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Mold was discovered under the stage in the community room at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School this August. On Tuesday, selectmen appropriated \$3,200 for abatement and a topical treatment of the mold.

Marlborough Officials Address Mold Problem

by Katy Nally

Marlborough officials convened Tuesday to address a mold problem at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, which apparently was also discovered in January of last year.

Selectmen unanimously agreed to make an emergency appropriation of \$3,200 from the town's undesignated fund balance to abate mold found under the stage in the school's community room, and then cover surfaces with a topical treatment.

The work is scheduled for the day after Thanksgiving, Friday, Nov. 26, when school will be closed.

First Selectman Bill Black said the abatement and topical treatment would keep the mold away for about one to three years. During that time, selectmen would decide on a long-term plan to ensure the mold does not return.

Black said Wednesday the mold was discovered when foldout chairs were pulled from a storage space underneath the stage, and found to have a "slimy coating" on them. He said this space sits above a concrete slab and is very dark – the perfect breeding ground for mold.

"It creates a level of humidity that bleeds out

of the concrete," Black said.

Black said he became aware of the problem in mid-August and later talked with Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz. Black said he also contacted Mystic Air Quality Consultants, which informed him consultants had already tested the space under the stage in the community room in January 2009.

"I'm disturbed we've let this go on this long," Black said Tuesday.

Black said he was unsure whether or not the mold had been treated when first discovered almost two years ago. He did not know why school officials might have chosen not to treat the mold, but offered the turnover in personnel as one possible reason.

Either way, he said, "it's history," and the problem will be treated now.

So in September, Black and Sklarz asked Mystic Air to come to the elementary school again and take samples from under the stage and on various walls. Once the company verified it was the same mold that had been found in 2009, Black and Sklarz began discussing

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With the New Year, a New Website?

by Lindsay Fetzner

After being devoid of an up-to-date town website for just over two years, Andover residents can now get a sneak peek at what the new and hopefully upcoming site will look like.

In May of this year, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) appointed a Website Committee, charged with constructing a new website for the town. Eight people were appointed to the committee, along with four alternates.

Debra Touponce, chairwoman of the Website Committee, said her plan is to approach the BOS during its Dec. 1 meeting and present the website. After being stalled for a few months, Touponce said the group is "pretty well into development" and that the website is between 80 and 90 percent complete.

"I'm pretty excited about it," Touponce said. "It still isn't up and live, but we have been working on it."

Touponce said she anticipates that the BOS will have some updates or changes to the new website, and "worst case" scenario, the site will go live during the month of February.

"I anticipate that the Board of Selectmen will have some updates," she said. "They had some

suggestions for photos, but I am sure they will have things to update on it."

At a March BOS meeting, where forming a Website Committee was discussed, First Selectman Bob Burbank said the town had an official website in the past, which was run on a regular basis by a committee that had been established in August 2003. The website first went public in May 2004.

However, the town ran into difficulties when the state legislature passed a law, effective Oct. 1, 2008, that required meeting minutes to be posted on a municipal website within a week after the meeting was held. Burbank said it was impractical for the website to continue, due to the large number of volunteers that had to comply with this rule.

"Our feeling is that this new rule could have a very large effect on the membership of our boards and commissions," Burbank said at the time. "Most of our volunteers go to work every day and mail their minutes in. If they were required to post these to the Internet, our fear is many of the volunteers would stop volunteering."

As a result, the former town website, andoverct.org, became unofficial by a vote of the BOS and the committee was disbanded.

At the same March BOS meeting this year, resident Dianne Grenier discussed getting a website up and running again, and informed the board that 12 residents were interested in serving on a committee. Grenier was the former chair of the original Website Committee, who worked to get the old website up and launched.

Many residents in town are familiar with



The finishing touches are being put on Andover's new website. While the site is still a work in progress, residents can get a sneak peek, by going to andoverct.info.

Grenier's 'This 'N That' mailing, sent to over 375 e-mail addresses, filled with information on a wide variety of various town events and meetings. Grenier said this week that 'This 'N That' would stop once the website goes live, due to the fact that everything included in her e-mails would be available on the new website.

Touponce also added that she hopes to have links for various sports in town, be it the recre-

ational teams or those at RHAM.

Since the appointment of the Website Committee in May, committee members have been working to create the new website, which is temporarily available for viewing at Andoverct.info. The plan is to keep the same domain name, Touponce said, and to move the new website over to the old website address,

See New Website Page 2

Early Deadline

Due to Thanksgiving next week, the Rivereast will publish Wednesday, Nov. 24. As a result, the deadline for all copy will be Monday, Nov. 22, at noon.

No exceptions will be made.



The old Andover website, which still exists at andoverct.org, but hasn't been updated since 2008.

New Website cont. from Front Page

Andoverct.org.

Touponce estimated that the old website hasn't been touched in a few years, and most of the information on it is "dead information" that simply sits there. She said the committee wants to get rid of that site, and put the new one in its place.

Website Committee member Scott Sauyet said he had been running the old website, and planned on shutting the site down when the new one was up and running.

Currently, Touponce said the committee is working on confirming that all of the information on the new website is current and up to date. She said she is working with the town clerk to make sure all of the phone numbers, e-mail addresses, boards and commissions as well as elected officials, among other informational items, are correct before it goes live.

Touponce added that Jay Kamins, a member of the committee and professional web designer, has been instrumental in designing the site, along with all of the links it offers.

"The website looks beautiful," Touponce said. "It looks professional."

As word has spread through town regarding

the new site, Elaine Buchardt, BOS liaison to the committee, said there has been some confusion with residents that the old website is now the new one.

The calendar on the old site is updated automatically, she pointed out, so it appears that it is live and current. However, this is not the case. In fact, the old website has the header "Unofficial Andover Connecticut Website" on the homepage. There is also a footnote at the bottom of the same page that says, "This site is not affiliated with the government of the Town of Andover."

"We are just trying to get that unplugged," Buchardt said. "People think it's up to date and it's not even close."

But, having the preliminary site up, Buchardt said, gives residents a chance to visit the site and provide feedback. Committee member Theodore Sakelarakis agreed with Buchardt, and said it offers the opportunity for individuals to "critique it." Overall, Touponce said the committee is "definitely very excited" to have the project close to being complete, and to be able to provide residents with the new site in the near future.

Mold Problem cont. from Front Page

treatment options.

"We knew we needed to get something done, the question was where the financial obligation lay," Black said at Tuesday's meeting.

In October, bids for contractors to abate the mold and spread the topical treatment came in, Black said, and the town agreed to a bid of \$3,200.

The next step was to ask the finance board for the fund transfer. According to Black, the Board of Finance asked him if he had sought out the Board of Education (BOE) to possibly fund the abatement.

BOE Chair Betty O'Brien said Tuesday the school board felt it should not fund the mold treatment because it occurred in the community room, and, she added, the board has no money to spend.

O'Brien said, for taxpayers, whether the

school or town funds the treatment, "it's the same pocket." She also suggested sealing off the area entirely and "never using it again."

"It's storage we don't need," she said.

However, Black noted sealing the area would most likely promote the growth of mold.

Selectman Joe La Bella asked O'Brien what precedent there was for the "town paying for this sort of thing," and O'Brien reiterated, "we have no money to pay for it."

In the end, La Bella made the motion to take \$3,200 from the undesignated fund balance to pay for the mold abatement and topical treatment, because, he said, "If they have no money, it should come from the town."

Selectman Riva Clark said taking from the undesignated fund balance was "the most appropriate way at this point in time."

Social Studies Benchmarks Reviewed at RHAM BOE Meeting

by Lindsay Fetzner

Administrators and the RHAM Board of Education (BOE) heard this week from the RHAM social studies department coordinator on benchmark assessments, a school-wide initiative that began last year.

At Monday's BOE meeting, Tina Forsberg explained that the social studies benchmark assessments apply to both the middle and high schools, grades seven through 12.

Back in August, when school started, RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said an initiative for the school year was to continue with the development of the benchmark assessments in every department. For each academic expectation listed within the high school's mission statement, he said key assessments would be done during different periods of the school year.

This year, Leslie said, he wanted to get the benchmarks in place. And in the future, he said, he wanted to pilot a standards-based report card, which would be sent home in addition to the regular report cards to provide a more in-depth analysis of how students were doing with key skills.

The benchmark assessment initiative, Forsberg said, has served to highlight areas of weakness in student performance. Furthermore, it has created an opportunity for collaborative discussion among teachers in the social studies department.

"This has helped us formulate a more purposeful, focused plan to address these areas," she said. "We can't help but believe that if students are exposed to the same consistent expectations, elements of writing, and opportunities to practice with specific feedback over time, that we will see real improvement in their skills."

Additionally, Forsberg said the initiative has helped to foster a more consistent approach to the evaluation of writing by teachers in the de-

partment. This is a particularly important aspect because of the number of new teachers joining department over the past few years, she said.

The process to improve learning, Forsberg said, includes four steps: identifying a benchmark (critical skill to be measured), collecting data (develop and evaluate assessment), analyzing the data (reflect on results) and finally, adjusting instruction (implement targeted strategy).

A challenge that the district is faced with is incorporating and integrating "a myriad" of mandatory programs and elements into the assessments. These include what Forsberg called "21st Century Skills," as well as RHAM's academic expectations, the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) and Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT), New England Association of Schools and Colleges accreditation and more.

Forsberg said the benchmarks began at the "building level," with RHAM's academic expectations and the district's mission statement, which incorporates academic, social and civic student expectations.

One critical "21st Century Skill" is clear communication, Forsberg said. In addition to communicating to persuade, students have to articulate thoughts and ideas using written communication skills. Forsberg said there is an increased need in this area with the advent of text messaging and instant messaging.

Forsberg provided the department benchmark of writing a "developed persuasive piece on a controversial topic." Using indicators from the CMT and CAPT, writing skills are measured in four ways: whether the student has taken a position, if they have used logical reasoning, if they are persuasive in their work and if they have used supportive evidence.

The assessment is then matched to the curriculum, which varies from grade to grade. For example, in the eighth grade, students are asked if the Electoral College is a "good way to select a president." Students are asked to provide two source articles to read, and then assigned to write a persuasive letter.

From there, an evaluative rubric is creating, blending writing elements from a variety of sources, such as CAPT, CMT and the Common Core Standards, Forsberg said. This is done to measure where the students are in terms of a particular skill. The rubric lists the four indicators mentioned above, and scores that range from zero to three. A score of zero translates to the indicator not being present, and three, the indicator is "exemplary."

Some difficulties that the students have come across thus far include sequencing ideas logically as well as backing up an argument with significant facts, Forsberg said.

The goal, Forsberg pointed out, is to have at least 75 percent of the students score proficient (a score of two) or better in three out of the four elements of a persuasive letter. And in a persuasive essay, the goal for 2010-11 is for at least 77 percent of students to score proficient or better in three out of the four elements of the essay.

The last step in the benchmark assessments is adjusting instruction. Forsberg said this allows for design-focused homework with specific feedback, and to develop "anchor sets."

In terms of homework design, brainstorming exercises and "make the case" exercises are used. In the former, students generate reasons, place them in categories and prioritize them. In the latter, students play the role of a prosecuting attorney and, for example, outline evidence that could result in a conviction of Mao

Zedong for crimes against humanity, Forsberg said.

The specific teacher feedback is focused on identified areas concern, Forsberg said. At the middle school, it is logical reasoning and at the high school, supportive evidence. For each of these areas, a "checklist" is created, with improvement areas highlighted that the teachers fill out and pass on to the students.

For example, at the middle school level, with a concern in logical reasoning, areas on the checklist include if the student used multiple reasons in their work, if the reasons were accurate, if the ideas were difficult to follow and if there was limited explanation of ideas. The consistent feedback, Forsberg said, allows the students to identify which areas they need to work on.

The final part of instruction adjustment Forsberg discussed was developing "anchor sets" of student work. Authentic student work is used as a standard, for which other papers could be judged against. Utilizing an actual student piece, Forsberg said, allows for a teacher and a student who may be struggling to sit down and discuss what a strong writing piece looks like.

At the middle school, Forsberg said one assessment is developed for each of the marking periods, for a total of four. At the high school, one is developed per semester, she said, for a total of two.

"The benefit of this work is to be able to report to both parents and students what students know in terms of content and are also able to do in terms of fundamental skills of a discipline when each marking period ends," she said.

The next meeting of the BOE is slated for Monday, Dec. 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the RHAM High School chorus room.

Hebron Selectmen Endorse Beautification Plan

by Lindsay Fetzner

Although Hebron celebrated its 300th birthday two years ago, funds still remain from the celebration committee, which formed in 2006, and selectmen recently voted to put those monies toward beautifying the town.

Last month, the former treasurer of the 300th Celebration Committee, Judy Podell, urged the Board of Selectmen (BOS) to create a beautification fund utilizing the remaining \$5,424.

At its last meeting on Nov. 4, the BOS decided to appoint a seven-member group, called the Friends of a Beautiful Hebron Committee, and also transferred remaining funds from the 300th Celebration Committee account to the friends' account. The committee was charged with making suggestions and developing plans for beautification projects in town, as well as raising additional funds for their ongoing maintenance, as is necessary. The group would focus on the downtown and business corridors.

So far, Michele Sinkez and Podell are the two residents interested in serving on the committee since its appointment, Town Manager Bonnie Therrien said.

As a member of the Façade Improvement Committee (FIC), representing the Planning and Zoning Committee, Podell said she enjoys seeing the town improve, and projects

completed that enhance the town, especially those she has had a hand in.

"The look and feel of the town is something I care a lot about," she said, adding that being part of the FIC "really gives me a sense of satisfaction."

Podell is no stranger to fundraising for the town as well as being an active member of various town committees. As a member of the 300th Celebration Committee, Podell said the group raised nearly \$56,000 for the town-wide festivities. And, as a volunteer with the committee behind the new Hebron Phone Book, she raised close to \$16,000 in advertisements. Since 2006, Podell pointed out she has helped to raise over \$71,000, collectively, as a volunteer on various boards and projects.

Drawing on those sentiments, and observing the time that has passed since the town's tercentennial celebration, Podell said she was inclined to bring the idea of using the remaining money for beautification purposes to the selectmen, due to the fact that the committee has not met in two years (the selectmen officially disbanded it at their Nov. 4 meeting).

"It seemed to me [the funds] should be dedicated to continuing things in the center of Hebron," Podell said this week.

In an Oct. 7 letter to Therrien, Podell said with the new installation of the sidewalks in

the center of town, it seemed timely to bring the recommendation to the BOS.

Podell suggested purchasing two or three benches to sit between Route 66 and the commemorative stone wall, which could be used during town-wide festivities or holiday celebrations, such as the Memorial Day parade and Maple Fest. Similar to the benches in front of the Horton House, Podell suggested purchasing stone benches that residents and visitors could use and face either the street or the stone wall.

Other recommendations Podell made in her letter included avenue banners on the new light poles in front of Fire Company No. 1, planters in the area of the town green, street trees in the business district, banners in the Village Green area as it develops and a "Welcome to Hebron" sign located at the western edge of Route 66.

At the Nov. 4 BOS meeting, Peter Moon, the former chair of the 300th Celebration Committee, said his group talked of the funds being used for benches, as well as maintaining the commemorative stone wall, when they last met.

Selectman Dan Larson also suggested that some of the remaining funds be earmarked for maintenance and upkeep, because, he believes this would stay in line with "the spirit of what

the committee was charged to do – help to maintain and embellish upon those things that were done" in town.

Although the \$5,424 account will eventually be depleted, Podell said she is confident that a committee could raise additional funds to replenish the account, without "burdening the taxpayers."

Podell suggested identifying a project "to make our town more attractive," and then soliciting funds for it. As various other town projects came along, the committee could also "take them on," she said. Podell mentioned maintenance work as a possible use for the funds, as Larson suggested.

"My idea was the money was raised for the town of Hebron and anything we did permanently for the town without bothering taxpayers was a positive thing to do," Podell said at the BOS meeting. "The \$5,000 is not going to do forever, but I'd be happy to raise more money."

For more information on the Friends of a Beautiful Hebron Committee, contact Therrien at btherrien@hebronct.com or at 860-228-5971 ext. 122. Letters of interest with a person's qualifications can be e-mailed to Therrien or mailed to the Town Office Building at 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT, 06248.

Bacon Academy in Colchester Selected for Election Audit

by Katy Nally

The results of an audit Wednesday, of the voting machine at Bacon Academy, were just one vote off from what the machine's tally was on Election Day.

Bacon was randomly chosen by Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz as one of 74 voting precincts to be audited across the state.

Republican Registrar of Voters Denise Mizla said eight people, including herself, hand counted 1,414 ballots Wednesday that were cast in District Three on Nov. 2.

Three races, governor, attorney general and state Senate, were selected by Bysiewicz for the audit. Mizla said recounts had to occur for each candidate in every race.

After recounting several times, Mizla said the one-vote discrepancy might be due to one ballot, where it appeared a voter erased a mark.

Mizla was unsure how a vote could be erased, because markers are used to color in the bal-

lots' ovals, but she said, one oval on that particular ballot appears grey.

Because the machines that scan ballots and tally votes are very sensitive, Mizla said this "grey" vote might have registered by accident.

However, counting for three hours, from 5:30-8:30 p.m., and coming up with a one-vote difference "is very good," Mizla said.

"I think the secretary of state's office won't think twice about it," she said.

On Thursday, Mizla and the Democratic Registrar of Voters Dot Mrowka sent the memory card from District Three's voting machine to the computer science department at the University of Connecticut to be analyzed.

Auditing began Wednesday and must be completed by Monday, according to a press release from Bysiewicz.

A state law passed in 2007 mandated audits of at least 10 percent of polling locations across

the state. The audits are administered to verify results from voting machines by comparing them to a hand count, Bysiewicz said.

"Record numbers of Connecticut residents cast ballots on November 2nd, and we don't just take the machines' word for it," Bysiewicz said in her press release. "Auditing election results isn't just a good idea, it's absolutely essential in order to guarantee the integrity of our elections."

This year's audit included 10 percent of the state's 734 polling places, selected at random, as well as those in Bridgeport that remained open after 8 p.m. on Election Day.

Although the districts are randomly chosen, a Colchester voting precinct has been selected for every election since August 2008. Mizla said Colchester was audited for the 2010 primary, the 2009 municipal election, the 2008 presiden-

tial primary and the 2008 election.

And from all those audits, Mizla said, counters' results usually match those of the machine.

"Most times we don't have a discrepancy; sometimes we might be one off," she said.

Because Mizla, Mrowka and other counters are paid for their time during the audit, going through five audits in three years can start to add up, she said.

"The cost can be burdensome, especially with a primary audit and an audit for the November election," Mizla added.

Wednesday's recount was completed by Mizla and her deputy registrar, along with two counters, and Mrowka and her deputy and two more counters. Mizla estimated the total cost at about \$300, which will come from the registrars' budget.

Alleged Harassment Victim in East Hampton Files Complaint with State Agency

by Claire Michalewicz

One of the three women allegedly harassed by former town manager Jeffery O'Keefe has filed a complaint with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO), a state agency that, according to its website, aims to "eliminate discrimination through civil and human rights law enforcement."

Town employee Elizabeth Shepard filed two complaints in the Town Clerk's office on Oct. 14. The two complaints are identical, though one names O'Keefe as the defendant, while the other names The Town of East Hampton.

Shepard is represented by Leon Rosenblatt, who is also representing Police Chief Matthew Reimondo, and his partner and daughter Alexandra Rosenblatt.

Shepard said at a Town Council meeting in August that she was one of the three women who passed sexual harassment complaints against O'Keefe to Reimondo in April. The identities of the two other women have not been released.

According to Rosenblatt, Shepard was the

only one of the three women who intended to file a complaint with the CHRO. One of the other women, he said, had allegedly experienced a pattern of gender discrimination from O'Keefe but no harassment. The other was concerned about her identity being publicly revealed, Rosenblatt said.

The CHRO complaint details Shepard's account of how O'Keefe allegedly harassed her on her third day at work as a secretary and dispatcher in the police department.

O'Keefe allegedly insisted that Shepard get into his car so he could give her a ride to her car, which she had parked at Stop & Shop. Shepard said she did not want to get in the car, but relented because "I did not want to insult him because I had only been employed by the town for three days, and Mr. O'Keefe participated in my hiring process," she said in the complaint.

In the car, Shepard said, O'Keefe made disparaging statements about some of the people she worked with in the police department, and

told her, "It's good to have new blood in that office." After stopping the car, Shepard said, O'Keefe intentionally grabbed her thigh and rubbed his hand up and down before she made a quick exit.

Shepard said the incident caused her "humiliation, embarrassment, lack of sleep and severe emotional distress."

O'Keefe, who resigned from his position on Sept. 10, has repeatedly denied the allegations against him. An investigation from the town's labor attorney, Mark Sommaruga, found no evidence of any wrongdoing, and the Town Council voted to take no action against O'Keefe in May. An investigation by state's attorney Timothy Liston's office is still pending.

Rosenblatt said the CHRO's investigative processes usually move slowly, explaining that the CHRO first had to decide whether to investigate the case. Scheduling a fact-finding hearing could take months, if it happens at all, Rosenblatt said.

Rosenblatt explained that CHRO complaints

like this were usually made after an employee lost his or her job for discriminatory reasons.

"This is an odd one because she never lost her job," Rosenblatt said. He said Shepard almost lost her job, when O'Keefe announced he would eliminate her position as part of the police department cuts he made in June. But after the uproar over Reimondo's layoff, the other cuts (which included laying off one officer and restructuring the town's animal control department) were never made.

Rosenblatt said that if CHRO retains the case and investigates O'Keefe's actions, Shepard could get damages for the distress she suffered, or reimbursement of her legal fees. In addition, Rosenblatt said, the town could be "admonished" for O'Keefe's actions.

Upon receiving the complaints, Town Clerk Sandra Wieleba passed them on to Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila and to the town's liability insurance company, Ahrens, Fuller, St. John and Vincent. D'Aquila did not return a call for comment.

CrossFit Playground in Colchester Trains for Success

by Katy Nally

CrossFit Playground isn't a typical gym.

The equipment is sparse, and there's no drone of women on ellipticals running endless miles while watching *Oprah*. Instead, you'll find what matters most – an encouraging atmosphere and success stories.

In fact, the co-owner of CrossFit Playground, at its new location on Upton Road, is his own success story. Will Malz played Division I football at the University of Pennsylvania and later came to settle in Colchester. As he went from former football star, to father of three, Will began to pack on the pounds. His wife, Cindy Malz, explained Will's weight eventually "spiraled out of control," to the point where he was "severely overweight."

And so, the couple began working out CrossFit style, which incorporates "functional movements" and "principal-strength and conditioning programs," Cindy said. For example, a workout from last week included three rounds of 100-meter frog hops, 15 pull-ups and 20 box jumps.

And within a year, Will had dropped about 100 lbs., and continued to shed weight.

"Overall, he's a better person," Cindy said. "It's changed our family life, because it's made him healthier."

Eventually, Cindy and Will began coaching their neighbors and friends, and soon their garage was full of people, all anxiously awaiting the Workout of the Day (WOD). Then, this year, the couple found the CrossFit business a new home, at 181 Upton Rd., and opened its doors about a month ago.

Luckily, many clients who stuck with Cindy and Will since the beginning, are now enjoying the new digs.

"We're really committed to the people, and

they're also committed to us," Cindy pointed out.

The new "playground" holds several mats, jumping blocks of various heights, a few giant tires and pull-up bars, as well as trainers who are constantly on hand. Usually the trainer to client ratio is about 3-to-1 or 4-to-1, Cindy said.

"It's a quaint setting, with a group of people who are very encouraging," she added.

And since its opening, Cindy said the playground has taken on all types of new clients. A plus for CrossFit, is its workouts are "universally scalable," meaning anyone from a Strongman champion to an elderly person can perform the same exercises, but changed slightly to accommodate different degrees of strength.

The gym also offers CrossFit for kids.

"Anyone can do it," Cindy said.

But mostly two types of people venture into CrossFit training: those who are in good shape, but haven't seen results while working out at a normal gym, and those who are "in desperate need of losing weight," Cindy said.

One regular, Chuck Banning, who was at the Upton Road gym last week doing his "Frog In A Blender" WOD, said in about one year, he lost 77 lbs. from practicing CrossFit, and lost another 22 lbs. from sticking to a paleo diet for a month.

About a year ago, Banning witnessed his mother suffer through complications from Type II diabetes, and said to himself, "I gotta straighten this out now; it's now or never." So he began training in the Malz' Colchester home.

Three months in, Banning dropped a full pants size.

But losing the weight wasn't the only thing that kept him coming back to CrossFit.



Elaine Caporale, left, and Suzanne Freylikhman do some dead lifts, and trainer Joyce Moorcroft instructs, at the new CrossFit Playground, located at 181 Upton Rd. For more information visit crossfitplayground.com.

"I was enjoying it, that was the big thing," Banning said. "The workout changes everyday. ... It's not monotonous."

Banning also said the trainers, including Cindy and Will, help to provide "a nice family atmosphere."

"The Playground people are as genuine as they come," Banning said in an e-mail, adding "they've certainly helped me and inspired me."

For more information about CrossFit Playground, visit crossfitplayground.com, or call 860-680-5583.

The gym holds classes Monday-Friday at 5 a.m., 6 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 4 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. and the gym is open from 7:30-9 p.m. On Saturdays the gym is open from 8:30-9:30 a.m., and on Sundays, from 8-9 a.m.

Colchester Officials Address Track Drainage Problem

by Katy Nally

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein met with contractors and engineers Monday to discuss how to fix a pipe that malfunctioned under Bacon Academy's track.

When drainage pipes were laid under the track this year, a new pipe hit an existing pipe, which caused the drainage to stop, Goldstein said.

Director of Facilities Greg Plunkett explained the new pipe "accidentally blocked the existing drainage pipe" near the northeast end.

Last month, during a rainstorm, a portion of the field inside the track flooded, but the pool dried up by the next day. Sports games and practices were not interrupted, Goldstein said.

"There was pretty significant pooling of water at the end of the field," he added.

On Monday it was decided engineers would first put together a sketch, and then Empire Paving would take a few days to rectify the drainage, beginning next weekend.

Goldstein said "to repair the system, there

will be no added expense to the town." However, if the drainage is "enhanced," the project might be part of a new change order.

Besides determining how to fix the issue, Goldstein said they also discussed who might be at fault for the pooling, the engineering firm Milone and MacBroom or contracting company Empire Paving.

In the meantime, Goldstein assured all athletics and track events will go ahead as planned. Plunkett assured the "track itself doesn't have to be disturbed" while the pipes are fixed.

All repairs should be carried out within a week or two.

The town has spent approximately \$630,000 to renovate the track to date, Plunkett said.

A grand opening ceremony was scheduled for Oct. 1, but was postponed due to rain. Goldstein said another opening is planned for this spring, when Bacon's track and field team will hold its first track meet.

Portland Selectmen Approve Using Land for Parking

by Claire Michalewicz

Portland residents voted unanimously Wednesday to renew a lease agreement for the use of state land under the Arrigoni Bridge for parking.

The two grass lots, located directly under the bridge, can accommodate about 50 cars. The town does not pay for use of the land, which is primarily used by the businesses located along the river and by visitors to the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park.

The vote passed Wednesday 5-0. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said after the meeting she was "very grateful to the state of Connecticut for allowing us to use this land."

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) had voted to send the question to a town meeting at a special meeting held last Tuesday, Nov. 9. At that meeting, the selectmen also voted to schedule another public hearing, this one for an amendment to the ordinance which prohibits swimming in the Brownstone Quarries. The revised ordinance clarifies that swimming is permitted

in the Brownstone Exploration and Discovery Park.

Last year, Bransfield explained, the BOS went through the process to amend the ordinance, but Town Clerk Bernadette Dillon realized the ordinance had never been noticed in a newspaper, which made it invalid.

Also at the Nov. 9 meeting, selectmen voted to sell the dilapidated house at 170 Marlborough St., pending approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The town recently acquired the abandoned house when it foreclosed, and plans to sell it in its current condition, Bransfield said.

The BOS also voted to transfer \$2,500 from the town's contingency fund to the Veterans Affairs Commission's budget, to fund the Memorial Day parade. The public hearing for the ordinance is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 7:20 p.m., at Portland Library, 20 Freestone Ave. A regularly scheduled BOS meeting will follow at 7:30.

Boards Contract Out Snow Plowing for Town Schools in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Both the boards of finance and selectmen approved a contract of \$85,000 for Bakaj Construction of Lebanon to plow Colchester's four schools.

The contract is a flat rate, as opposed to the town's current cost model, and can run for up to three years, Public Works Director Mark Decker said.

The Board of Selectmen unanimously approved the contract at its Nov. 4 meeting, and the Board of Finance approved it the day before on Nov. 3, with one member opposed – Rob Tarlov.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said this week the flat-rate contract will "make operations more efficient."

"We are looking for ways in which we can bring in extra help during the winter when it snows, without having to maintain that extra equipment," he said.

The town budgeted snow removal at \$299,130 for this fiscal year and this contract will add \$85,000 to that number, totaling

\$384,130.

However, the rationale behind contracting plowing at a flat fee stems from past years when the town underestimated its snow removal costs. Last year, the town budgeted about 83 percent (\$277,568) of what it actually paid for snow removal, at \$335,105 – a difference of \$57,537.

The town underestimates its overall snow removal budget "almost every single year," Schuster said.

Because it's impossible to predict winter weather when taxpayers approve the budget in May, Schuster said, with a flat rate for plowing the schools, "we know we're not going to go over budget."

Decker said he decided to contract out the service after researching "a number of other communities." In looking at other towns, Decker said he noticed the flat rate comes in above and below past snow removal budgets, but, over time the difference eventually reaches a balance.

"In the long haul, it certainly evens out," he

said. "We agreed that from a budget, as well as a contractor, perspective, it was a desirable approach."

Decker also said the town would probably exceed the \$85,000 cost in snow removal after about 15 winter storms. He looked back at past weather that hit Colchester and said 15 storms was "the smallest number we incurred over the last five years." Other times the town saw anywhere from 20 to 30 storms.

"This turned out to be a more reasonable number, as well as adding to the certainty of what the number would be," he said.

This contract also has the potential for "cost avoidance," Decker said. With plowing at the schools contracted out, the town can reduce its truck fleet by one and cut down on manpower, which, Decker anticipates, will bring "long-term cost savings." Cutting the one truck would save the town \$23,000 annually in expenses like repairs and insurance, Decker said.

Schuster said the truck wouldn't be cut for a few years, as the town would want to see how

the new contracting model works. He added, though, the town would see immediate savings because wear and tear on the existing vehicles "will go down significantly."

Getting rid of more than one truck, however, will not be likely, Decker said.

"All of the vehicles are spoken for on a year-round basis, with the exception of the large plow trucks," he said.

Last winter, park maintainers were responsible for plowing school driveways and parking lots, and school custodial staff shoveled the sidewalks and stairs. The highway department also lent assistance.

But, Schuster noted, plowing has become more difficult for town staff because the number of roads, parking lots and sidewalks has increased over the past 10 years. Decker added the truck fleet is also aging and equipment repair costs have increased.

All told, "I expect, in the long run, this operational model will result in a savings," Decker said.

School Board Seeking Money for DARE

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Education (BOE) is looking for funding to keep the DARE program going at Brownstone Intermediate School.

The Saint Clements Foundation, which funds the anti-drug program for sixth-graders at Brownstone, has informed the school system that it can no longer afford to pay for it. Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen told the BOE at its meeting Tuesday. The program costs about \$4,800 a year, Doyen said.

"The board does not want to pull the rug out from under the sixth-graders," Doyen said after the meeting. She said the school system would transfer funds to pay for the program for this year's sixth-graders, but she and Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS) Principal Laurie Boske were looking at other options for future years.

Doyen said the program was important, not only because it teaches students about drugs and alcohol abuse, but because it encourages "positive relations between students and the local police." Portland Police do most of the teaching in the program, in 10 separate classes in the second semester of the school year.

Doyen said Saint Clements was still helping out, allowing BIS to hold the DARE graduation at its banquet hall.

Andrew Ellinghaus, corporate sales manager at Saint Clements, said Thursday the foundation was cutting back its funding of the DARE program because of the bad economy.

"The whole state and the whole country has taken a hit," Ellinghaus said. "It was never our intention to be the bad guy." He said Saint Clements does "quite a bit" of charity work in

the area, and the foundation had to cut back in some areas.

Ellinghaus explained that Saint Clements was happy to host the DARE graduation, and would be providing all the food and T-shirts for that event.

Also at the meeting, Doyen announced that the repairs to BIS' roof, which was largely replaced over the Columbus Day weekend last month, had been inspected and were now officially under warranty. Doyen noted Wednesday that during the heavy rain the previous night, the roof hadn't leaked at all.

The BOE also voted Tuesday to adopt several new policies. They included a revised Internet and e-mail use policy for school employees and students and a restriction on online social networking from school computers. In addition, the BOE passed the schools' wellness policy, which outlines the goals for nutrition and physical education, and the nutrition standards for foods served in school.

The public communications policy the BOE approved allows all school employees to speak to the media, but cautions that "any use which interferes with the educational mission of the district, breaches confidentiality obligations of school district employees, or harms the goodwill and reputation of the school district in the community is not acceptable."

A revised policy on the separation of church and state clarifies that students may submit a request to their principal for consideration to be excused from any activity that may violate their religious beliefs.

The BOE also made some minor changes in



Boy Scouts in Portland Troop 2 advanced to tenderfoot, second class and star at the group's annual Fall Court of Honor last month. Several scouts were also awarded merit badges.

wording to its policy on reporting suspected child abuse and neglect.

A seventh policy, concerning the dispensing of medications at school, was held until the BOE determines how school nurses dispose of

unused over-the-counter medications at the end of the school year.

The next BOE meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 7, at 7 p.m., in the library at Portland High School, 95 High St.

Portland Man Arrested After Explicit Videos Found on Cell Phone

A local man was arrested Tuesday after videos of him engaging in sexual activities with a 15-year-old girl were discovered on his cell phone, Portland Police said.

Thomas H. McArthur, 29, of 47 Airline Ave., was arrested Tuesday, Nov. 16 and charged with



Thomas McArthur

second-degree sexual assault, third-degree possession of child pornography and risk of injury to a minor.

The arrest came after a nine-month investigation, which started in March when a friend of McArthur's turned his cell phone over to police. According to the police report, the friend scanned through the phone and discovered several photographs of naked girls, who the friend recognized as being "above and below" 16 years old.

The friend also told police the phone contained two videos of McArthur engaging in sexual activities with a girl who was 15 years old at the time.

In late April, police said, the friend volun-

tarily returned to the Portland Police Department to offer more information about the photos. She said she observed several photos depicting various tattoos and immediately identified them as McArthur's. She added that the tattoos were also visible in the videos.

In May, Officer Daniel Knapp spoke with the girl depicted in the photos and the videos on McArthur's phone, police said. The girl told Knapp she met with McArthur several times during the summer of 2008, when she was 13 years old. She said McArthur would supply her with cocaine and marijuana almost daily in exchange for sexual "favors," police said.

The girl also admitted to posing for "dirty" pictures for McArthur, and added that there were other young girls involved, police said.

In late June, a search warrant was obtained to collect electronic data from his cell phone, police said. The phone was turned over to the Glastonbury Police Department's forensic unit for examination. Still photos and videos were recovered from the phone, police said, and the girl was able to identify herself in them, as well as identify McArthur's tattoos.

McArthur's bond was set at \$250,000. He is next due in Middlesex Superior Court Dec. 14.

Marlborough Police News

11/12: A 17-year-old male was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, State Police said.

11/13: William Depietro, 47, of 11 Roberts Rd., was charged with operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended and DUI, State Police said.

11/14 State Police are investigating a residential burglary on Flood Road. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Troop K, at 860-537-7500.

11/15: A residential burglary occurred on Black Ledge Road, State Police said.

Man Lets Himself Into Hebron Home

by Lindsay Fetzner

During the early morning hours of Wednesday, Nov. 10, a 40-year-old apparently intoxicated man from Ireland let himself into an Amston home, State Police said.

Alan McKenna, of Adere Bellurgan Point, Ireland, who police described as an "intoxicated man," entered a home on Pepperbush Lane at approximately 3:02 a.m. State Police said the owner subsequently called 911.

He was charged with second-degree criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

McKenna was due in Rockville Superior Court on Nov. 10. According to the state judicial website, his next court date is Nov. 24 in Rockville. The court is currently "awaiting plea."

East Hampton Police News

10/28: A 16-year-old of East Hampton was issued a summons for possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of tobacco by a minor, East Hampton Police said.

10/28: Matthew H. Lafo, 22, of 213 Grapevine Rd., Higganum, was arrested for carrying a dangerous weapon, police said.

10/30: Andrew J. Bonertz, 21, of 100 Colchester Ave., was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right and operating a motor vehicle with unsafe tires, police said.

11/3: Michael Biduk, 51, of 136 Main St., was arrested for failure to have tail lamps illuminated, failure to drive right, DUI, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, improper storage of narcotics and possession of a deadly weapon in a motor vehicle, police said.

11/3: Seth Hall, 19, of East Hampton and Matthew Bailey, 21, also of East Hampton, were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Colchester Avenue.

Bailey was issued a ticket for failure to drive right and traveling too fast for conditions. Hall

was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating under suspension.

A passenger and owner of one of the vehicles, Patrick Brogan, 18, of East Hampton, was issued a summons for allowing operation of a motor vehicle without insurance, police said.

11/10: Owen R. Burgess, 30, of 57 Pointina Rd., Westbrook, was arrested for disorderly conduct, violating a protective order, second-degree reckless endangerment, third-degree assault and first-degree criminal trespass, police said.

11/11: Jeffrey R. Woods, 36, of 43 Lakewood Circle South, Manchester, was arrested for third-degree burglary and first-degree larceny, police said.

11/11: A 13-year-old of East Hampton was issued a summons for trespassing, police said.

11/11: Kelly E. Burns, 45, of 54 Depot Hill Rd., was arrested for violation of probation, police said.

Colchester Police News

11/10: Richard Strange, 52, of 24 James St., Apt. 4, was charged with failure to register a sexual offense, State Police said.

11/10: Logan Trama, 18, of 27 Debi Circle, was charged with possession of oxycodone, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and having a weapon in a motor vehicle, Colchester Police said.

11/10: Christopher Emmerson, 42, of 60 Oakleaf Dr., turned himself in for third-degree assault, third-degree strangulation and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

11/11: Troop K received several 911 calls reporting "an erratically operating" motor vehicle that struck an object near the gas station at the corner of routes 149 and 16. Timothy McGuire, 22, of 290 Foote Rd., Glastonbury, failed sobriety tests and was charged with DUI, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

11/11: Christopher Daddio, 38, of 220

Broadway, Norwich, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

11/11: Lanye Franklin, 36, of 464 Hanover Rd., Scotland, was charged with driving to endanger, DUI, failure to drive in proper lane, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of a controlled substance, State Police said.

11/12: Stop & Shop on Linwood Avenue reported \$587 worth of baby formula was stolen on Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 9 and 10, Colchester Police said. The case remains under investigation.

11/14: Christopher Marquis, 24, of 939 Chapman Rd., Marlborough, was charged with DUI and improper parking, State Police said.

11/14: Ron Aharon, 19, of 300 House St., Glastonbury, was charged with two counts of sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

11/15: John Murray, 26, of 31 Marc St., Ronkonkoma, NY, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

Andover Police News

11/9: Christopher Stratton, 21, of 706 East St., was charged with failure to pay or plead, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

11/9: David Skellwies, 46, of 12 North Pond Rd., was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Margarita Mussi

Margarita Mussi, 95, of Middle Haddam, widow of the late Luis Mussi, died Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 17, 1915 in Villa Ramallo, Argentina, she was the daughter of the late Nicolas and Enriqueta (D'Eramo) Gallucci. She had lived in Florida before moving to Middle Haddam eight years ago.

She is survived by her daughter, Nilda Grenier of Middle Haddam; two grandchildren, Nilda C. Mussi and her husband Stephen Yeoq, and Jorge L. Mussi.

She was predeceased by her son, Jorge J. Mussi.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 24, at 11 a.m. in St. Mary's Church, Portland. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery in Portland. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Wednesday from 9-1:15 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice Program, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457, or to Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073.

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

Portland

Robert W. Oakliff

Robert W. Oakliff (GG), passed away Tuesday morning, Nov. 16, at home after a short illness, with family at his side. Born in Portland in 1926, he was a lifelong resident.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dottie (Wells) Oakliff; his sister, Eileen (Oakliff) D'Amato of Middletown; his son, Robert (Skip) Oakliff and his wife Paula (Clark) Oakliff; his daughter, Debra (Oakliff) DeFrancesco and her husband Mark; and his daughter-in-law, Lin-Marie (Lastrina) Oakliff. He was predeceased by his son, Richard Scott Oakliff, husband of Lin-Marie. He also leaves six grandchildren, Rob and Kaisa Oakliff, Justin and Kristina Oakliff and Jenna and Geoffry DeFrancesco; and seven great-grandchildren, Xavier, Elijah, Ashton, Kelsey, Briana, Delenn and Camryn.

Robert was a veteran of World War II and had served in France. He was a longtime employee of Schuster's Express of Colchester and of his uncle Harold Oakliff at Rabinow Hardware in Middletown. He also enjoyed working on antique fire trucks with his son and others.

At Bob's request, there will be no calling hours and burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery at the family's convenience. Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in Bob's memory may be sent to the Connecticut Cellar Savers (an antique fire apparatus museum), 634 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

East Hampton

Rose Anna Cone

Rose Anna (Daly) Cone, 101, of Lyndonville, VT, and East Hampton, passed away Saturday, Nov. 13.

Born in Chatham – East Hampton in 1909, daughter of Michael and Bridget (Cavanaugh) Daly, Rose was active in her local and state communities and a member of St. Patrick's Church. A graduate from Middletown High School in 1927, she was later employed by the Summit Thread Co. and then the Aetna Life and Casualty Co. in Hartford. After the death of her husband Lloyd E. Cone, Rose was employed by Miss Porter's School in Farmington. Moving to northern Vermont at age 92, Rose delighted in storytelling and made many new friends.

She leaves behind her sister-in-law, Margaret Daly of Clearwater, FL; nephews Michael Daly and family of Kirby, VT, and William Dennehy and family of Exeter, NH; niece Patricia Daly Banning and family of East Hampton; and many generations of cousins.

A graveside service will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, at 1 p.m., at St. Mary's Parish, Portland.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the charity of your choice.

Marlborough

Heather Ann Beach

Heather Ann (Longmuir) Beach, born Dec. 27, 1945, in Chelmsford Essex, England, died Friday, Nov. 12, at her home in Marlborough, surrounded by her loving family. She was the daughter of the late Matthew Longmuir of Glasgow, Scotland.

She is survived by her mother, Betty (Taylor) Longmuir, a sister, Linda Stifman and her husband Len, three brothers, William, Gordon and Mark, and numerous nieces and nephews, all residing in Great Britain.

Heather married Wayne C. Beach and immigrated to Marlborough in 1966. They have four wonderful and devoted children, Paul Beach of New Hampshire, Mandy Beach of Marlborough, Natalie Fazzino and her husband Jay of Hebron; and four grandchildren, Shawn Beach, Dean and Morgan Fazzino and Griffin Beach.

Heather was briefly employed by Christian Dior of London as a seamstress, a profession she cultivated into her own business after immigrating to America, creating works of art in fabric for local and state wide interior designers. She was especially proud of her father Matthew, who was an all-around sportsman. It wasn't until later in life that Heather embraced the game of golf and grew to love the challenge the game provided her. You could find her at Rolling Green, a nine-hole course in Rocky Hill, which she embraced as her home course.

The family would like express a special thank you to Elaine Adams, Dr. Ann Park, Peggy Culbert of Hospice and Dr. Susanna Hong for all of her honest and loving care.

Heather's family will receive friends for a time of remembrance on Friday, Nov. 19, from 4-7 p.m., at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Her ashes will be laid to rest in Great Britain at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Heather Beach Memorial Fund, c/o Liberty Bank, Marlborough Branch, P.O. Box 188, Marlborough, CT 06447. The fund will be used for myofibrosis research.

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

Colchester

Myron E. Lank Sr.

Myron E. Lank Sr., 77, of Colchester, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, Nov. 14.

In addition to his loving wife of 57 years, Ina Johnson Lank, he is survived by his only son, Myron "Skip" Lank Jr. of North Windham and four daughters and sons-in-law, Cathy and Edward Mills of Willimantic, Karen and Paul Alcorn of N. Windham and Susan and Michael Baldi and Donna and Carl Anderson, all of Lebanon; and two sisters, Beda Kinney and Edith Henderson, both of Campobello Island, NB, Canada. He was blessed with 18 grandchildren and several great grandchildren, who loved him very much.

He was predeceased by three siblings, Marion Newman and Waldo and John Lank.

Born April 26, 1933, in Campobello Island, NB, Canada, he was a son of the late Eldon and Annie (Phinney) Lank. He married Ina Johnson of Eastport, ME, on Sept. 25, 1953, and enlisted in the U.S. Air Force at the end of the Korean War. Mr. Lank was proud to become a United States citizen in 1959. He was employed as a machinist at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 25 years.

Mr. Lank was a member of the Lebanon Bible Church. In his spare time, he enjoyed reading the Bible, gardening, music and birds, especially the peacock, and spending time with his family.

Friends called Thursday, Nov. 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Graveside services with full military honors will be observed at 9:30 a.m. today, Nov. 19, at the State Veterans Cemetery, 317 Bow Ln., Middletown. The funeral service will follow at 11 a.m. directly at the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester. The Rev. Art Langdon will officiate.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Hebron

Carolyn M. Sherman

Carolyn M. (Andy) Sherman, 62, of Amston, died unexpectedly at home Thursday, Nov. 11. She was born in New Britain and was the daughter of Joseph Andy to whom she was a longtime caregiver and the late Mary (Marcinczyk) Andy.

Carolyn was a loving mother, daughter, sister, and aunt. She took great pride in her career in the medical field as a registered nurse and respiratory therapist. Carolyn served at New Britain General Hospital, Winsted Memorial Hospital and Sharon Hospital. With the many things she accomplished in her life, her greatest joy and pride were her children whom she loved and cherished. Carolyn is remembered for her sincere heart, selfless compassion, and great sense of humor.

She will be forever missed by her beloved children Jennifer, Jonathan and Amanda Sherman. Besides her father Joseph, she is also survived by two sisters, Christine Meacham and Joyce Marie Barnes, several nieces, nephews, as well as aunts, uncles and cousins.

Celebration of Carolyn's life will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, at noon at the New Britain Memorial Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Ave., New Britain. Private burial service will be at the convenience of the family. Family and friends are invited to gather at the funeral home Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of service. Directions: Exit 37 off I-84 take a right at the exit, one and a half miles on your right.

For tributes, online guestbook and directions, visit www.newbritainsagarino.com.

Portland

Mary Giambone

Mary (Sillano) Giambone, 92, of Portland, devoted wife of the late Alexander Giambone, died peacefully surrounded by her family at Middlesex Hospital Thursday, Nov. 11. Born in New York City, she was the daughter of the late Erminia (Imetti) Sillano and Giuseppe Sillano.

She was a talented dressmaker of "haute couture" for the "rich and famous." She resided in Woodside, NY, for 54 years and six years ago relocated to Portland, to live with her daughter and son-in-law, Sandra and Peter Castelli.

Mary was preceded in death by her loving sister, Ada Sillano.

Mary is survived by her son, Lt. Col. (Ret) Alfred Giambone and his wife, Rosemary, of Woodbridge, VA; her daughter, Sandra Castelli and her husband, Peter, of Portland. She is also survived by her loving grandchildren: Alexander and Soujanya Giambone, Meredith Giambone and Peter Giambone. She will always be remembered by her great-grandchildren: Madison and MacKenzie Beese, and Maya and Meena Giambone; her devoted niece, Emily Barger and her husband Giovanni; and her grand-nieces and nephews.

She was a faithful parishioner of the Church of St. Mary, Portland and a member of St. Mary Guild. She was an avid Scrabble player with her two healthcare companions, Sue Castelli and Bonnie Desaulnier.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Sunday, Nov. 14. Here family also received relatives and friends Monday, Nov. 15, before proceeding to the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment followed at St. Mary Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, gifts in her memory may be sent to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480, or to the Middlesex Hospital Weiss Hospice Unit c/o Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

For directions, or to extend an online expression of sympathy, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.net.

East Hampton

Rita Yanchinsky

Rita (Caron) Yanchinsky, 81, widow of the late Leonard P. Yanchinsky, died Tuesday, Nov. 16, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Nov. 24, 1928, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late August J. and Grace (Dumas) Caron.

Rita had lived in East Hampton for most of her life and was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. She had worked for Royal Typewriter in Hartford and also at the IGA in East Hampton. She enjoyed gardening and her roses were her pride and joy. Rita enjoyed vacationing in Cape Cod, MA, and her trip to Hawaii.

Rita's family would like to extend a special thank you to the Middlesex Cardiology and Orthopedic Groups and to Dr. David Miner and Dr. Joseph Coatti for the loving care given to Rita.

Rita leaves her beloved daughter, Karen Jude Harrington and her spouse Donna Harrington of Ledyard; a brother, Richard J. Caron and his spouse Lois of East Hampton; sisters-in-law Marilyn Caron, Lorraine Caron, and Emily Scarchuk; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and aunts.

She was predeceased by two brothers, Robert Caron and Gaston Caron, a sister and brother-in-law, Lillian and Maurice Pellerin.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will follow in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. until the time of the service at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

This is my last column before Thanksgiving, so let me just pass along Happy Turkey Day greetings to all.

Also, due to the holiday, the *Rivereast* is publishing on Wednesday next week instead of Thursday (you'll still get it in the mail on Friday as usual). This means that, for next week only, the deadline for copy – i.e., photos, news releases, letters to the editor, etc. – will be *Monday* at noon, instead of the normal Tuesday. Sorry, but we can't make any exceptions.

But I didn't want the Thanksgiving-themed portion of my column all about warning you to get your stuff in on time. So here is some interesting info I recently discovered about a beloved Turkey Day tradition – the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City. The parade's a big deal now, with bunches of floats, giant helium balloons and thousands of participants from across the globe, but its beginnings were much more humble.

According to [Time.com](#), the parade was created in 1924, by Macy employees eager to celebrate Christmas. Dressed as cowboys, clowns and knights, the employees marched six miles, from Harlem to Herald's Square. Also joining in the parade were marching bands and animals from the Central Park Zoo. There were only three floats in the parade that year, all inspired by fairy tales: The Old Lady Who Lived in a Shoe, Red Riding Hood and Miss Muffet.

The event attracted a quarter of a million people, and Macy's decided to make it an annual occurrence.

The parade's first balloon, a giant Felix the Cat, came in 1927. And that actually led to a rather amusing story. Felix was filled with helium, of course, to make his triumphant Macy's parade debut. Only thing is, parade organizers had no idea how to deflate him once said festivities were over. So they simply released him into the sky, where, eventually, he popped.

The next year, Macy's tried balloons again – five this time – and this time incorporated release valves designed to let the helium slowly leak out of the balloon over the course of a week. Macy's claimed the balloons would float hundreds of miles from New York before landing softly in fields or people's yards. They also promised a \$100 reward to anyone who found the balloon and returned it to Macy's.

In reality, however, three of the five balloons wound up in Long Island, with one torn to shreds by neighbors competing for the prize money (hey, in 1928, \$100 was a *lot* of money). Another of the balloons wound up in the East River, and the fifth simply floated out to sea, never to be seen again.

As the parade is an outdoor event, the balloons frequently have to cope with wind, rain, even snow, and the results aren't always

pretty. Some of the incidents have been rather amusing – in the 1962 parade, heavy rain filled the brim of Donald Duck's hat, causing him to tip over and dump 50 gallons of water onto onlookers – but others have been more tragic. The worst incident came in 1997, when 43-mile-an-hour winds blew a Cat in the Hat balloon into a lamppost, causing the metal arm to fall off and strike 33-year-old Kathleen Caronna in the head. Caronna wound up in a coma for nearly a month, and after she woke sued Macy's and New York City for \$395 million. (An undisclosed settlement was reached in 2001.)

While the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade launched in 1924, over the next few days you might hear or read various media reports referring to next Thursday's event as the *84th* annual parade, and not the 86th. That's because the parade was suspended from 1942-44, while America was involved in World War II. The balloons were recycled into 650 pounds of rubber and donated to the war effort. The parade returned in 1945, and more than two million people lined the streets of New York to catch the event.

The parade has been broadcast on TV since 1939, and it will be shown again next week, once again on NBC. As I do every year, I'll likely tune in for at least a little bit, before settling down to eat with family and friends.

And whether the Macy's parade is part of your annual tradition or not, I hope you all have a very happy and festive Thanksgiving.

* * *

I love eating – I just love it – and I appreciate the delight of a fresh-made sandwich, but even I think this is a little too much.

According to the *Hartford Courant*, last Tuesday afternoon in New Haven, a man was shot twice as he left a deli. He then went home, ate the sandwich he'd just bought, then asked his father to drive him to the hospital.

Granted, he was shot in the groin and the left thigh, so it's not like he was hit in the chest or something. But still. You've been shot, twice, and your first instinct is to hurry up and eat the sandwich you just bought?

(By the way, the victim was treated at Yale-New Haven Hospital for non-life threatening injuries, and police are investigating the incident.)

Not surprisingly, this strange-but-true story was picked up by news outlets across the country. A Google search even turned up the Associated Press' account of the story on the website of KARE Channel 11, the NBC affiliate in Minneapolis, MN.

I have yet to find reported, though, just what kind of sandwich the man ordered. For the guy to delay treating a gunshot wound, I figure it must've been pretty good. (Either that or he was just really hungry.)

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See you next week.