlborough owns roughly 76 acres of the parcel, and town leaders are hoping to work with adjacent property owners to fully develop the site.

"This is a shared process. I don't envision the town coming out and bonding this," said Planning and Development Director Peter Hughes.

Vince McDermott, a representative of the

Cheshire-based consulting firm Milone and MacBroom, said the property's proximity to two major roadways plus its topographic and geological features makes it a prime site for commercial development.

"The real piece here is, how much can fit on this property in a sensitive way," he said. "We see it as a scale that is fairly suburban in nature rather than urban. We see sidewalks on the main road as well as a trail system through the open space areas that divide the areas for development."

Officials said Wednesday it would cost the town about \$2 million to develop its property without the cooperation of surrounding landowners, though Hughes and McDermott said they were confident that once a tangible plan is in place, agreements could be forged via land swaps or joint funding that would allow the project to take on its full scope.

"We've been in discussions with these people since 2001, and the conversations we've always had are partnerships, joint funds and trade-offs," Hughes said.

While the proposed park could move forward without the added land, McDermott said the site could appear less attractive to potential investors that way.

"For the overall success of this project, coming across [private] land is critical," he said. "One approach on a project like this is to put some carrots out there to make it attractive, and land swaps are the enticement."

Hughes said the town's parcel already boasts three-phase power and high-speed communication capabilities, and there designs to bring sewer pumps into the area, though it could function with septic tanks.

A set timetable for construction still has yet to be determined. Officials plan to hold another public information session on the project in the fall. That one would focus on the permitting and zoning process.

No Charges Filed Against O'Rourke

by Michael McCoy

The state's attorney's office denied an arrest warrant request Tuesday that would have charged State Representative Jim O'Rourke (D-32nd) with criminally negligent homicide.

O'Rourke, 45, is a lifelong Cromwell resident. His district includes Portland, Cromwell and a small portion of Middletown.

The potential charges were in connection with the Jan. 22 death of Rocky Hill resident Carol Jean Sinisgalli. Within days of her body being found by a cross country skier, O'Rourke was questioned, and in late April, reports surfaced saying O'Rourke may be arrested in relation to her death. On May 1, State House Speaker Christopher Donovan suspended O'Rourke from his position as Deputy House Speaker.

In a lengthy report, issued June 16, the office State's Attorney for the Judicial District of New Britain, said it had determined O'Rourke arrived at Digger McDuff's, a Cromwell bar, around 11 p.m. Jan. 21, after attending a UConn basketball game.

At some point, the report alleged, Sinisgalli assaulted two bar patrons, ripped her coat and threw it in the trash. After a series of confrontations, Sinisgalli was asked to leave. Just minutes later, O'Rourke got up to leave, but staff asked him to use the rear entrance, since Sinisgalli was out front, the report said.

Police arrived shortly after, but the bar declined to press charges against Sinisgalli, the report said. She had left behind her shoes, a purse, a cell phone, and a zippered hood to a jacket, according to the report.

The report said that when O'Rourke was leaving, Sinisgalli ran toward his car and "without being invited, opened the rear door of his vehicle, got into the back seat and said she needed a ride to her home in Rocky Hill." O'Rourke agreed, since she appeared intoxicated, the report said.

According to the report, O'Rourke asked Sinisgalli where she lived and she refused to speak to him, so he called Joseph Cardillo, a mutual friend, and found that she lived on the other side of town.

Multiple calls were made to Cardillo that night, the report said, and a portion of one of those was recorded on Cardillo's answering machine. According to the report, the portion

showed O'Rourke addressing Sinisgalli, saying, "Alright, stop it. You want to get out, get out that side. Alright then stop f---ing around with s---t back there."

During another phone call to Cardillo, he found that Sinisgalli lived in a condominium off of Dividend Road. While on that road, the report said, Sinisgalli "lunged between the seats, pulled on the rearview mirror and the heating vents and knocked [O'Rourke's] glasses off." At this, he stopped the car, and she promptly fled the vehicle, ran across the road and climbed over a snow bank, the report said. The temperature at this time was 14 degrees, and the report said O'Rourke did not know she was barefoot.

O'Rourke then drove to Cromwell.

The next afternoon, the report said, Sinisgalli's body was found, clad in a sweater and blue jeans. An autopsy deemed that she died of hypothermia, and had a blood alcohol level of .08 percent, the report said. The autopsy also determined the presence of cocaine in her system, according to the report.

O'Rourke contacted police on Jan. 23, the report said.

The report concluded that O'Rourke had no legal duty to protect Sinisgalli from harming herself. In the report, the state's attorney's office determined, "The imposition of such a duty, with the potential of criminal liability, would have the effect of discouraging people from giving a ride home to an intoxicated person...."

The report added that an absence of "proximate cause" existed, which would mean the death would not have occurred "but for the criminally negligent acts of the defendant." The report said evidence to this effect was not conclusive.

The report concluded, "After a complete review of the police affidavit, the investigative reports and the relevant law, it is the conclusion of State's Attorney [Scott] Murphy that there is insufficient evidence to charge James O'Rourke with the crime of Criminally Negligent Homicide. The arrest warrant application is therefore denied."

As has been the case throughout this ordeal, neither O'Rourke nor his attorney John Donovan responded to phone calls.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

The weather has sure been lousy lately, hasn't it?

The first day of summer is Sunday, at least according to the calendar; if you just went by the way it felt outside, you'd think fall was just around the corner.

It's been cooler than normal all month, and it's not like May was much better either. Temperatures have struggled to reach 80, and most days have been in the 60s and low 70s. Night-time temps have ranged from cool to almost chilly; this week I even closed my windows and donned long-sleeve shirts after returning home from work.

And then of course there's the rain. When it hasn't been raining it's at least looked like it's going to. Sunny days have been few, and fairly far between. That's also helped to keep things cool. Because of the time of year, when the sun's out things can warm up in a hurry. I've noticed lately that, when we do muster up a sunny day, the people clad in shorts and tank-tops sometimes come out, even though it hasn't really been shorts and tank-tops weather, even with that sun. I've got to applaud those dressers, though; it's almost like they're trying to *will* summer into arriving. I wish them well.

These cool temperatures would be perfectly acceptable for September, or even April. But we're entering into late June. Things should have warmed up by now. Now, I know this is Connecticut. Summers here are never as long as they are in, say, Texas. I realize this. But I'm not asking for the 90s, or even the mid-80s. I'd settle for the normal high this time of year, which is around 80. If the weather forecast is any indication, we won't come anywhere close, for days. According to NBC 30, it was supposed to rain all day yesterday, Thursday, with high temperatures in the low 60s. And this whole weekend – and into early next week – is supposed to be damp and dreary, with highs in the upper 60s to perhaps 70.

Yes, that's *high* temperatures. In the upper 60s. In late June. It's pathetic.

Happy first day of summer, everyone.

* * *

This week's *Rivereast* features the final "From the Superintendent's Desk" column from Marlborough Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo. As most of you know (well, most Marlborough residents anyway), Sal is starting as schools superintendent for the Wallingford school system on July 1. This week's column is a nice farewell piece; I encourage you to read it.

I'll miss Sal. I admit, my dealings with him have been fairly minimal over the past two years (I leave most of the talking up to my reporters), but when I have had occasion to speak with him, I've found it to be a pleasant experience. He's always been cordial, courteous and helpful. And none of my reporters who have dealt with him have ever had any bad things to say either. He's been a good guy, and a good superintendent for Marlborough as well.

When I think of Sal, an incident from a couple of months ago stands out. It was a Thursday morning, and press time was fast approaching. I had recently learned of Sal's possible departure for the Wallingford school system, and I called him up to speak with him about it. Sal hadn't really been expecting the call. The Wallingford school board hadn't yet formally voted on Menzo, and he was waiting to make a public announcement until after the hiring was official (it should be noted that he wasn't keeping anybody on the Marlborough school board in the dark; as both he and board members made clear to me at the time, they had been kept abreast of his application process with the Wallingford school system). But there I was, on the phone, kinda throwing a bit of a wrench into things. Sal still didn't say *too* too much about it, but he did verify some facts for me and, as always, was nothing but kind and helpful.

In the past, as a town news reporter, I've occasionally had officials make it clear to me they were rather annoyed that the story I was working on disrupted their plans, that it interfered with the timetable they had worked out in their mind of when they were going to discuss the matter with other town officials, or the public at large. And while I had obviously done that with Sal, he didn't seem angry. He understood that I had a job to do, and he was kind and cooperative throughout the whole thing.

So, I wish Sal luck. I truly appreciate all the help he's given me and my staff over the years. I hope he finds continued success in Wallingford.

* * *

When I was a kid, today's date, June 19, always stood out a little to me. As is likely the case with most people my age, I was a big fan of the *Garfield* comic strip growing up. I owned (and read, and re-read) many books collecting the strips, owned several Garfield plush toys, and watched the *Garfield and Friends* Saturday morning cartoon show every week. June 19 is the day the first *Garfield* strip was published, and the comic would always make something of a to-do about "Garfield's birthday" in the days leading up to that date. Reading *Garfield* in the newspaper after school was a must in those days anyway, but particularly around the time of the birthday strips.

Of course, these days I'm not quite as fanatical, mainly because I don't read *Garfield* that often anymore. I just simply don't find it as funny as I used to. Perhaps the strip's not as good as it once was, or perhaps it's simply because, well, I'm no longer a 10-year-old child. (Probably the latter.) But, regardless of the reason, *Garfield's* no longer must-read material, and June 19 no longer carries the weight it once did.

But I still remember when it did, and that memory brings a nice, nostalgic smile to my face at this time of year.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Hebron

Rocco Thomas Piazza

Rocco Thomas Piazza, 24, of Amston, passed away unexpectedly Monday, June 15, at his home. Born May 22, 1985 in Hartford, he was a son of T. Rocco and Susan (Milano) Piazza of Amston.

Rocco was a graduate of RHAM High School in Hebron. He worked as a landscaper for his brother's company, Remedy Properties. He was an active member of the Young Democratic Party in Middlefield and a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester. Rocco loved his pets, and enjoyed skiing, hunting and fishing, especially at Salmon River.

Including his parents he is survived by his grandmother, Kathryn Milano of Marlborough; two brothers, James O'Connell of Amston and Ryan O'Connell of East Hampton; a sister, Kathryn Piazza of Amston; a special aunt, Cher Irizarry of Lebanon and aunts, Laurie Milano, Linda Lawton, Ann Parsons, Jeanette Elwood; an uncle, Mike Piazza; his girlfriend, Liz Gionfriddo; his best friends, Jason Noble of Colchester and Mike Temple of Amston; and numerous cousins, family members and friends.

Friends called Thursday, June 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was today, Friday, June 19, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial followed in New St. Andrew Cemetery.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Rocco T. Piazza Memorial Fund c/o Savings Institute, 115 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Lynne Marie Felix

Lynne Marie (Lecce) Felix, 44, of Colchester, beloved wife of Michael, passed away Tuesday, June 16, at the Marlborough Health Care Center. Born July 15, 1964, in Norwich, she was the daughter of Robert and Carol (Tribensky) Lecce Sr. of Salem. On Sept. 25, 1993, she and Mike were married at the Cathedral of St. Patrick in Norwich.

Mrs. Felix was a Medical Assistant at the former Liberty Specialty Care Center in Colchester for many years. She was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester and enjoyed volunteering both at her church and work, especially with the elderly.

In addition to her parents and her loving husband of 15 years, she leaves her son, Christopher at home; her brother, Robert Lecce Jr. of Old Mystic; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a brother, Jeff.

Friends called Wednesday, June 17, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral assembled Thursday morning, June 18, at the funeral home before the celebration of the funeral liturgy at St. Andrew Church that afternoon, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli, officiating. Interment followed in the Salem Green Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Lynne Felix Memorial Fund, c/o The Savings Institute, 63 Norwich Ave., Colchester, CT 06415.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Helen Lepak

Helen Lepak, 89, wife of the late Joseph Lepak Sr. of Colchester, formerly of Newington, passed away on Sunday, June 14, in Marlborough. She was born on June 10, 1920, in Colchester, a daughter of the late August and Teofilia Raczewski Harackiewicz. Helen love animals and enjoyed watching her birds around her property, she enjoyed doing cross word puzzles and was an avid Red Sox fan.

She is survived by her son Joseph "Joe" Lepak and daughter-in-law Mary Stackpole of Colchester; several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her brother August Gorreck Jr. and her sister Estelle Gorreck.

Funeral service were held Thursday, June 18, from the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Church, Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment followed in St. Joseph Cemetery. Visitation was held Wednesday, June 17.

Helen's wishes were for any memorial donations please donate to the CT Humane Society of Newington.

Andover

Richard G. Stolzenbach

Richard G. Stolzenbach, 81, of Andover and formerly of Wethersfield, beloved husband of the late Shirley (Hitchcock) Stolzenbach, passed away Saturday, June 13. He was born Dec. 11, 1927, in Hartford, the son of the late R.H. and Edith (Carlson) Stolzenbach.

Richard received his bachelor's degree at Wittenberg University where he was a member of the Lambada Chi Alpha fraternity. He was a United States Army veteran serving during the Korean War and was a member of the American Legion in Wethersfield. Richard was also a member of the First Congregational Church in Andover, the Andover Senior Citizens, and the Newington Ski Club. He frequently donated blood to the Red Cross.

Richard is survived by his two daughters, Ann Cilfone and her husband James of Willington and Lynn Stolzenbach of Hopedale, MA; and two grandchildren, Miranda and Joshua Cilfone.

He was predeceased by a brother, Roy Stolzenbach.

Funeral services were Tuesday, June 16, at the First Congregational Church, 359 Route 6, Andover. Burial followed in Townsend Cemetery, Andover. Calling hours were Monday, June 15, at the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel, 277 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield.

In lieu of flowers donations in Richard's memory may be made to the American Red Cross, Charter Oak Chapter, P.O. Box 5003 Hartford, CT 06102 or the VFW Wethersfield Post 7827, 43 Linbergh Drive, Wethersfield, CT 06109.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit www.desopo.com.

East Hampton

Eugene M. Cunningham

Eugene "Gene" M. Cunningham, 64, of East Hampton and Milford, died Sunday, June 14, at Milford Hospital, surrounded by his family and partner and longtime companion, Linda Pierpont. He was born in Middletown, the son of the late Winfield and Mary (Laverty) Cunningham. He was most recently employed with the State of Connecticut as a telecommunications engineer.

Gene worked for 24 years as a pyrotechnician and chief pyrotechnician for Fireworks by Grucci. He was licensed in the following states: Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York City, NY, Rhode Island, Maine, Maryland, and Nevada, as well as Puerto Rico working for Fireworks by Grucci. He traveled to the Bahamas, China, Puerto Rico, and all over the United States to put on fireworks shows. He participated in five presidential inauguration fireworks show productions and the 2000 winter Olympics fireworks. He was a member of the Pyrotechnic Guild International, the New Hampshire Pyrotechnic Association, the Pyrotechnic Artists of Western Pennsylvania, and the founding member of the Connecticut Pyrotechnic Association.

He is survived by his son, Eugene M. Cunningham II and his wife Johnna of Rockfall; and four grandchildren, Sean, Jacob, Amanda and Morgan.

He was predeceased by a son, Christopher Cunningham.

Funeral services were held today, Friday, June 19, at 10 a.m. from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown followed by an 11 a.m. Funeral Liturgy at St. Patrick's Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton. Burial will be in St. Patrick's Cemetery, Lakeview St., East Hampton. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Thursday, June 18.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Helen and Harry Gray Cancer Center, 80 Seymour St., PO Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06102.

Hebron

Dorothy Ellis

Dorothy (White) Ellis, 95, of Hebron, beloved wife of the late Kenneth W. Ellis and mother of the late Katherine (Ellis) Jobin, died peacefully in her sleep Friday, June 12, at Marlborough Health Care Center. Dorothy was born Sept. 28, 1913 in Coventry, daughter of the late Frederick S. and Elizabeth (Armstrong) White.

She had resided in Hebron for the past 67 years. With her husband, she raised six children, along with giving her time to the Gilead Congregational Church where she was a longtime active member, who loved music and sang in the choir for many years. Dorothy was a compassionate person who hosted many foreign students through a farm exchange program. Dorothy was an avid reader who loved nature and her family. Her family would like to thank the caregivers at her home and at Marlborough Health Care Center for their dedicated care and compassion given to their mother. Dorothy was a gentle, sweet lady to the end.

She is survived by her loving children, son, Edward "Ned" and his wife, Renee Ellis of Hebron, four daughters and their husbands, Gwen and Frank Mund of Hebron, Chris and Buz Irish of Bolton, Connie and Timothy Wilson of Colorado, and Marilyn and Greg Swenson of New Hampshire; son-in-law, Paul Jobin of New Hampshire; brother, Frederick White and his wife, Bertha, of Coventry; sister, Mary Allen, of New Hampshire; 17 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Saturday, June 20, at 11 a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church, Route 85, Hebron, with Rev. Denise Esslinger officiating. Burial will follow in Gilead Cemetery. Family and friends may call today, Friday, June 19, from 5-8 p.m. at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in Dorothy's name may be made to Gilead Congregational Church Building Fund.

Portland

Mary T. Berloni

Mary T. Quirk Berloni, 88, wife of the late Albert A. Berloni, formerly of Scenic Dr., Portland, died Saturday, June 13, at the Middlesex Health Care Center in Middletown. Born in Portland, May 25, 1921, a daughter of the late Patrick and Delia Manning Quirk, she was a lifelong Portland resident. She had been employed as a secretary at Connecticut Valley Hospital until her retirement. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

She is survived by her daughter, Judy Miller of Ivoryton; her son, Robert Berloni and his wife Susan of East Hampton; her grandchildren, Kenneth Miller, William Miller, David Miller, Timothy Miller, Christine Miller, Robert Berloni, Michael Berloni, and Ryan Berloni; her seven great-grandchildren; her sister Margaret Eimerman of North Haven; and several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her sisters, Katherine, Anna and Nora, and her brothers Patrick, Edward, James and Nicholas.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Tuesday, June 16. Funeral services were held Wednesday from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and then in the Church of Saint Mary where Rev. John F. Ashe celebrated a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment followed in St. Mary's Cemetery.

East Hampton

Barbara J. Scherp

Barbara J. Scherp, 72, of East Hampton, widow of the late Edward Scherp, died Friday, June 12, at Middlesex Hospital. Born. Aug. 1, 1936, in Windsor, VT, she was the daughter of the late Howard and Ruth (Parker) Fuller.

She had worked at Cobalt Lodge as a cook for more than 25 years. She was active in the Women's Auxiliary of the East Hampton VFW and the East Hampton American Legion.

She is survived by her four sons, Matthew Scherp, Edward Scherp, Stanley Scherp and Randy Scherp; two daughters, Linda Scherp and Diane Prince; four brothers, Richard Shambo, Leslie Shambo, Clifford Shambo and Eddie Shambo; a sister, Ethel Shambo; seven grandchildren and one great-grandson.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, June 16, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be private in Felchville Cemetery in Reading, VT. Friends called at the funeral home on Tuesday evening before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton VFW Post 5095, North Maple Street, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Gail Virginia Johnson

Gail Virginia (Guild) Johnson of East Hampton was taken away from her beloved family and friends unexpectedly on Friday, June 12, at the age 59. She was the loving wife of Ted Johnson for the past 39 years. She is survived by a daughter, Erika Johnson, her significant other Harry Cooper and his son, Eric. She is also survived by her son, Kristof Johnson and wife, Emily. She leaves behind her two most precious treasures, her two granddaughters, Libby and Gracie.

Gail was born in Middletown to Warren and Virginia (Ginny) Guild. She is survived by her siblings: Elwin Guild, and wife Joan Geissman, Roger and Elaine Guild, Roy and Joann Guild, and her beloved sister Bonnie (Guild) Jackson. She leaves behind 11 nieces and nephews. She is also survived by her Aunt Angellina Young and family.

Gail's family is particularly grateful to Pat Swartz for the special bond she shared with Gail.

Gail will be joining both her beloved parents and two nephews in eternal peace.

Gail enjoyed many things in life, she especially loved spending time in the sanctuary of her gardens. She was an avid collector of antiques and jewelry. She and her best friend Pat were always able to find a bargain at every tag sale and flea market. She loved vacationing in Arizona, and visiting anywhere else that had public gardens, including Elizabeth Park in West Hartford.

Donations can be made in Gail's memory to the rose gardens at Elizabeth Park, www.elizabethpark.com, or at Magic Wings Butterfly Conservatory, 281 Greenfield Rd., South Deerfield, MA 01373, Attention: Kathy Miller. You can also remember Gail by planting a flower in your garden.

Calling hours were Wednesday, June 17, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. A funeral service was held Thursday, June 18, at the First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main St., Portland. The Rev. Jane Hawken will officiate. Interment will on Monday, June 22, at 1 p.m., at Center Cemetery in Portland.

East Hampton

John Wall

John "Jack" Wall, 83, beloved husband of Violet (Tegelman) Wall, died Tuesday, June 16, at Hartford Hospital. Born Dec. 10, 1925 in Cobalt, the son of the late Robert and Frances (Barry) Wall, he had lived in Cobalt for most of his life.

Jack had retired from Valley Oil of Portland where he had worked as an Oil Burner Technician for more than 40 years. He was a U.S. Navy veteran having served his country during WWII, and was a member of the East Hampton VFW Post.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his two sons and their spouses, Dennis P. and Rhonda Wall of Cobalt, Kevin J. and Paula Wall of Cobalt; a daughter and her husband, Elaine G. and Michael Gagliardi of Colchester; four grandchildren, Ryan and Kirsten Goodrich and Dylan and Aaron Wall; also five step-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Monday, June 22, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday morning from 9-10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Assoc., 4 Brookside Dr., P.O. Box 5022, Wallingford, CT 06492.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com/

Colchester

Henry Wayne

Henry Wayne, 93, of Colchester, widower of the late Catherine (Zemko) Wayne, passed away Wednesday morning, June 17, at the Chestelm Health Care Center in Moodus. Born March 21, 1916, in New York City, he was a son of the late Nicholas and Victoria (Vaseliu) Wasylyszyn.

Mr. Wayne proudly served with the US Army in the Philippines during World War II and was a Purple Heart recipient. On April 22, 1950, he and Catherine were married and shared 50 years of marriage before she predeceased him on May 15, 2000. Mr. Wayne was a maintenance plumber for Pratt & Whitney for many years before his retirement. He was a Life Member of the Colchester Fish & Game Club and in his spare time, he was an avid woodworker who enjoyed building crafts in his workshop.

He is survived by two daughters, Victoria Reinholtz and Patricia Nardella, both of Colchester; two sons, Michael Wayne of Easthampton, MA and Robert Tynda of Bull Head City, AZ; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; a sister, Mary Boluck Polanski of Port St. Lucie, FL; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his beloved wife, he was predeceased by a brother, Joseph Wayne.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Chestlem Adult Day Services, 542 Town St., Moodus, CT 06469.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Kevin Craig Bentley

Kevin Craig Bentley, Captain, USMC (Ret.), 49, of West Haven and formerly of Colchester, passed away Thursday, May 21, at the VA Hospital in West Haven. Born April 28, 1960, in East Patchogue, LI, NY, he was a son of Robert Bentley of Woodstock Valley and Odette Normandeu-Bentley of Arcata, CA.

Kevin was a 1978 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester, where he was active in soccer, drama and academics. In the fall of 1981, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his 20-year service to the Corps, starting at the rank of Private, he earned a degree in economics from George Washington University and worked his way up, garnering a spot in the Officer Training Program in Quantico, VA, eventually attaining the rank of captain.

Kevin was appreciated among his friends and family as a dynamic and gregarious character. His dedicated service to his country and his life were animated by his profound Catholic faith. He was an avid, lifelong student of history, economics and political science; and he resided for many years in Washington, D.C. where he developed a nuanced appreciation for the democracy in which his military service was vested. He traveled widely across the world, serving in Asia, which afforded him a deep appreciation for the various cultures and peoples that he met during his travels.

Kevin is survived by two sons, Ian and Kyle Bentley and their mother, Denise, all of Colchester; his parents, Odette Normandeu-Bentley and Robert Bentley; three brothers and their wives, John and Teresa of Arcata, CA, Neil and Sandra of Topanga, CA and Peter and Lisa of San Diego, CA; nephews and nieces, Alexander, Emma, Brianna Bentley, Seth Gilistro, and Kayla and Alexander Furrer-and numerous extended family members and friends in Canada and the U.S.

He was preceded in death by his older brother, Thomas A. Bentley.

Friends may call 10 a.m. Saturday, July 11, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before the celebration of the Memorial Liturgy at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Salem

Hugh Clifford Teel Sr.

Lt. Cmdr. Hugh Clifford Teel Sr., USCG (Ret.), 78, of Salem, beloved husband of Catherine (Jacobson) Teel, passed away Tuesday evening, June 16, at home, surrounded by his loving family. Born Aug. 4, 1930, in Sherman, NM, he was the son of the late Hugh and Olive (Posey) Teel.



At the age of 15, he joined the Marine Corps and went on to served with the United States Coast Guard for over 30 years before his retirement in 1977 at the rank of Lt. Commander. He would go on to serve the town of Salem as First Selectman for 14 years, as well as on the Board of Finance and on the conservation, charter and planning and zoning Commissions. Mr. Teel was a 32nd degree Mason with the Tucker Blue Lodge in Galveston, TX for many years.

In addition to his loving wife of 55 years, he is survived by two daughters, Katherine Teel and Sharon Butcher and her husband, T.J., all of Salem; three sons and their wives, Hugh Jr. and Sharon of Quaker Hill and Michael and Sharon and Kenneth and Judy, all of Salem; eight grandchildren, Heather Jessop and her husband, Robert, Matthew Teel and his wife, Allyson and Katelin and Jordan Teel, Korie Witcraft and her husband, Nathan and Knikka, Kathyna and Joe Butcher; six great-grandchildren, Ryan, Makayla, Zachary and Kaitlyn Jessop and Samantha and Angel Teel; a brother-in-law, John Markley of Fremont, CA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Helen Richardson and Elizabeth Markley.

Friends may call 1-4 p.m. Sunday, June 21, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services will be observed at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 22, directly at the Congregational Church of Salem, 244 Hartford Rd. (Rte. 85) in Salem. Committal will full military honors will follow in the Salem Green Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory in recognition of the staff of CT VNA Hospice and Palliative Care may be made to the Masonicare Charity Foundation, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford 06492.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.