

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Santa Claus Came to Town... Santa and Mrs. Claus visited with Andover's Municipal Agent Cathy Palazzi during the Senior Luncheon Christmas Party at the Senior Center/Old Firehouse in December. The couple made a surprise visit to greet the Andover seniors, have photos taken and enjoy the holiday festivities. Santa had gifts for all and Mrs. Claus delighted the group with a reading of Clement Clarke Moore's poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas." Photo by Betty Kerr.

East Hampton Man to Teach in Outback

by Michael McCoy

Geoffrey Goodson not only loves horses enough to base his career upon them, but to travel to the other side of the globe to study them.

Goodson, an East Hampton resident since 1987, will travel to Australia's Northern Territory in mid-March to help lead a study for the University of Queensland's Australian Brumby Research (ABR) Unit.

The ABR unit is the brainchild of Dr. Chris Pollitt, a leading laminitis researcher. (Laminitis is a debilitating disease that plagues horses' feet.) However, this trip will solely consist of Goodson and Pollitt's student and PhD scholar Brian Hampson of Australia.

According to Goodson, Brumbies are Australia's wild horses and are quite similar to American Mustangs. However, there is one major ecological difference. Cougars, grizzly bears and wolves are all natural predators of the mustang. Brumbies have no natural predators. The good news is this phenomenon eliminates a major variable, making evolutionary research optimal. The bad news is Brumby overpopulation has resulted in an extreme water shortage. Even surviving Brumbies may often go three or four days without water.

For this reason, a large population exists in the Giles Range's Watarrka National Park of Australia's Northern Territory, where there is at least some water. However, a parallel problem exists concerning the Ukaka, and aboriginal people who live in the area. Goodson said

their plight was analogous to that of the American Indians. The Giles Range was seized from the Ukaka in 1885.

It served as a cattle station until Australia returned it to the Ukaka in 1993. Between this and a practice of seizing Ukaka children to educate them to the liking of the English, the Ukaka lost their knack for handling Brumbies. So, while Goodson and Hampson will study the Brumbies, they will primarily teach 10 Ukaka men "how to better manage their domestic horses."

Goodson has been a practicing farrier for 17 years, and a journeyman farrier for the last 13. A farrier is a sort of cross between a podiatrist and a blacksmith, tending to the feet of his clients' horses by trimming their hooves and/or fashioning handmade horseshoes. Goodson maintained a sense of humor saying that for the horses the process is "about as exciting as me having dentistry work done."

Since 1993, he has operated Double G Farrier Service from his East Hampton home. Though most of his clientele is east of the river, the business extends to Granby, Simsbury, and Oxford as well.

Born in Rockville, Goodson, 39, bounced around Connecticut as he grew up. Since 1987, he has lived in East Hampton. After graduating from high school, he studied biology at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and later at Central Connecticut State University.

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Andover Couple Distraught Over Death of Dog

by Lindsay Fetzner

Andover residents Mary Kozich and Colleen McGarry have always enjoyed taking their four dogs for walks along Burnap Brook near their home. A walk last Saturday, Jan. 2, however, ended tragically, as their pug Murphy lost his life after falling through the icy waters of the brook.

Cold temperatures formed a sheet of ice on top of the rushing waters and the recent snowstorm left a layer of snow on the ice, masking the line between the land and water. The combination of these two factors created a dangerous environment for both the dogs and their owners.

Murphy, a dog that McGarry said was one who never strayed, was let free of his leash and ran toward the brook. Terrified of the water, he normally never went in, Kozich said. But, because Murphy was unaware of the ground he was treading on, he continued to venture nears the water's edge, eventually stepping onto the ice.

"Colleen yelled 'Murphy, come back,'" Kozich said. "As he looked at me and smiled, there was a huge crack and the ice split down the middle."

For the next 20 minutes, Kozich and McGarry tried endlessly to rescue Murphy in

the small area where he had become lodged beneath the ice. The knee-deep water was rushing fast, and as hard as Kozich and McGarry tried to retrieve him, it was too late. Kozich used a rake to comb the area where Murphy fell in and eventually his body floated to the top of the water.

"We were in complete dismay," she said. "I rocked with him for 20 minutes afterward."

Murphy was born April 19, 2008, and his brother Guinness came from the same litter. The two were known to always be in the company of one another. Kozich and McGarry are also the owners of Tex and Chloe, two rescue dogs adopted from Texas and Mexico, respectively.

In light of Murphy's death, Kozich and McGarry urge others to exercise caution and to keep their animals on a leash, especially during the winter months or in unfamiliar areas. Kozich said she used to think of a leash as a punishment, but now sees it as a means to save lives.

"This never should have happened, but something like this only takes a second," she said. "And safety is always on the forefront of our minds."

The Burnap Brook area is a popular retreat for people to take their animals. Kozich said

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Andover residents Colleen McGarry, left, and Mary Kozich lost their beloved pug Murphy, far right, last weekend, after he fell through the icy waters of Burnap Brook. Also shown here, in the couple's recent Christmas photo, is Murphy's brother, Guinness.



East Hampton resident Geoffrey Goodson, a practicing farrier, will travel to Australia in March to care for wild horses. Goodson is shown here, riding his horse, Lady, with a client's horse, Gracie, in Vermont.

Outback cont. from Front Page

"I knew I wanted to work outdoors and work with animals," he remembered. While getting to know Ted Trask of Lebanon, who was his family's farrier, Goodson thought to himself, "Maybe I should do this."

But actually Goodson's expertise as a farrier is only tangentially related to his aptitude to participate on the project. Goodson and Hampson will be employing the discipline of natural horsemanship (often referred to as horse whispering) to teach the Ukaka. Goodson received his natural horsemanship instructor status last September, though he's practiced for more than a decade.

Natural horsemanship is based upon gentle touches and body language used to effectively mimic the dominant mare in a herd. (Dominant mares call the shots, "much like in an American marriage" joked Goodson.)

"The horses are perfect," said Goodson. "They know how to do these maneuvers. It's just that we don't know how to communicate with them." He explained that a trainer playing the Alpha role could certainly break a horse. Though that horse might be quite obedient, the potential nuances of the relationship will be completely forfeited.

Goodson's relationship with Pollitt (who Goodson referred to as "the Indiana Jones of horse research") began in 1994, when he first traveled to Australia through the American Farrier Association's Cultural Exchange. During the trip, Goodson stayed with Keith Swan, who was Pollitt's farrier. While being part of

the program benefits a farrier by being "pushed to the head of the class," Goodson said it is part of the Cultural Exchange's "unwritten code of ethics" to participate in community service pertaining to the trade afterward.

This past November, Goodson attended the International Laminitis Conference in West Palm, FL, which was attended by Pollitt. It was the first time Goodson had seen him in years, and thanks to a deft, offhand comment during a documentary Pollitt unveiled, he asked Goodson to participate in the project. "For him to even ask me is just mind-boggling," marveled Goodson.

March will mark the first time an American farrier has served on Pollitt's research team, which is significant since the Ukaka have romanticized the Wild West iconography of America. According to Goodson, Pollitt told him, "Get used to being the bee's knees." To this end, Goodson will suit the ten men up with, among other accessories, Wrangler jeans.

Despite the Ukaka fame, his success in the trade, and rubbing elbows with world-class experts, Goodson admitted, "I didn't do this on my own. I worked hard and people believed in me."

More information about Brumbies and the unit's research is available at www.wildhorseresearch.com. Goodson may be contacted through the social networking website Facebook or at doublefarrier@comcast.net.



Murphy in the snow, in December 2008.

Dog cont. from Front Page

people travel from all over to visit both the brook and path nearby, often letting their animals roam freely.

As much as owners want to give their animals freedom, Kozich said to be smart about it, as keeping the animals safe is the job of all pet owners. Depending on the day, conditions can change dramatically and create dangerous environments for both pets and their owners.

Both Kozich and McGarry hoped that by telling Murphy's story, other animals will be spared from this unfortunate occurrence.

"Nothing in the world could prepare a person for this," Kozich said. "It is devastating."

New Britain Man Dies in Marlborough Crash

by Katy Nally

A New Britain man died after veering off of Route 2 near exit 12 and hitting a tree last weekend, State Police said.

On the morning of Sunday, Jan. 3, Walter Baba, 64, was traveling eastbound in his 2000 Plymouth Voyager when he skidded off the highway into the left embankment, State Police said. Baba, of 82 Oak St., New Britain, was transported to the Marlborough Clinic and treated for serious injuries, but died shortly after being admitted, State Police said. The accident is still under investigation, according to State Police.

The Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to the scene at 11:07 a.m. and Fire Marshal Joe Asklar said firefighters helped State Police for 45 minutes to one hour. Traffic was slowed down, Asklar said, because the high-speed lane was closed.

Asklar said the accident was “not compli-

cated,” adding “it was a snowy day and it appeared he lost control.” He said Wednesday that Baba skidded into a tree and his car sustained driver-side damage. Asklar could not comment on Baba’s injuries, but according to the state medical examiner’s office, the 64-year-old died from “multiple blunt traumatic injuries.” His death was ruled an accident.

The Paul A. Shaker Funeral Home, of 764 Farmington Ave., New Britain, will handle funeral arrangements for Baba, but as of Tuesday, a funeral date was not set.

Baba’s family was unavailable for comment for this story.

Similar to Baba’s accident, Asklar said the last fatal car crash in Marlborough occurred less than a year ago, over the summer. He said a motorcyclist died after losing control of the vehicle and driving off the road, just past exit 13.

“Route 2 is a busy area,” Asklar cautioned.

Family Get-Together Turns Violent in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

A North Carolina woman was arrested after a family reunion turned ugly, according to East Hampton Police.

Amanda Kendrick, 30, was charged with disorderly conduct, third-degree assault, risk of injury to a minor and interfering with an officer early on the morning of Dec. 23, East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said.

Reimondo said that according to the police report “the whole family” was out to dinner at Outback Steakhouse the evening of Dec. 22, though he could not determine the number of people in the party. During dinner, “some family issue from the previous year” came up, Reimondo said, and, upon returning to East Hampton from the restaurant, Kendrick and her sister decided to “hash it out over drinks” at the Governor’s Tavern.

But diplomacy escalated to altercation once it spilled into the parking lot between the restaurant and the Food Bag on Route 66. Reimondo said both sisters were drinking, but that the officers specifically noted Kendrick “appeared to be intoxicated.”

Reimondo said Kendrick assaulted her sister, who eventually retreated to her Colchester Avenue home. According to Reimondo, the sister reported that “when she returned home, all of sudden Kendrick was there.” The altercation continued, Reimondo said, eventually waking up the sister’s 10-year-old son. Reimondo said that, according to the sister and her mother, Kendrick choked and struck the boy. Kendrick denied this, and police could not find evidence of exactly what physical harm was inflicted, Reimondo said.

Reimondo said Kendrick was quite uncooperative and “gave the officers a real hard time.”

According to Reimondo, Kendrick would not give them her address, though police determined it to be 2942 Marin Ct., Willmington, NC.

Kendrick was held on a \$75,000 bond and appeared in court later that morning. According to Middletown Superior Court said a protective order was issued for Amber, and Kendrick is scheduled to appear in court next on Jan. 15.

Colchester Police News

12/22: Jamie Woods, 28, of 35 Salem Ct., Glastonbury, was charged with first-degree burglary and second-degree larceny, State Police said. According to police, a 15-year-old reported there was an intruder in his home, which officers determined to be Woods.

12/22: Ryan Carpenter, 23, of 243 Bulkely Hill Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and unlawful discharge of a firearm, State Police said.

12/23: A youthful offender shoplifted items from Rite-Aid on Broadway Street and was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

12/26: Benjamin McLellan, 19, of 1221 Exeter Rd., Lebanon, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

12/26: Dean Farnsworth, 18, of 1720 Exeter Rd., Lebanon, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

12/26: Virginia Dominick, 49, of 152 Windham Ave., was charged with failure to carry registration and DUI, State Police said.

12/27: Joshua Ogden, 18, and Aaron Ogden, 18, both of 48 Norelli Place, were each charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an

officer, State Police said.

12/27: Charles Abucewicz, 55, of 531 Emmett St., Bristol, was charged with failure to renew registration, driving unreasonably fast, DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

12/28: A 16-year-old was charged with two counts of sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit larceny, State Police said.

12/30: Matthew Pare, 22, of 111B Kitymaug Rd., Uncasville, was charged with breach of peace and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

1/2: David Carey, 46, of 15 Aircraft Rd., Southington was charged with first-degree criminal trespassing and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

1/3: Amanda Williams, 24, of 197 Gifford Ln., Bozrah, was charged with fourth-degree larceny, State Police said.

1/4: Frederick Payne, 36, and Briana Gardner, 18, both of 32 Whippoorwill Dr., Moosup, were each charged with third-degree larceny, State Police said.

1/5: Steven Langley, 27, of 434 Wall St., Hebron, was charged with disorderly conduct, violation of probation, third-degree assault and interfering with an officer, State Police said.

Salem Police News

12/22: A home on West Road was burglarized and items including a digital camera, an LCD television, jewelry and various medications were stolen, State Police said. The burglary was reported at 6:24 p.m. and is still under investigation. There are no known suspects, State Police said.

12/28: Bryan Robitaille, 18, of 18 Black Oak Rd., East Lyme was charged with two counts of having weapons in his vehicle after officers found a BB gun, an illegal knife and brass knuckles in his car, State Police said.

12/29: Jason Hall, 40, of 5 Stonewall Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and third-

degree assault, State Police said.

12/29: Kimberly Jinks, 42, of 93 North Main St., Marlborough, was charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

12/30: Lilliana Restrepo, 25, of 97 Wyllys St., Apt. 30, Hartford, was charged with DUI, failure to drive in proper lane and motor vehicle license violations, State Police said.

12/31: A home on Pleasant View Road was burglarized sometime between 8:30 and 10 a.m. Jewelry and change were stolen and the point of entry was determined to be the rear basement door, State Police said.

Andover Police News

12/22: Andrew Pariseau, 19, of 34 Washburn Ave., Coventry was arrested on an active warrant for failure to appear, State Police said.

12/22: Christopher Pariseau, 22, also of 34 Washburn Ave., Coventry was charged with interfering with an officer, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

12/22: James McAuliffe, 52, of 364 Burnt Hill Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

1/3: Daniel Michaud, 43, of 627 West Main St., was charged with disorderly conduct, interfering with emergency calls, third-degree assault, second-degree strangulation and second-degree unlawful restraint, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

12/29: A home on Meadows Way was burglarized some time between Saturday, Dec. 26 at 11 a.m. and Monday, Dec. 28 at 6:30 p.m., State Police said. The home was entered through the west-side basement window. A Nintendo Wii console, jewelry, a laptop, an iPod touch phone and a silver bowl and plate were taken. Anyone with more information is asked to contact **TFC. Fox 776** at 860-537-7500 and reference the case number, 0900673922.

1/5: Matthew Remillard, 23, of 114A Ambassador Dr., Manchester, was charged with first-degree criminal mischief, breach of peace and second-degree assault, State Police said.

Holiday Accidents Send Several to Hospitals

by Katy Nally

One man is dead and nine others were admitted to hospitals after a string of car accidents occurred over the holidays in area towns.

Walter Baba, 64, of New Britain died when he veered off of Route 2 in Marlborough and hit a tree. See page *x* for more on the fatal crash.

An accident in Salem sent two teens to Backus Hospital with head injuries. On Wednesday, Dec. 23, a 17-year-old drove her 2003 Mercury Sable into a tree after veering off Route 345. The driver, who was from Niantic, was traveling northbound on Old Colchester Road when she failed to negotiate a curve and drove off the right shoulder and struck a tree at intersection of Rattlesnake Ledge Road. She and the 15-year-old passenger from East Lyme were both taken by ambulance to Backus for injuries sustained in the accident, State Police said.

According to police reports, the driver incurred head lacerations and was seeing spots, and her passenger had a possible head injury, poor memory and had lost consciousness. As of Tuesday both teens were no longer listed at Backus Hospital.

The Gardner Lake Fire Department declined to comment on the accident because both individuals are minors.

In Hebron, three car accidents also involved people in their 20s or younger, but resulted in only minor injuries, according to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department (HVFD).

On Tuesday, Dec. 22, there was a one-car rollover at the intersection of Route 85 and London Road at about 8:30 p.m., State Police said. According to Troop K, the 28-year-old driver from Hebron was trapped inside her 1993 Ford Bronco, but was still awake and responsive. Jennifer Mortimer was successfully extricated from the vehicle and transported to St. Francis Hospital for minor injuries, State Police said.

One week later, on Dec. 29 two teens were involved in a crash, which was reported at 6:34 p.m. by State Police. Ryan Barston, 19, of Marlborough, lost control of the 2004 Subaru STI and veered off Martin Road into the left shoulder. The passenger, Jennifer Steiner, 18, of Hebron, was sent to the Marlborough Clinic with minor injuries, but Barston was not admitted, according to HVFD.

Just two days later, on Thursday, Dec. 31, another car rolled over a “number” of times at the intersection of Jones Street and Senate Brook Drive, State Police said. Sarah Ringo, a 20-year-old Colchester resident, lost control of her 2000 Saab 95, which eventually came to rest on its roof on the right side of the road, State Police said. The accident was reported at 8:50 p.m., State Police said. According to HVFD, Ringo had made it out of her car by the time firefighters had reached the

scene.

Once out of her car, EMS personnel administered care and she was later taken to the Marlborough Clinic for complaints of back pain, according to State Police. State Police also said she was also issued a warning for traveling too fast for conditions.

HVFD said these three accidents were likely weather-related and would probably be the first of many throughout the winter. When asked if firefighters thought there would be more accidents caused by wintry conditions, one department official, who wished not to be named, jokingly replied, “It’s called job security.”

In Marlborough, at 11:37 p.m. on New Year’s Day, another 20-year-old was involved in a car accident and admitted to the Marlborough Clinic. Ryan Friend, a resident of Newfane, VT, veered off of Hebron Road and struck a tree on the westbound shoulder. However he only sustained minor injuries and went to the clinic for further evaluation. The investigation is closed, State Police said.

Marlborough Resident State Trooper Mark Packer said this accident resulted in “very minor” injuries and Friend was taken to the clinic only as a precautionary measure. Packer added the accident was probably not weather-related.

Two days prior to Friend’s crash, on Dec. 30, a 44-year-old Marlborough resident hit a utility pole on Cheney Road at about 5:45 p.m., State Police said. Maryellen Fries sustained minor injuries and was transported to the Marlborough Clinic for observations and was later charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

More recently, there was a two-car crash Monday, Jan. 4, on Route 2 just before Exit 13. Jennifer Barter, 32, of Colchester, was traveling westbound in the right lane when she lost control of her 2003 Jeep Liberty because of the snow/ice covered roadway and spun out across both lanes, State Police said. Barter struck Nancy Gorczyca’s 2008 Audi A4, which was also traveling westbound but in the left lane, according to police. Barter’s Jeep finally stopped when it slammed into a rock ledge in the center median. Only Barter was sent to the Marlborough Clinic for minor injuries and was issued an infraction for traveling too fast for conditions, State Police said.

Like the Hebron accidents, Monday’s crash was also caused by wintry conditions, according to the State Police report.

Lastly, on Thursday, Dec. 24 there was a two-car accident at the 7-Eleven on Route 6 in Andover. Diana Rossi, 46, from Mansfield was taken to Windham Hospital after complaining of neck and back pain, State Police said. Brian Palmer, 41, from Andover was issued a verbal warning for traveling too closely in his 2001 GMC Yukon XL.

New Business in Colchester Offers More than Just Tasty Treats

by Katy Nally

The warm sugary smell of fresh baked muffins, pies and brownies is almost as inviting as the friendly staff members who welcome customers with enthusiastic hellos and big smiles.

The Cottage Gardens and Bakery, located at 460 New London Rd., on Route 85, is bursting with decadent treats and bustling with a delightful staff.

The facility, which is owned by Seabird Enterprises, employs individuals with physical and developmental disabilities to provide them with vocational training and socialization.

But Cottage Gardens is much more than a bakery, said manager Joe Holmes. The building features a large kitchen and a small dining area, a craft room/greenhouse and a wood shop. Eventually, it might even include an auto detailing shop, Holmes said.

On Tuesday, a crew of about 20 was in the kitchen doing everything from chopping to measuring to sweeping; all hard at work to make the day's delicious creations. Melissa Phelps, who was cleaning up with Deanna Mayotte, wholeheartedly recommended the double chocolate chip muffins she had recently baked.

"Everything is made from scratch," Holmes boasted. "It's not just prepared food, it doesn't come out of a can. These individuals do a great job."

The bakery has a breakfast and lunch menu, offering everything from bagels to sandwich wraps. But the laundry list of sweets is the obvious specialty. There are "monster cookies," whole pies, sweet breads and fancier items like the oatmeal cream whoopie pie and the butter pecan banana cake.

After customers stuff their faces with lunch and desserts, they are welcome to check out the craft area for handmade goods. Holmes said over the holidays employees made and sold wreaths and angel figurines. Throughout the year other crafts will also be sold including bird houses and decorated plant pots. "We're always open to new ideas," Holmes said, referring to future items employees might create. "The pos-

sibilities are really endless."

The entire facility is run by about 60 disabled employees and about 12 staff members from Seabird Enterprises. Employees take on any task needed to maintain Cottage Gardens, Holmes said, pointing to the wood sign out front and three highchairs that were recently refinished in the wood shop.

He said that since the site is on an apple and pear orchard, there is always grounds work to be done, including mowing the lawn and maintaining the fences and trees. The manager noted there is still space available for those looking for work experience.

"The individuals here – they work," Holmes said enthusiastically. "This is real; this is true work."

Holmes said Cottage Gardens even has its own herb garden, so the bakery can have flavorful creations, but a vegetable garden is also in the works. He said the restaurant would use the produce for its dishes and perhaps sell any surplus.

Cottage Gardens is a hybrid of two other Seabird Enterprises facilities. The bakery is modeled after a restaurant in Groton called Puffins On The Thames, which also serves breakfast and lunch. "We've been baking for years," Holmes said. "We've always had a niche in it."

The woodshop and greenhouse of Cottage Gardens are borrowed from the Riverview Farm in Uncasville, which also includes two horse barns and offers a riding program.

But no matter which Seabird facility employees work for, they are paid an hourly wage in line with state regulations, receive paid holidays and at Cottage Gardens they work from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. "It's a normal gig," Holmes said. "It's just like you or I going to work."

Employees at Cottage Gardens range in age from 16 to those in their 70s. Holmes said Seabird Enterprises has a high school internship program for students with disabilities as young as 15.



Fred Lathrop, an employee of Cottage Gardens, stands in the kitchen where he sliced turkey for a customer's sandwich. The facility includes a bakery, craft room, greenhouse and wood shop and sells handmade seasonal items year-round.

According to Holmes, a disabled individual is provided for by their town's Board of Education (BOE) until they are 21. After that, the state Department of Developmental Services (DDS) takes over. As a nonprofit, facilities owned by Seabird Enterprises are funded by DDS and these BOEs, as well as through any revenue generated by the site.

By working a "normal gig," Holmes said many individuals learn responsibility and how to interact with others. "Some individuals who couldn't make it at other agencies, just do wonderful here," Holmes said.

He mentioned one girl who worked at Puffins On The Thames who began her job with a

"horrible mouth," but after several weeks she became very "docile" and friendly.

Holmes said many employees learn and practice independence, and in turn impress their family members who are sometimes used to being the sole care givers. He said some families are surprised at how an individual learns self-sufficiency.

With Cottage Gardens in its second month of operation, Holmes said business has been running smoothly. "I think it'll do very well here," he said.

For more information about Cottage Gardens, call the facility at 860-537-3558.

Portland Police Solve Two Monday Burglaries

by Michael McCoy

Portland Police reported this week they have solved two burglaries from Monday – maintaining the department's perfect batting average.

"All the burglaries we have had [in the past year] have been solved," Lt. Ron Milardo said Wednesday.

Milardo said the first burglary came at around 2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4. At around 3 p.m., the victim returned to the Penfield Hill Road residence to find evidence of a forced entry through the back door. A neighbor later said they heard the house's burglar alarm around 2 p.m., but thought nothing of it since it goes off frequently, Milardo said.

Milardo said the alarm apparently scared off the burglars, but they still made off with a small amount of jewelry including a necklace and a pair of diamond earrings.

Police got the second call around 3 p.m., while officers were investigating the first scene, Milardo said. The daughter of a man who lives on West Cotton Hill Road said she was driving by the home when she saw a vehicle in the driveway that "didn't belong there," Milardo said. She reported one individual was in the passenger seat, while the other was "running back and forth" from the home to the car, Milardo said.

Milardo said the duo saw her as she was making the call and fled north on Route 17 toward Glastonbury in a tan American mid-sized sedan. They took jewelry there as well including a necklace and some rings.

According to Milardo, Officer Gary Jarzabek was assigned to the case, working on it through the night. This included sending an alert to neighboring police departments. Another wrinkle in the story aided in the location of the duo. Milardo said a Berlin resident called Berlin Police Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 5, reporting a suspicious individual who came to her door asking for someone who didn't live there. Milardo said the resident assumed the individual had asked for a made-up name, and the resident got the plate number and gave it to police.

The following afternoon a Berlin officer said he saw the described vehicle parked at Comfort Inn on the Berlin Turnpike. Berlin police found jewelry in the duo's room, and obtained confessions concerning one burglary in Berlin and one in Middletown, Milardo said.

Portland Officer Michael Fitzpatrick arrived on the scene that evening and got confessions for the two burglaries – as well as another two that same day in East Hampton.

East Hampton Police Chief Matthew Reimondo said little information on those incidents were available due to the reports being unfinished, but he said both occurred in the daytime on Jan. 4 in the southwest outskirts of town. Reimondo said, like the Portland burglaries, jewelry was stolen. Reimondo added that the town has had five or six burglaries in the last few weeks and he seemed hopeful that the

duo could be linked to more than just the two they confessed to.

Milardo said police are currently having the victims identify the stolen items. While some of it was found in the motel, Milardo said other items were recovered from an East Hartford pawn shop as well as Portland's Coin and Gold Exchange. Milardo added that both proprietors were most cooperative. He estimated about 90 percent of the items has been recovered.

Milardo said Berlin police also found heroin in the room and charged the duo for possession. In a press release issued Thursday, Jan. 8, Berlin Police Deputy Chief John Klett identified the two as Barry Spence, 34, of 95 Westchester Rd., Colchester, and Karen Olivia, 41, of 26 Perch Rd., Shelton. However, Berlin Police said the pair had been renting a room at the motel for two weeks.

According to the Berlin press release, the two "confessed to being involved in approximately 10 burglaries in the following towns during the past several weeks: Berlin, Middletown, Portland, East Hampton and possibly Colchester and Salem."

Berlin Police charged Spence with three counts of third-degree burglary, three counts of conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, possession of narcotics, criminal attempt to commit sixth-degree larceny, three counts of conspiracy to commit second-degree criminal

mischief, three counts of second-degree criminal mischief, third-degree criminal trespass, third-degree larceny third degree, and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny.

Olivia was charged with three counts of conspiracy to third-degree burglary, two counts of conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny, three counts of conspiracy to commit second-degree criminal mischief, third-degree criminal trespass and conspiracy to commit third-degree larceny, Berlin Police said.

Spence and Bond are currently being held on \$200,000 and \$80,000 bonds, respectively.

However, the two have not yet been arrested for either of the Portland or East Hampton burglaries yet. Both Milardo and Reimondo said police were working on warrants and arrests would come in about a week.

"When you get burglaries like this, it's extremely important to immediately start working on them," said Milardo. Between this and collaborating with area police departments, he added, "That's how things get solved."

Milardo said the town has had about 15-20 in the last year, a clear spike compared to recent years. He added that each burglary was fueled by drug addiction.

"Heroin is an extremely inexpensive drug," Milardo said. "Once you start it's hard to stop." This, coupled with the current value of gold, Milardo said, likely entices would-be burglars.

Andover Selectmen Discuss Repairs for Library, Dump Truck

by Lindsay Fetzner

At Wednesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen (BOS), a variety of town repairs were discussed, specifically those necessary for the Andover Public Library and a Public Works dump truck.

Both the fire alarm system and an oil tank installation were deemed crucial repairs for the library.

First Selectman Robert Burbank referred to the current alarm system as "obsolete and not operational." Currently, there is only one bid on the table for the fire alarm system, in the amount of \$1,826 from J.C.L. Protective Systems, LLC in Andover. Burbank said others have been contacted for estimates, but none have come in thus far.

"The building is full of papers and is very combustible," selectwoman Susan England said. "It is something that is really needed for the library."

The present oil tank in the library was patched up after it leaked between 30 and 45 days ago. Oil-absorption material was placed underneath to catch the oil. Burbank said the present situation could become a major catastrophe and is "not something that should be put

off."

Three estimates were reviewed by the selectmen, ranging from \$1,800 to replace the tank but leave it in its current location, to \$2,650 for removal and replacement. The board approved the bid to complete the replacement for \$2,133.23 from Homestead Fuel, Inc.

During the Dec. 16 Board of Finance (BOF) meeting, Georgette Conrad gave the liaison report for the Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) committee. Included were repairs for a Public Works dump truck. Conrad stated that Public Works estimated repairs for the truck to be about \$30,000.

Selectwoman Elaine Buchardt brought up repair costs for the truck again at Wednesday's BOS meeting. The board discussed the costs of repairing versus completely replacing the bed of the truck. Burbank said repairs would last for a minimum of five years, but selectman Jay Lindy recommended looking at both options, repairing and replacing.

"We must consider other things that could go wrong with the truck," Lindy said.

Lindy said simply repairing it could "open up a can of worms" if the repairs are only good

for a few years. Replacement of the sanding bed would cost approximately \$35,000 and repairs would be close to \$25,000. A motion was made to meet with the CIP committee for more flexibility and to put a limit of no more than \$30,000 to ensure the best deal is found, whether repairs or replacement is chosen as a means to fix the truck.

Also at the December BOF meeting, Conrad also stated the approval of \$40,000 to repair the roof of the fire department on School Street. At the Nov. 23 CIP meeting, Wallace Barton presented the request from the Fire Commission for a new roof, as the present roof is over 20 years old and leaked a few years ago. The CIP committee said that waiting to repair the roof could cause further damage, including subsequent leaks to the complex. There were three estimates and a final allocation of \$40,000 was announced Wednesday evening.

The last repair approved by the committee was for the replacement of the metal roof of the old Town Hall, to be completed between July 2010 and June 2011. CIP recommended an amount of \$71,000.

* * *

Also at Wednesday's BOS meeting, a proposal requiring local governments to pay \$10,306 for each student attending a charter school was also brought up. This was only one of the proposed changes to the state's charter school legislation discussed at the Dec. 2 meeting of the state Board of Education. The rate of \$10,306 is equal to the statewide average, according to the Dec. 10 legislative update.

Burbank said the cost is astronomical and is something that local property owners can not afford. He said the current school system is great and recommended contacting state senators to "kill the proposal."

Also, the search for a Charter Review Committee is in its early stages for the town. At the next BOS meeting on Feb. 3, interview dates for perspective members will be discussed. A line item for the Charter Review Committee will be necessary in the 2010-11 budget, the selectmen said. The committee will be in place for a maximum of 18 months, the selectmen added, and committee members cannot presently be a part of any board or commission in town. Interested parties should contact the BOS at 17 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.



A Christmas night fire ravaged a garage at a house on Shoddy Mill Road, heavily damaging a motorcycle and Corvette.

Fire Strikes Andover Home on Christmas Night

by Lindsay Fetzner

For Andover volunteer firefighter Dennis Carroll, responding to calls is nothing out of the ordinary. But on Christmas night, the tables turned when his fellow firefighters responded to a call from Carroll.

Susan Lees, who lives with Carroll in their log home at 135 Shoddy Mill Rd, described the event as something you would see on television.

"You never ever think it will happen to you," she said.

Andover Fire Marshal John Roache said the fire was deemed as accidental, caused by combustibles being too close to a heat source.

A fireplace located in close proximity to the couple's garage had been running all day, Lees said, which became extremely hot. Although the fireplace had been cleared and maintained on a regular basis, the unit heated enough to start a fire.

"Dennis got up to get water and smelled smoke," Lees said.

Alarmed by the smell, the couple soon realized that the laundry room, adjacent to the garage, was filled with smoke. From there, Carroll moved to the garage, which he found to be engulfed with smoke as well.

The fire alarm sounded immediately and all electricity was shut off to the house, Lees said, because it runs out of the garage.

Carroll and Lees immediately grabbed their three German Shepherds and any personal belongings near by and ran outside.

"It all happened in less than 10 minutes," Lees said.

The Andover Volunteer Fire Department was

on the scene within five minutes, Roache said. The area became engulfed as soon as the air hit the smoke in the garage, creating a scene Lees described as "beautiful but terrifying." Carroll's welding tanks were of primary concern, located at the edge of the garage door and were removed immediately. The garage and its contents, including a motorcycle and 1973 Corvette, were "charbroiled" in the fire. Lees was saddened at the losses of the motorcycle and the Corvette, calling them Carroll's "two enjoyments."

The newly-renovated laundry and bathroom on the back wing of the house will be demolished as well as the mutilated garage. The inside of the home did not sustain any real damage, according to Andover Fire Chief Shawn Covell.

Also called to the scene for assistance were the Hebron, Bolton, Columbia and Coventry fire departments. Acting Hebron Fire Chief Frederick Speno said by the time the Hebron Fire Department arrived at the home, the fire had been knocked out and the arriving volunteers assisted with the overhaul.

"I watched those men and women in awe," Lees said. "They were all so in sync and I could do nothing but cry and thank God."

Covell said that at least 30 firefighters came out on Christmas night in response to the call, many of which are fellow firefighters of Carroll.

"When it's one of your own, it's a bit of greater concern," Covell said. "It weighs more on you."

Lees and Carroll spent Christmas night at the Andover firehouse and hope to return to their home within six months.

Portland Police News

12/23 — David Fazzina, 39, whose last known address was 24 Central Ave., Waterbury, was charged with possession of narcotics, narcotics not kept in original container, and interfering with police, Portland Police said.

12/26 — Michael Bartolotta, 32, of 83 Midwood Farm Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

12/29 — Daniel Reynolds, 32, of 4 Waverly Ave., was charged with first-degree failure to appear, Portland Police said.

12/30 — Angela Mendello, 38, of 1-F Country Squire Dr., Cromwell, was charged with third-degree assault and breach of peace, police said.

1/1 — Michael Aletta, 25, of 19 William St., was charged with three counts of violation of probation, police said.

East Hampton Police News

12/16 — Francis J. Doherty, 52, of 9 Whittier Rd., Jason J. Hyde, 30, of 22 School Dr., Marlborough, and Arthur Rodgers, 39, of 1 Bryant Rd., were issued tickets for creating a public disturbance, East Hampton Police said.

12/18 — Paul Disanto, 31, of 9 Tarragon Dr., was arrested for driving under the influence, police said.

12/19 — Ashley Schonagel, 20, of 29 West High St., was arrested for disorderly conduct and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

12/20 — Ryan E. Stewart, 43, of 24 Country Ln., was arrested for disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and interfering with an emergency call, police said.

12/20 — Charlie T. Archer, 30, of 154 Shunpike Rd., Cromwell, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

12/21 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for possession of tobacco by a minor, police said.

12/23 — Anthony Surrell, 32, of 6 Daniel St., was arrested for failure to display front license plate, operating without valid license, improper use of marker plate and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

12/23 — Robert Baer, 54, of 108 Middletown Ave., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for

breach of peace and third-degree assault, police said. Robert Baer Jr., 22, also of 108 Middletown Ave., was arrested Dec. 23 pursuant to a warrant for breach of peace, second-degree assault and fourth-degree criminal mischief, police added.

12/24 — Joshua Fournier, 26, of 2136 North Shefeld, Chicago, IL, was arrested for driving under the influence and failure to drive right, police said.

12/24 — Mark Runde, 50, of 15 Hayes Rd., was issued a ticket for allowing a dog to roam, police said.

12/24 — Rudy Perry, 28, of 79 Spring St., Willimantic, was arrested for failure to obey a signal, improper use of a plate, failure to maintain minimum insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

12/25 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was arrested for operating without a license, improper use of a marker, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating without insurance, police said.

12/26 — James Royce, 19, of 48 Avery St., Stamford, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

12/28 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for throwing objects at a motor vehicle, police said.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Hello and happy 2010. I hope you all had a happy holiday and a happy new year. Mine was nice, very relaxing. Counting down the final seconds of 2009 was a rather surreal experience. I can't believe the decade of the 2000s is over already. I'm sure I'll get used to it over time, but for now saying "two thousand ten" has such a futuristic ring to it, more than "two thousand nine" did. I'm not quite sure why.

Anyway, on Christmas morning I happened to be flipping the channels on the TV after I woke up and made the pleasant discovery Fox 61 was showing the *Yule Log* program again. I was glad the channel was showing it. I first learned of the *Yule Log* a few years ago, and while I didn't grow up with it, it seemed like a really neat tradition.

A Yule log is a large log traditionally burned at Christmas, but what is the *Yule Log* television program? Gather around, kiddies, for my first history lesson of the new year.

The *Yule Log* program dates back to mid-1960s New York City. For a lot of people, gathering with the family around the fireplace on Christmas morning is a warm childhood memory. Fred Thrower, the station manager of WPIX-TV Channel 11, knew this. He also knew that New York City was an awfully crowded place, with many people living in tiny little apartments. Fireplaces were difficult to come by.

So, in 1966, Thrower decided to give New Yorkers a fireplace of their own, if only for a few hours, so that perhaps they could reminisce about Christmases of yore or even provide for their own children a semblance of Christmas around a fireplace. On Christmas Eve of that year, Thrower canceled three hours of regular programming and aired an image of a large log burning in a fireplace (the film of the fireplace was shot at Gracie Mansion, the home of the city's mayor), while traditional Christmas music played in the background.

The *Yule Log* aired commercial-free, and as a result the station said it lost \$4,000 in advertising revenue. But the program proved a hit with viewers, many of whom – even if they didn't have kids or warm fireplace memories from their youth – probably enjoyed the peacefulness of the broadcast while winding down that night. So many people

enjoyed the *Yule Log*, in fact, that another edition was added on Christmas morning.

The *Yule Log* ran for years, no doubt becoming a Christmas tradition for a generation of New Yorkers. But tradition sometimes falls by the wayside in the business of making money. Such was the case in 1990, when new managers at WPIX decided they were tired of losing money on the *Yule Log* – which was still airing commercial-free – so they canceled it.

There were complaints, of course, but WPIX didn't give in. In 1997 the channel threw viewers something of a bone, offering the *Yule Log* for view on its website. That wasn't good enough for people, and I can't say as I blame them. Video on the Internet 12 years ago – particularly over dial-up connections, which were the norm at the time – was of generally lousy quality.

In early 2000, a *Yule Log* fan living in New Jersey launched a website entitled "Bring Back the Log," and petitioned WPIX to return it to the airwaves. The station didn't do it that year, but things were different the following year. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, nostalgia became popular, as people no doubt wished to think of simpler times. A *Carol Burnett Show* reunion special that aired that November, for example, drew a whopping 30 million viewers nationwide. Station management at WPIX felt the time was right to revisit the *Yule Log*.

The program made its triumphant return Christmas morning that year, from 8-10 a.m. – and it won its timeslot. Not surprisingly, it was brought back the following year. Then, in 2003, Tribune Broadcasting, which owned WPIX, decided to spread the joy, and broadcast it on various Tribune-owned stations across the country (which explains how, here in Connecticut, **Editor's Desk continued on page 4** by Tribune).

I was happy to see the *Yule Log* was broadcast once again on Christmas morning. Like I said, it was never a tradition of mine growing up, but the story of the *Yule Log* is a nice one. And watching a roaring fire – even if it's just on TV – while listening to calming Christmas music can make for a pretty serene experience.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Barbara Roberts

Barbara (Betty) Roberts, 93, of Marlborough, widow of Guy Roberts, died Monday, Jan. 4, at Middlesex Memorial Hospital Hospice Care with her loving family by her side. She was born May 30, 1916, in East Hampton, the daughter of the late Joseph and Barbara Rankl.

Besides her husband and parents she was predeceased by two brothers, Joseph Rankl Jr. and John Rankl; a sister, Mary Flemke and a daughter-in-law, Joyce Roberts.

She is survived by her two sons, Zane Roberts and his wife Barbara of Marlborough and Paul Roberts and his friend June of Bridgewater Corners, VT and her three brothers, Charley, Max and his wife Marion, and Richard and his friend Mary. Betty also leaves seven grandchildren, Zane Robert Jr. and his wife Cora (her own very special nurse) of Marlborough, Pam Ratti and her husband Mike of Watkensville, GA and Loretta Thresher, Cathy Dyer, Gary, Guy and Greg Roberts, all of Vermont. She also leaves several great-grandchildren.

Betty shared her love of gardening and her green thumb with everyone who passed her beautiful flower garden on Route 66. She was a member of the Marlborough Congregational Church where she sang in the choir. Her two greatest joys in life were playing bingo and setback with her family and friends at the Marlborough and East Hampton senior centers. Late in life, she became an avid Red Sox fan and was pleased to see them win two World Series.

A memorial service will be held Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 2 p.m. in the Congregational Church of Marlborough, 35 South Main St., Marlborough. A private graveside service will be held at the convenience of the family.

The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of the arrangements.

Those who wish may make memorial donations to the Congregational Church of Marlborough, P.O. Box 57, Marlborough, CT 06447 or Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

East Hampton

George Puskar

George Edward Puskar, 61, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Eva E. (Sadlowski) Puskar, died Thursday, Dec. 24, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born April 20, 1948 in Stratford, he was the son of the late George and Helen (Chucta) Puskar.

George was a graduate of the University of Bridgeport and had served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a letter carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in West Hartford for 23 years.

Besides his wife, he is survived by his son, Jeff Puskar of Brooklyn, NY; his daughter, Michelle Puskar of Plainsboro, NJ; and his sister, Eleanor Puskar of Bridgeport.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Dec. 29, in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial was private at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday, Dec. 28.

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

East Hampton

Arthur J. Murphy

Arthur J. Murphy, 91, of East Hampton, beloved husband of the late Gladys D. (Williams) Murphy, died Monday, Dec. 28, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Jan. 9, 1918 in Brooklyn, NY, he was the son of the late Charles and Mary (McClellan) Murphy.

Arthur had proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He had retired from the Long Island Railroad where he had worked as a Claims Investigator.

Arthur is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Gem and Bill Marshall of East Hampton; four grandchildren and their spouses, Susanne and Vinny Chiang, Jennifer and Matt Kravatz, Mary and Jason Clark, Peter and Fabiana Marshall; and seven great-grandchildren, Molly, Grace and Aidan Chiang, Ethan and Colin Marshall and Tommy and Julia Kravatz.

The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Thursday, Dec. 31, followed by the Funeral Liturgy at 10 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial followed in the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called at the funeral home Wednesday, Dec. 30.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o The Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Amston

Marie “Blanche” Marquis

Marie “Blanche” (Nadeau) Marquis, 88, beloved wife of Leo Marquis Sr., passed away peacefully on Jan. 1, 2010. She was born and raised in Baker Lac, New Brunswick, Canada, the daughter of Lazare and Marie (Beaulieu) Nadeau.

In her adult life, she moved to Connecticut and eventually settled in Amston, where she lovingly raised her family. Blanche’s interests were comprised of many things including gardening, cooking, caring for pets and her greatest passion was caring for children. Along with her husband, Blanche leaves four children and their spouses, Leo and Pat Jr., Claude and Melanie, Paulette, and Charlene and Tom O’Brien. She also leaves her grandson Ryan, her pride and joy, who she so lovingly adored. She has joined her predeceased nine brothers and sisters, among many others. Two surviving siblings include Lucille Saucier and Conrad Nadeau.

Blanche’s life was celebrated at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 46 North Eagleville Rd., Storrs, on Thursday, Jan. 7. There were no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Thomas Aquinas Church, 46 No. Eagleville Rd., Storrs, CT 06268 or Mansfield Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Recreation Dept., 100 Warren Circle, Storrs, CT 06268.

For online memorial guestbook, visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Amston

Frederick C. Smith

Frederick C. Smith, 84, of Parrish, FL, formerly of Amston, died Dec. 29.

He is survived by his wife, Jacqueline; a daughter, Linda of Amston; two grandsons, Christopher and Patrick; two great-grandchildren; and a niece, Donna.

A memorial service will be held at a later date.

East Hampton

George Geysen Jr.

Technical Sergeant (USAF) George Geysen Jr., 76, of East Haddam, died peacefully on Tuesday, Dec. 29, at Hartford Hospital after a long illness. At the time of his death, he resided at the State of Connecticut Veteran’s Home and Hospital at Rocky Hill.

He was born on July 5, 1933, in Middletown, growing up in East Hampton, the son of George and Helen Geysen, both who predecease him, as does a brother, Stanley Geysen.

George was a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. While in the Air Force, he served in the Korean War and on the Texas Towers 3 and 4 from 1957-59, and received the Good Conduct Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal and the National Defense Service Medal for his service. After leaving active duty, George was a member of the United States Air Force Reserves for many years while working for Pratt & Whitney in plant engineering until his retirement in 1994.

George loved bird hunting, his many loyal and faithful dogs, and the outdoors, but was most at peace in life when fly-fishing the Salmon River in East Hampton. Fly-tying was an art to which he dedicated limitless hours in the pursuit of perfection and which brought him enjoyment beyond measure. George garnered many accolades for his fly-tying artistry from friends, fellow anglers and professionals, presenting his work at craft shows and on local cable television. A 2006 vacation trip he made to Montana to fly-fish with his long-time and most dear friend Gary Hammond was one of the most happiest and fulfilling of his life.

He is survived by his wife of nearly 50 years, Nancy M. Geysen of East Haddam and two daughters, Christie-Ann Faircloth and Sherrie Diane Geysen Crompton, both of East Haddam; a son, Dr. George Geysen of Killingworth and a sister, Elizabeth Anderson, of East Hampton also survive him. He had four grandchildren, Erika Lynn and Matthew Tyler Faircloth, Ian Rhys Ponting and Haley Rebecca Geysen, each who loved their grandfather very, very much.

His family expresses deep gratitude to the staff of the Sgt. John L. Levitow Veterans Health Center of the Veteran’s Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill. Their patience and compassionate caring and concern were remarkable and brought the Geysen family great comfort.

A memorial service was held Tuesday, Jan. 5, at the chapel at the Sgt. John L. Levitow Veterans Health Center of the Veterans Home and Hospital, 287 West St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067. Burial followed at Colonel Raymond F. Gates Memorial Cemetery in Rocky Hill.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the John L. Levitow Veterans Health Center of the Veteran’s Home and Hospital, 287 West Street, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

Hebron

Fred J. Santacrose

Fred J. Santacrose, 83, of Hebron, formerly of Plainville, passed away Dec. 29 at his home with his loving and devoted family by his side. Fred was the son of Stefano and Florence (Cutello) Santacrose and the husband of 50 years to Nancy (Bianchi) Santacrose.

Fred was a U.S. Air Force veteran and was a retired revenue collector for the state of Connecticut. He was a former member of the BPOE, New Britain, a very active member of the Democratic Town Committee, Plainville, was a graduate of McAllister School of Embalming and had been employed as a funeral director at many local funeral homes and most recently at the Berlin Memorial Funeral Home. He was a member of Saint Patrick’s Church in Farmington. Fred enjoyed spending time with his grandson Tristan.

In addition to his devoted wife Nancy, Fred is survived by a daughter, Donna S. Talbot and her husband Corey of Hebron; a son, Stephen R. Santacrose of New Britain; a sister, Lucille Reardon of West Simsbury; two grandchildren, Tristan N. Talbot, Sirianna Santacrose and several other nieces and nephews, especially Steven Santacrose, Barbara Santacrose, Kathleen Koch.

Fred was predeceased by five sisters Mary Santacrose, Rose Rumary, Florence Wylot, Susan Kayko and Judy Giannini.

Friends and family were invited to call at the Berlin Memorial Funeral Home, 96 Main Street, Kensington on Saturday, Jan. 2. A Mass of Christian Burial at Saint Patrick’s Church, 110 Main St., Farmington, followed at noon. Burial with military honors at St. Joseph’s Cemetery, Plainville, will follow.

A special thank you to the VITAS nurses who assisted Fred during his illness. Donations in Fred’s memory may be made to VITAS Foundation, 255 Pitkin St., East Hartford, CT 06108.

Portland

Patrick Francis Green Jr.

Patrick Francis Green Jr., 60, of Main Street, Portland, beloved husband of Susan (Burgess) Green, died Thursday, Dec. 24, at Middlesex Hospital. He was born in Middletown, the son of Jane (Arthur) Bowden of Wales, MA and the late Patrick Green, Sr.

A veteran of the Vietnam War, he served with the U.S. Air Force. Prior to his retirement, he was a mail clerk at the Portland Post Office, where he was fondly known to the children as the “lollipop man.” Pat loved the outdoors and was an avid fisherman. He was co-founder of Middlesex County Bass Hunters. Always quick to say, “a bad day of fishing is better than not fishing,” he enjoyed many days on Candlewood Lake, his favorite spot in Connecticut.

Besides his wife and mother, he is survived by his son, Patrick F. Green, IV of Portland; a daughter, Narielle Living and her husband Stephen of Yorktown, VA; a brother, Stephen Green of Middletown; two sisters, Cynthia Dolan of Warren, MA and Lisa Barrett of Monson, MA; a grandson, Morgan; several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; and his best friend and fishing partner, Frank Kielb of Cromwell.

He was predeceased by a brother, Thomas Green.

Memorial services were held Monday, Jan. 4, at Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main St., Portland. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends visited with his family Sunday, Jan. 3, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, those who wish may send memorial contributions to Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit, c/o Dept. Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Portland

William Leon Kaczenski

William Leon Kaczenski, 75, of Portland, husband of the late Linnea Jentzel (Sleight) Kaczenski, passed away Saturday, Dec. 19, at home. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late William and Josephine (Polack) Kaczenski.

Bill had lived in Portland, and was a member of the Middletown Elks Club, the Polish Falcons, the Koschusko Club and the Fly Fishing Club. He worked at Emhart Glass in Windsor for over 35 years as an engineer. His passions in life were golfing, fishing and birding; he was a great outdoorsman. He looked forward each week to meeting his lunch buddies: Jerry, Milt, Ray and John. He enjoyed cooking and he was continually taking classes on gardening, painting and other arts. His abilities were endless and he was always there for others, especially his daughter.

Bill is survived by his daughter, Lisa Linnea Kaczenski of Middlefield and many nieces, nephews and lifelong friends.

Besides his wife and parents, he was predeceased by two brothers, Stanley H. Kaczenski and Theodore A. Kaczenski; three sisters, Genevieve Zywocki-Szurma, Helen K. Brauer and Stephanie K. Downs.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 31, at 10 a.m., at South Congregational Church, 9 Pleasant St., Middletown, with the Rev. Marybeth Marshall officiating. Burial followed in Pine Grove Cemetery in Middletown. Friends called Wednesday, Dec. 30, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, and in lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Bill’s memory to the American Heart Association, 5 Brookside Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com.

Salem

Thomas McCready

Thomas McCready, 89, of Salem and formerly of Greentree, PA, beloved husband of Mary Louise, passed away Tuesday morning, Jan. 5, at the Wm. W. Backus Hospital in Norwich. Born Jan. 12, 1920 in Greentree, he was a son of the late Neil and Violet (Ceney) McCready.

On Dec. 23, 1939, he wed the former Mary Louise Anderson in Washington, PA. He proudly served with the U.S. Marine Corps for two years during World War II. Mr. McCready was a railroad superintendent for the Pittsburgh and West Virginia Railroad for 26 years. After retiring from the rails, he went on to work as superintendent of transportation for Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel in Monessen, PA and then Steubenville, OH.

In addition to his loving wife of 70 years, he is survived by four daughters and sons-in-law, Dona McCready-Lewis and William of Sun City, AZ, Sandra McCready-Bianco and Rick of Sun City Center, FL, Cherile and Rick Johnston of Macks Creek, MO and Timi and David Bronson of Salem; seven siblings, Cook “Charles” of North Carolina, Neal of Texas, George of Idaho, Violet of Alabama and Daisy of Pittsburgh, PA; seven grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by three sisters, Amy, Dela and Mary Mae.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Ross Adult Day Center, 165 McKinley Ave., Norwich 06360 or to the Gardner Lake Vol. Fire Dept., 429 Old Colchester Road, Salem, CT 06420.

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

Portland

Alice M. Magnano

Alice M. Magnano, 76, of Strickland Street, Portland, beloved wife and soulmate of Edward F. Magnano, passed peacefully on Wednesday, Jan. 6, at her residence surrounded by her loving family after a courageous battle with Alzheimer's. She was born on Dec. 3, 1933, in Middletown and was the daughter of the late Paul and Adele "Ella" (Revord) Casserino. She later moved to Portland with her family in 1963 and became a lifelong resident of this fine small town.

Alice was a faithful parishioner of St. Mary's Church in Portland. She taught CCD classes there for nearly 30 years and always made herself available to Sister Ida when and wherever help was needed. Alice retired in 1989 as a foreman at Standard Knapp (Plant 2) where she was employed for nearly 20 years. After her retirement, she went on to mentor students at the Portland Middle School.

Alice always made herself available day and night to those that needed her. She became, as they would say, their "guardian angel" and a second mother to many of those that needed her. Her loving husband never knew from one day to another, what her plans were but he had lots of patience and knew that no one could stand in her way.

During her final days of life, Alice was always reaching for her "star" (as her daughter Rose would say). She finally caught that "star." As we now look at the night sky, the brightest of them all will be hers. She is now at peace with all those that have been waiting for her. Alice always loved angels and she was one herself.

Besides her husband of 55 glorious, wonderful, loving years, she leaves behind her daughter, Rose and husband Jimmy Piatti, twin daughters, Francine and her fiancé, Mark Berard and Donna, and her husband Alan Zawistowski. She also leaves behind her four grandchildren, who she loved and cherished very much: granddaughters, Danielle and Lisa Piatti, grandsons Bill and Joe Petras, along with three step grandchildren, Alan, Joseph, and Kevin Zawistowski. She also leaves her brothers Phillip Casserino of California, and Allan Casserino with wife Cathy of Middletown. She leaves many nieces, nephews, and cousins, along with her faithful and best canine companion, Dozer.

Alice was predeceased by her brothers Richard and Robert Casserino, both of California.

Her family would like to thank Middlesex Hospice for their care and time spent with Alice and her family and a thank you to all those at Middlesex Hospital that took care of Alice when she needed that extra care. A great spirit may be gone, but will never be forgotten.

The funeral will be held Saturday, Jan. 9, at 10 a.m., from the Coughlin Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown, followed by a mass of Christian burial in St. Mary's Church, Portland, at 11 a.m. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland. Friends may call at the funeral home today, Friday, Jan. 8, from 5-8 p.m.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 2911 Dixwell Ave., Suite 104, Hamden, CT 06618, Middlesex Hospice Unit c/o Development Office, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457, or (for her love of animals) the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.