

**RIVER EAST**

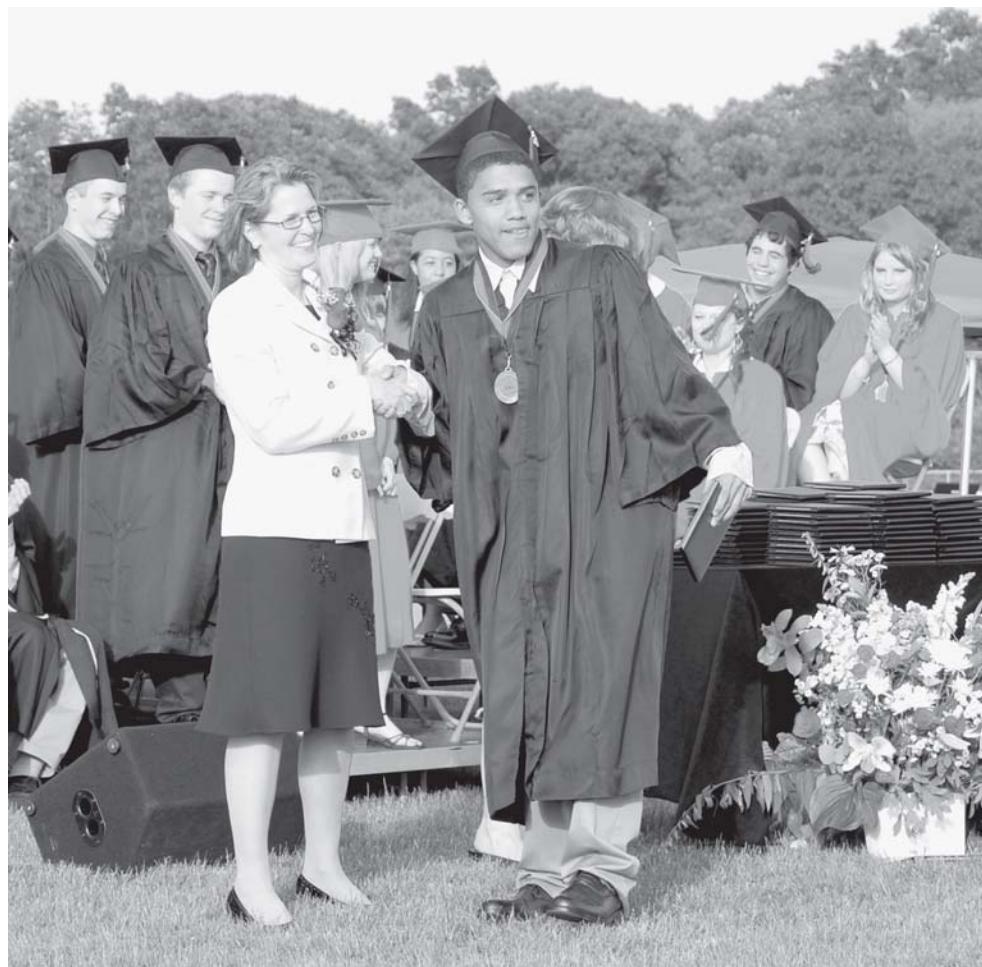
# News Bulletin

*Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam, Portland, Colchester and Salem*

Volume 35, Number 12

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

June 18, 2010



**Curtis Daws-Washington shakes hands with Portland High School Principal Andrea Lavery as he receives his diploma at his graduation ceremony on Tuesday evening.**

## Portland High School Graduates 88

by Claire Michalewicz

Against a dramatic backdrop of neighboring hills and valleys, Portland High School's Class of 2010 graduated on their home turf, the school soccer field, on Tuesday evening. With the girls in red gowns and boys in black, the 88 graduates gathered in front of their family and friends for a ceremony that included speeches, songs and lots of silly string.

This year's class was special for two reasons – the Class of 2010 was not just the 50th class to graduate from a school on High Street, but also the first to go through all six grades at the new combined high school and middle school building. Principal Andrea Lavery said the students had been instrumental in getting graduation moved back to the high school from its usual location at Town Hall, making their case for moving the ceremony to the Board of Education.

"And somehow, we got the best day of the week," Lavery added.

Lavery said the Class of 2010 was special to her, since she had started at the high school the same year they had. "They're smart, they're leaving, but I'm staying," Lavery joked.

Class president and valedictorian Keenan Kelley presented the class' gift to the school, a site map that would be placed at the school's entrance. His fellow class officers also presented flowers to two teachers who were retiring, Bob Miles and Mary Hurlburt, to Charlie Ryan, the

keynote speaker, and to the class's advisors, Kristin Novak and Stuart Noelte. They also recognized graduate Chris Johnson, who had a perfect attendance record for all four years of high school.

In his speech, Keenan talked about success, and urged his fellow graduates to define success as what they do with their abilities, rather than more obvious factors like money. Keenan stressed that the more important moments in life are not necessarily the milestones like graduation, but the smaller, unexpected moments.

"Whether at the time good or bad, they taught us lessons about others and ourselves so that we can go off into the world prepared for what life will throw at us," he said.

"Now we stand on a precipice, staring out over the vast unknown that is our potential, our future," said salutatorian Chris Huebner, working the ceremony's hilltop venue and long views into his speech. After graduating, Chris said, his classmates should not stop learning. "All that we have been taught, all that we have learned, all that we think we understand today," Chris said, "is meaningless if we do not take advantage of it outside the school's walls."

Chris added that without the guidance that they had in high school, their lives would be unscripted. "We will have to write it," he said.

**See Portland High on Page 2**

## RHAM Sends 211 Sachems on Their Way

by Lindsay Fetzner

In a sea of blue and gold, there were smiles, tears and final farewells. For possibly the last time on Wednesday evening, the 211 members of the RHAM High School Class of 2010 gathered to reminisce on the past four years shared together and to take the next step in their journey.

Before a packed house in the high school gym, Class President Christopher Langlois welcomed attendees and fellow graduates-to-be.

"We've all come a long way these past six years," Christopher said, adding that the class was not only four years older than the time they left the middle school, but also "four years wiser."

He thanked the class for the "memories, laughter and inspiration." Christopher said, "Let today mark the first day of the rest of our lives. On your marks, get set, let's go."

Following Christopher was John McVeigh, a former graduate of RHAM High School and a decorated opera singer, who spoke to the class on "choice."

"Everyone of you has a choice," he said. "You all have talents and gifts and it is up to you to follow them."

McVeigh closed his speech by urging the students to "choose wisely" but to also "take risks."

Salutatorian Elizabeth Rey remembered not

only the past four years of high school in her salutatory speech, but the 13 overall years of schooling, which she said have "shaped and molded us into unique individuals."

Elizabeth later added, "you are who you are because of the school you have been in, the friends you have had, the parents who have supported you and the teachers who have been there every step of the way."

As each of the graduates embarks on the next step in their lives, Elizabeth said, they will continue to mold into who they are.

"There is so much more life ahead of us than behind us, and though we may think that we are the people that we will always be, there is still so much time left to change," Elizabeth said.

Following Elizabeth was class valedictorian Samuel Young, who started his speech off on a lighter, more comical note.

"When I was asked to give the valedictorian address," he said, "I was at first a little surprised. You see, it's one thing to give the salutatorian address, but if someone gave the valedictorian a dress, I doubt he would wear it."

Samuel went on to say that this year has been all about his fellow class of students and "our graduation, our goals and the time for which we've been waiting for about 12 years."

"I hope you feel proud and I hope you feel

**See Sachems on Page 2**



**The RHAM High School senior chorus performed at the Class of 2010 graduation Wednesday night. Due to threat of rain, the graduation was held inside the RHAM gym.**

## Portland High cont. from Front Page

"Then we'll have to do it live!"

Charlie Ryan, a social studies teacher, presented his advice to the graduates in the form of quotes, from such varied figures as Muhammad Ali ("He who is not courageous enough to take risks is nothing in life"), Don Rickles ("The old days were old days, and they were great days, but now is now") and several PHS teachers.

"Anyway, while you may forget the lessons here tonight," Ryan added in his own words, "I know you will not forget the lessons you have learned about life here at Portland High, and will go through life using those lessons as part of what guides you."

Class vice president Logan Manning also spoke, and said, "It's hard not to get sentimental when you realize that today will be the last time all of us will be here together, and that next year we won't be surrounded by the same familiar faces."

Logan talked about the importance of memories, and listed some of her classmates' favorite memories of high school, from receiving scholarships to winning soccer games to taking long bus rides on class trips.

After the speeches came the important part – diplomas. Board of Education members took turns presenting the graduates with their diplomas, while their families and friends jostled to take pictures. Afterward, the graduates each received a rose, which they took into the audience to give to "someone special." The graduating band and choir members then returned to the stage to sing "I'll Be There," followed by PHS' school song.

After ending the ceremony with an explosion of silly string, the graduates met with their families on the field for cake and lots of photo-

tos. Many graduates said they had mixed feelings about leaving PHS, but thought the graduation was a fitting end to their time there.

"I feel happy and sad," said Jasmine Garriques. "I'm sad that high school's over." Jasmine added that her favorite part of the ceremony was giving a rose to her parents, to show how much she loved and appreciated them.

"It feels amazing," Anastasia Salvatore said, adding that the ceremony went exactly as planned. "It was great to be around my classmates and friends one last time."

Here are the members of the Portland High School Class of 2010:

Justine Alexis Arce, Alexa Augeri ^, Arleen Barningham, Amanda Bennett, Erik Michael Bergman, Maureen Elizabeth Booth #, Audrey Frances Brady, Olivia Nicole Breece, Erik Brown, Nicolas Ryan Caisse, Daniel Raymond Caplan, Kayla Jean Caruso, Andrew R. Charbonneau ^, Melissa Mary Chlasta, Eric Daniel Churchill ^# ^, Matthew J. Cogswell, Patrick Thomas Coleman, Michael Cote, Lauren Cali Cosen, Madison Marie D'Amora, Curtis L. Daws-Washington, Spencer D. Deane, Antolina Treasa DiStefano, Scott Ryan Enright ^, Shannon Lee Fitzpatrick, Nicholas John Foley, Timothy Charles Fontenault ^, Kathleen France;

Kellie Rose Gallacher, Stephanie Gallacher, Jasmine Yolanda Garriques, Kristin L. Gondek # ^, Kevin Noel Gould, Laura Elizabeth Guliani ^# ^, Andreas C. Guliani Campos ~, Christopher R. Huebner ^# ^, Neal Hughes, Adam Edward Hunt, Christopher Johnson ^, Paige Michelle Julbe, Keenan Kelley ^# ^, Colleen Elizabeth Keser, Erin Keser ^, Mary Keser, Adina Jean LaMalfa, Brittany Landers, Ryan William Landers, Paige Lewis, Logan Elizabeth Manning ^# ^, Erick E. Marquis,



The traditional streams of silly string punctuated the Portland High School graduation Wednesday.

Grace Margaret McCarthy # ^, Dylan Stephen McDougall # ^, Matthew McGrath ^# ^, Ebony Milling >, Christopher Charles Morris ^, Natalia Niemczyk, Kristen Marie Nolan, Patricia Lynn Nolan >, Zachary Kirkpatrick O'Brien ^;

Dylan Todd Paddock, Riana Janette Parker, John Pelletier, Mary Beth Pellin >, Natalie Nicole Pozzetti >, Rachel Ramcke, Shayla Trancesse Riddick, Fantazha Robinson, Kelsey Elizabeth Rooth, Kayley Ann Ryan # ^, Joseph Salecky, Devon Joseph Salamone, Anastasia Nicole Salvatore ^, Christie Leigh Scheer ^# ^, Brendan Mark Schoell, Brittany Rose Schroll >, Brianna Schwartz, Olivia Spiller, Michael Eric Stevens, Emily Elizabeth

Stevenson >, Joshua James Tammaro # ^, Shelby Marie Tierney, Megan Elizabeth Tully >, Christopher M. Waller, Ian Willse ^# ^, Brandon Michael Wojtkowiak, Jenelle Marie Wolff, Samantha Lynn Wysocki # ^, Matthew Louis Ziegler.

\* Top 10 percent of the class – Yellow Cords  
# National Honor Society – White Cords  
> Tri-M Music Honor Society – Pink Cords  
~ January Graduate  
+ Valedictorian  
++ Salutatorian  
^ CAPT Mastery (all tests)

## Sachems cont. from Front Page

good about this milestone, because you should," Samuel said. "This is your time, your time to shine especially bright, as you finally transition into the 'real world.'"

He thanked the "thousands of people" who have made it "possible for the class to walk," and for being the "wind beneath our wings."

Samuel offered three pieces of advice to his classmates. First, he said, "take the time today to begin discovering yourself," as a "great priority in life is going to be to figure out who you are." Then, when the graduates find a community and friends of their own, they should "take care to stick together like super glue." And, finally, to "trust that everything happens for a reason."

Samuel closed his address by saying, "you are the future- you write the ending. Go forth, be yourselves, do the impossible, remember to have fun and God bless."

Reflecting on his graduation, Dylan Lockwood of Hebron said before the ceremony it was like "a weight lifted off" of him. "At the rehearsal, it didn't hit me," he said. But after putting his cap and gown on Wednesday afternoon, Dylan said it became a reality.

"The four years have been great," he said. "Every year has been a new experience and a new change."

Dylan plans on pursuing stage production, and will be an intern with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra over the summer months.

For Hebron resident Gabrielle Ciotto, it will be the "quirky things" teachers at RHAM did, in addition to friends and peers, that she would miss the most.

"There are a lot of memories I hope I never forget," she said.

Despite these sentimental thoughts, Gabrielle said she is "really happy to start the next chapter" in her life. Gabrielle will attend Roger Williams University in Rhode Island in the fall to study marine biology.

Sprinkled in the audience were family members, friends and school faculty and administration of the Class of 2010, who came to show support for the graduates.

"We're excited and hoping for a bright future," said Chris Walz, the mother of Andrew Walz, adding that he is looking forward to "new educational experiences."

Marie Levesque, mother of Gabrielle Levesque, said the four years went by "so quickly" for her daughter. "She's excited, but very sad."

The feeling of "being part of a small family," Marie said, is what Gabrielle will miss the most.

Marie said Gabrielle felt that going to RHAM each day for school "was like going home every day."

Here are the members of the RHAM High School Class of 2010:



Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski shakes the hand of class valedictorian Sam Young at graduation Wednesday night. Also pictured, from left, are Board of Education Chairman Mike Turner and Principal Scott Leslie.

\* @ Scott Ian Adamson, Shelby Elisabeth Akers, Abir Arman Akhand, Theodore Brock Alexander, @ Alyisia Marie Amato, \* Eric Peter Anderson, Stratton D. Andrews, @ Nicholas Allan Aubin, Winston Chadwick Averill, Kelci Paige Baier, Jewellian Akbar Baig, Kurtulann Cory Baig, Brittany Leigh Balcer, Amanda Rene Barnett, Trevor James Bartson, David Andrew Bednar, Adam Leo Bento, Joshua D. Benton, \* @ Rebecca Marie Billings, Kevin Tyler Blais, Samantha Ann Blake, \* Jessica Rose Blier, Brandy Sarah D'Amboise Blish, Anders S. Blomquist, \* @ Judy Elizabeth Bloom, Sofia Gloria Boczniewycz, Daniel F. Bosco, Eric Bourassa, \* Emily Catherine Boushee, Dillon Mario Braga, Eric Victor Brainard, \* Kelsey Ann Brault, \* @ Kathleen Ann Brehant, Elizabeth Anne Brennan, Emma Jacqueline Brodginski, \* Sean James Burns, Brian Kim Bushey;

William Scott Campbell, \* Alexandra Mae Carlson, \* @ Robyn Jane Caron, \* @ Emily Louise Carpenter, Melissa Marie Cassells, Kevin Miles Cavanaugh, Daniel Lee Chapman, Gabrielle Margaret Ciotto, Ryan M. Clark, William Raymond Dylan Clark, Alon Cohen, Amanda Lynn Cole-Lagasse, Joseph Anthony Colletti, Cody E. Combies, Dustin Robert Cote, Evan Thomas Couture, Alexander William Crockett, Tyler Aaron Cyr, Cameron John

D'Auria, Matthew James Daddi, Victoria Wyeth Dake, @ Alyson K. Danielczuk, Chelsea Marie DeWolf, Corbin Wellington Dienst, Anthony Vincenzo DiTomasso, Matthew DiTommaso, \* Andrew Robert Doolittle, \* Patrick Murray Doolittle, \* @ Jason A. W. Driscoll, Amelia Lauren Dube, Deanna Elizabeth Dziedzak;

@ Daniel Evan East, Madison Shea Eaton, Taylor Victoria Eck, Mark Thomas Eells, \* @ Stephanie Megan Eldridge, William Justin Erikson, Lydia Catherine Ezerins, Lawrence Anthony Fawcett, \* Zachary Paul Felix, \* @ Chelsea Marie Fenton, \* Elisabeth Mabry Fiumara, \* Anastasia Grace Foerschner, @ Stephen Josef Frantzen, Amber Lindsey Gaudreau, Laura Elizabeth Gonsalves, \* Anna Lynn Gott, Chelsea Alexandra Graham, \* Mallory Elizabeth Gross, Sarah Anne Guay, Grace Olmsted Guerin, Matthew Reynolds Hallisey, Zachary Haney, Gregory Adam Hansen, Sarah Marie Harper, Halena Morgan Hart, \* Jordan William Hassett, \* Kyle Michael Hebert, Keith Hellstrom, Benjamin Hinche, Sean M. Hughes, \* @ Jessica Ruth Huhn, Robert Carr Husta, Jacob William Hyatt, Timothy Irace;

James Erle Johnston, \* Kaley Ann Jonas, Zachary Tyler Julius, Karina Anne Kabbash, \* Brenna Jeanne Kaplan, \* Julia Karpman, Anna Marie Karvelis, Alexandra Victoria Romanovna

Kashlapov, Benjamin Hawes Keller, Lesley Elyssa Knaack, Benjamin Wright Kopchick, Ramsey Alexander Kousen, Campbell S. Krawitz, Patrick Theodore LaChapelle, Sean Matthew Lamb, \* Cy Andrew Lampugnale, \* Christopher Michael Langlois, \* @ Melissa Amy Larsen, Chelsea Marie LaVoie, \* @ Gabrielle Ann-Marie Ida Levesque, \* Helaine Marie Linden, \* Mariah Lipscomb, Anthony F. Liriano, Dylan James Lockwood, Jacqueline Renee Luby, Robert Michael Luneau, Cameron Lutz, Lauren Elizabeth Maciag, Eric Raul Maldonado, @ Rachel Evangeline Mathieu, Alicia L. Mathieu, Erin Janet McGuinness, Joseph Francis McKinley, @ Jennifer Eileen Molnar, Hillary Lynn Mondrach, Thomas W. Moore, Jr., \* @ Kelly Moquin, Martin Joseph Murdock, Taylor Lynne Murphy;

\* Kristy Lee Nicolo, Vanessa Lynn Nieves, Jacob Francis Nixon, Brittany Erin O'Connell, Rob J. O'Connor, Ashley Lynn O'Neill, \* @ Cassidy Marie Olio, Meghan Elise Ortegon, Adam John Paggioli, Ryan Scot Pandolfi, Linda Jane Parker, Wyatt Roland Pedrick, Mark Andrew Perine, Brandon Todd Pinckney, Jordan Andrew Porter, Eric Anthony Quagliano, Dylan Raes, Tyler Joseph Reilly, Tyler Steven Repoli, ## \* @ Elizabeth Grace Rey, Michael Joseph Righenzi, Jessica Brooke Ristow, \* Allison Marie Roberts, Kathryn Pauline Sanders, \* Julia Rita Sauve, \* Lindsey Marie Scarpace, @ Casey Marie Schaus, Michael Dwight Scherban, \* Ashley Lauren Schwer, Francesca Verena Sessa, Nathan Carl Shortell, Timothy Michael Sime;

Matthew Steven Smigel, \* @ Tessa Marie Smolinski, Ethan Anthony Sperry, Cecile Marie St. Jean, Melissa Victoria Stalega, Alexandra Kimberly-Jamie Stamler, \* @ Kristen Holly Starkowski, Brian Joseph Steiner, Matthew David Stewart, Zachary K. Surdam, \* Christina Swider, \* @ Alexandra Nicole Thompson, Erick Timreck, Michael J. Trapp, Regan Elizabeth Trenchard, Kevin Alexander Trippel, Eric Michael Trott, Vasilios D. Tsikrikis, \* @ Alexandra Anne Turgeon, Ryan Francis Urciuoli, Christina Elizabeth Vezzetti, Sean Kevin Vieten, Alyssa Kate Villandry, Andrew Benjamin Walz, \* Kelsey Elizabeth Welling, Kurt C. Wenzel, Corinne Marie White, Lauren Emily Whitesell, Benjamin James Whittemore, @ Kaitlyn Elizabeth Williams, Elisabeth Cooper Wise, \* Michael John Andrews Wood, Antony Xenophontos, William Arthur Yeterian, Andrew Mark Young, # \* Samuel David Young, \* Casey Nielsen Zammitti, \* Daniel Joseph Zocco, Deanna Zysman

# Valedictorian

## Salutatorian

\* Member of National Honor Society in good standing

@ Green Cord/100 or more hours of community service

# Longtime Andover Music Teacher Retires

by Lindsay Fetzner

After 24 years of dedication to Andover Elementary School, students, faculty and administrators bid their beloved music teacher farewell yesterday.

Karen Krinjak taught music to students in pre-kindergarten through grade six. In addition to the once-a-week music class that each student attends, Krinjak also administered chorus and the school band. Teaching the performing groups (chorus and band) and giving lessons to beginners are some of Krinjak's fonder memories.

"I've enjoyed watching the really young kids sing and dance with no inhibition," she said.

Krinjak estimated that there are about 65 kids involved in the performing groups at Andover Elementary School.

Krinjak's now-former peers were sentimental about seeing their longtime colleague go.

"First and foremost, when I think of Karen, I will always think of her humor," said Principal David Griffin. "She has a wonderful sense of humor and has a great way with people."

Krinjak's dedication, Griffin said, has "always been for the students." He commended her for her recent participation with the band in the annual Memorial Day parade. "She has been creative in her years here," Griffin said.

Superintendent of Schools Andrew

Maneggia shared Griffin's thoughts, calling Krinjak "a cornerstone" of the school.

"It is very difficult to describe all of the things Karen has done over the years," he said. "She has influenced a lot of students and she will be missed."

In addition to her involvement with teaching music classes and the performing groups, Griffin said Krinjak also started the 'candlelight recital.' The musical talent show offers students both in the music program and not an opportunity to audition and display their musical talents. It was an event, Griffin said, that "brought everyone out."

Krinjak also organized trips to the opera and a "yearly jaunt" to the Coast Guard Academy to see the orchestra perform.

In addition to her many years in Andover, Krinjak also taught at Manchester High School for seven years and at South Windsor's Pleasant Valley Elementary School for four years.

When Krinjak was an elementary school student, she said she discovered her passion for teaching and decided she wanted to pursue it as a career. As she got older, she said she realized that music was the area she wanted to specialize in.

"I always knew I wanted to be a teacher," she said.

As a lifelong resident of Manchester, Krinjak said she will miss both the kids and the staff,

but also the town of Andover. Reflecting back on her years of teaching, Krinjak said that among the "most gratifying" moments have been when former students come back to the school. She said hearing that they are still playing their instrument or having them recall a piece that was studied during class are moments she values.

Teaching the children of past students, Krinjak said, is also a highlight. "It's kind of neat to see [the parents] come back with their kids," she said.

As for the future, Krinjak said she will teach instrumental music two afternoons a week at Cornerstone Christian School in Manchester. In addition to "having time to read," Krinjak also looks forward to spending time on her friend's boat.

Krinjak will also continue traveling with a former Broadway performer Carol Jaudes in her free time. Jaudes appeared for five years on Broadway in the musical *CATS*. Traveling to places both in the United States and to other countries, Krinjak is Jaude's piano accompanist.

This past Tuesday, Jaudes visited the elementary school to share her experiences of performing on Broadway with the children, Griffin said.

Yesterday was the last day of school for the students and staff at Andover Elementary



**Karen Krinjak**

School. Earlier this week, Krinjak said it would be "a little emotional" to walk out the doors for the last time as a teacher. And, similarly, to see the kids break for the summer recess knowing she will not be returning in August, "it will be nostalgic."

## Andover Selectmen Welcome New Member

by Lindsay Fetzner

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) appointed Linda Knowlton to the board on June 2, filling the Democratic position that long-standing member Susan England held for nearly seven years.

Although Knowlton, 49, moved into town only four years ago, it has not stopped her from being very involved with other committees in the community. Two years ago, she joined the Economic Development Commission, which Knowlton became the chair of last year. In addition to this commission, Knowlton is involved in the Democratic Town Committee, the Holiday Committee and is an alternate on the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Knowlton raised her three children in Manchester, but after the last child moved out of the house, Knowlton returned, with her husband David, to the town he grew up in. (Selectman Jay Linddy said David is also "very involved" in town as well with various committees and boards.)

After being approached about the BOS po-



**Linda Knowlton**

sition by present member Elaine Buchardt, Knowlton said she gave it some consideration. "I thought, 'Why not? I'll give it a shot,'" she said.

Buchardt is also the secretary of the Economic Development Commission. She met Knowlton through the group and, over time, said she "has become a friend."

"She is very organized and very business-minded," Buchardt said. "She does a great job."

Buchardt said she is "absolutely" excited to have Knowlton be the newest member of the board.

Linddy agreed and said the BOS is "very fortunate" to have Knowlton on board.

"She has a lot of energy," Linddy said. "She's very experienced in many fields and is just a great person." He added that Knowlton will "add life" to the board.

As the vice president of client services at Church Insurance Agency Corp., Knowlton said she will draw on her experiences from work while on the board. In addition to insuring churches, Knowlton said she conducts sales and service, appraisals and risk management, among other responsibilities, on a regular basis.

"Between my insurance knowledge and what I do for work, it will help me on the board," she said.

Linddy said even though Knowlton's job requires her to travel out of state, she is "always at any meeting she commits to."

Buchardt agreed with Knowlton and said her insurance expertise will be a great asset to the BOS. In light of the recent workers compensation insurance issues facing Andover and many surrounding towns, Buchardt said Knowlton's knowledge will be especially helpful.

At the last BOS meeting, First Selectman Bob Burbank discussed the financial obstacles the town has been confronted with from Municipal Interlock Risk Management Agency (MIRMA). When MIRMA reassessed their clients, due to losses they incurred over the years, Burbank said the town was faced with a \$90,000 assessment. For several months, Burbank has been meeting with other town officials as well as the town attorney to remediate the situation and explore what options Andover and the other affected towns have.

"We have this big question about the insurance," Buchardt said, and added that Knowlton could hopefully offer input from her insurance experience and assist Burbank with the predicament.

"It's something we have to address and we're doing that now," Linddy said.

The more general aspects of working for an insurance company, Knowlton said, will be of

use to her in the new role. Selectmen and other town officials spent several months preparing the town's \$10.39 million 2010-11 budget, which voters approved May 18. And Knowlton too has to work on a budget and deal with finances.

"Everything I do in my day to day might help me along," she said.

Knowlton also said her experiences from being on other committees in town have afforded her with the skill set and knowledge to take on the role as a selectwoman.

Linddy said that, in addition to devoting many hours of her time to the town, if help is asked for, Knowlton is "the first one there."

As for the future, Knowlton said she is looking forward to learning the ins and outs of the board position. "The first couple of meetings," she said, "I plan on soaking as much in as I can." Although she said it will be "tough" to fill the shoes of England, Knowlton said she wants to "see what I can do for the community."

"Hopefully, I will be a good asset," she said. Knowlton's first BOS meeting will be on July 7. She will fill the last 13 months of England's position, which began June 1 and will continue until June 30, 2011. Knowlton said if things run smoothly and "go well," she will run for re-election.

# Man Convicted in East Hampton Killing Didn't Know Victim

by Claire Michalewicz

The man convicted last week of manslaughter in the beating death of an East Hampton homeless man didn't know his victim before that fateful night in 2005, court documents say.

Last Wednesday, June 9, a jury found David J. Hill, 26, guilty of manslaughter in Louis D'Antonio's death, as well as conspiracy to commit assault and tampering with evidence.

Hill's attorney, Pat Brown, said last week that he was pleased with the verdict. He said that during the trial, he tried to make it clear that there was no evidence that there was any pre-meditation on Hill's part.

"At least it's not the worst case scenario," Brown said last week, alluding to the possibility of a murder conviction.

Another suspect, Edgar N. Canterbury, Jr., 41, of East Hampton, has also been charged in the case, but has not yet been tried.

Russell Zentner, the state attorney who prosecuted the case, said he couldn't comment on how he felt about the trial. But Zentner did offer more information about what happened after Hill was arrested in 2008. He said that, in interviews after he was arrested, Hill admitted to participating in D'Antonio's murder. Hill said that after drinking, he and Canterbury took a steel rebar and went into the woods, Zentner said. Zentner said Hill admitted to hitting D'Antonio with the bar "a couple of times,"

before Canterbury continued beating him. Afterward, Hill said he and Canterbury left the scene, not knowing if D'Antonio was dead or alive, and buried the rebar in the woods, Zentner explained.

After he was arrested, Zentner said, Hill led police to the place where the rebar had been buried, and allegedly told them, "I told you it would be there."

Zentner said that, to convict Hill of second-degree murder, he would have had to prove that there was intent to kill, whereas if Hill and Canterbury had only intended to injure D'Antonio, that would count as manslaughter. Zentner said he did not talk to the jury, so he doesn't know how they reached the manslaughter verdict.

Police interviewed Hill prior to his arrest, but until then, Hill denied having participated in beating D'Antonio. In a 2008 affidavit on file at Middlesex Superior Court, East Hampton Police Sergeant Garrett Kelly recounted the events leading up to Hill's arrest.

The affidavit said friends of D'Antonio found his skeletonized body at his campsite near Route 196 in September 2005. D'Antonio, the affidavit said, was a part-time construction worker who lived in the woods. D'Antonio had not been seen alive for nearly a month, the affidavit said. Shortly after the body was found, one of D'Antonio's co-workers came to East

Hampton Police to tell them that Canterbury and D'Antonio had fought on a fishing trip earlier in the summer, and that Canterbury told him that he wanted to kill D'Antonio, according to the court documents.

Police were led to Hill in spring 2006, when a friend of his told police that Hill had told her he was involved in the homicide, the affidavit said. (Hill knew Canterbury through his brother, Jay Canterbury, and he and his girlfriend had been temporarily living with the Cantereys when the incident happened, the affidavit said.)

Another friend, whom police interviewed in 2008, also said Hill had admitted to the killing, according to the court documents. The friend said that while he didn't remember Hill giving many details, Hill did say something about going into the woods and beating D'Antonio, the affidavit said.

According to court documents, police located Hill at his home in Hartford in June 2006 and interviewed him. The affidavit said that while Hill initially denied knowing anything about the case, he later said that he had lent his car to Canterbury one night in August 2005, after which Canterbury told him "he had beaten somebody real bad."

During three hours of interviews, the affidavit said, Hill changed his story, explaining that he initially lied to limit his liability in

D'Antonio's death. In his revised story, Hill told police he had agreed to give Canterbury a ride, the affidavit said. Hill said it seemed like Canterbury knew exactly where he was going as he led Hill into the woods to D'Antonio's campsite. Hill said he did not know D'Antonio, and Canterbury and D'Antonio started fighting, court documents said.

According to the affidavit, Hill said Canterbury then swung a metal object at D'Antonio, and said he was surprised, as he didn't know Canterbury had a weapon with him. Hill said he was shocked, and he and Canterbury ran away, leaving D'Antonio lying motionless on the ground, the affidavit said. Hill said Canterbury repeatedly told him not to say anything, and threatened to kill Hill if he told anyone what had happened, according to court documents.

After giving this statement, Hill led the police into the woods to the site of D'Antonio's campsite, which he was able to locate easily, even though all the remnants of D'Antonio's belongings were gone, the affidavit said.

The affidavit also recounts later phone conversations between Hill and Canterbury, during which Canterbury repeatedly told Hill not to tell anyone about the killing. East Hampton police arrested Hill and Canterbury in late October 2008.

Hill is scheduled to be sentenced Aug. 27.

## Top Two Students Were Heavily Involved at EHHS

by Claire Michalewicz

For four years, Walid Ahmad and Will DeMore have been familiar faces at East Hampton High School, where both were involved in activities from music to track to student government. Now, they're graduating as the Class of 2010's valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, and both plan to study engineering.

Looking back at high school, Walid and Will both said they were happy with their experiences, and have few regrets. Walid only said he should have started his college applications earlier, while Will said he wished he became involved with the choir earlier. Curt Weybright, the school's music teacher, was a huge influence on both Walid and Will. Walid said Weybright "always expected a higher level from all students," which he said played a role in how far both he and Will had come.

History teacher Joan Mastromonaco, who taught them both Advanced Placement United States History, was a huge influence on both of them. Walid said that during the course, which lasted for a year and a half, Mastromonaco and the students all "became like a little family."

"She always knew what she was doing," Will added. He said Mastromonaco's enthusiasm helped get the students excited about history, which he said "doesn't really happen all the time."

Mastromonaco was just as enthusiastic about Will and Walid as they were about her, calling them both "delightful."

"These guys were always willing to dive into things," Mastromonaco said. "They had this enthusiasm that was just refreshing. Will, she said, read voraciously and liked to volunteer extra information from his reading in class, while she remembers Walid at the Euro Challenge, an academic competition in New York that Walid attended in his sophomore year, where he showed initiative in creating their team's presentation.

"He was saying 'We have to make it complex, we have to make it complex,'" Mastromonaco said, adding that East Hampton's team placed fourth in the competition.

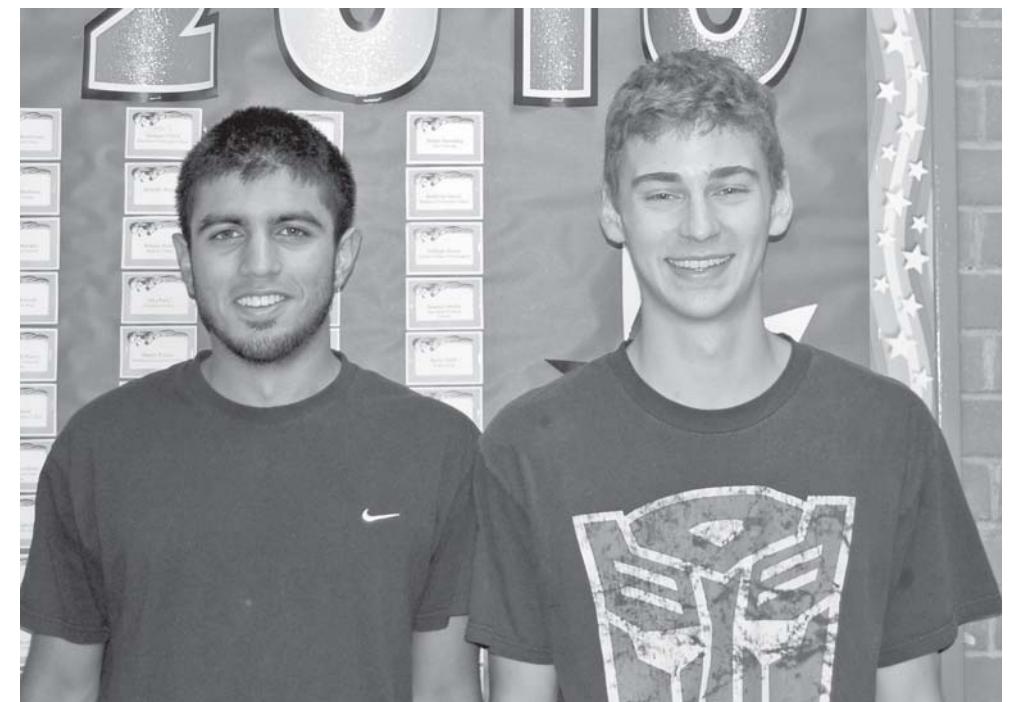
The Euro Challenge, Walid said, was one of his most memorable experiences in high school, because he got to compete against students from all over the country and go places he never expected to be, like the Federal Reserve building. Another highlight, Walid said, was the Winter Carnival that the high school students organized this past March as a fundraiser for earthquake relief in Haiti. Walid said the project went beyond the schools and involved other people from the community, including people whom he said didn't normally get involved in events like this. "It was cool to see so many people stepping up to work for one thing," he said.

Throughout their time at EHHS, Will and Walid both kept busy with a wide variety of activities. They both ran track, served as class officers with the Student Council and they were each members of the National Honor Society and Interact, the junior Rotary Club. Walid also played soccer, was captain of the tennis team, and helped found the Ski Club. Will participated in Model UN, and he said attending a Model UN conference was one of his favorite memories of high school.

"There were people from all over the world, and I got to meet people and make friends I would never meet otherwise," Will said.

People, Will and Walid both said emphatically, were what they would miss the most at EHHS, especially their classmates and the teachers who helped them along the way. Still, they're looking forward to the future.

"We're gonna miss our friends and everything," Will said, "but I'm just excited." He'll attend the honors program at the University of Maryland in College Park, where he'll study mechanical engineering. He said attending college will present challenges, since the univer-



Walid Ahmad, left, and Will DeMore are the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the East Hampton High School Class of 2010.

sity is larger than the entire town of East Hampton, but he's looking forward to seeing how he'll handle it.

"It just intrigued me," he said about engineering, explaining that he eventually wants to work in the field of sustainable energy. Will said he'd read a lot about the energy industry, and he likes the idea of using his engineering skills to do something good for the environment. In addition, he said, it's a field that will continue to grow as people continue to look for alternative energy sources.

Walid is also planning to study mechanical engineering, at Western New England College

in Springfield. He said he's always been interested in aviation, and hopes to someday work in space exploration. "It's just something I always wanted to do," he said, adding that it should be a "profitable" field.

Walid said he had mixed feelings about leaving high school. While he'll miss the people at school and in East Hampton, he's looking forward to being able to take more classes that interest him. "It's just a little weird to think that it's coming to an end," he said.

The EHHS Class of 2010 will graduate Tuesday, June 22, at 6:30 p.m., at the high school, 15 North Maple St.

# Weybright Retiring After 24 Years at EHHS

by Claire Michalewicz

Curt Weybright has spent 24 years at East Hampton High School, but he insists he doesn't have a favorite memory from his time here. The longtime music teacher, who is retiring at the close of the school year next week, said he doesn't "do superlatives," and won't pick favorites of anything, even songs.

But that doesn't mean he hasn't enjoyed the near-quarter century he's spent directing the band and choir groups at East Hampton High School (EHHS). Weybright, 59, said the most memorable parts of teaching were helping students improve their skills and succeed in his classes.

"If there's a common thread, it's that my standards are so strict that they have to develop to the best of their abilities," Weybright said. "If I'm disappointed, they know I want more." He said that when students try harder and improve their skills, they usually find that they enjoy it more. His main goal, he added, was to create an atmosphere where students can find "a lot of meaningful experiences."

Weybright said when he retires, he'll miss the "daily overwhelming stimulation" of working with so many people at the high school. Despite that, though, he said he's looking forward to retiring. One of his students, he said, bought him a rocking chair as a retirement gift, but he emphasized that he had no intention of using it.

Instead, Weybright said, he wants to use his retirement to run his piano-tuning business, and volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, and also hopes to do some traveling.

Weybright said the East Hampton community has been supportive of him and his program over the years. He noted that the town has a large number of theater and music groups, and his program has always had the support of the town's government and residents. He also liked that he's been able to work with both the band and the choir, rather than pigeonholing himself as either a band or choir director.

EHHS' small size has also given Weybright the opportunity to work closely with his stu-

dents. "It's a very manageable size," he said, noting that in each of the five groups the school currently has – concert, jazz, and marching bands, and concert and chamber choirs – he's had many talented students.

Weybright, originally from Indiana, started teaching music after studying at the City University of New York. He said he was teaching in the other East Hampton, on Long Island, when he was invited to teach at the middle school in this East Hampton, in 1978. Weybright also taught in Cromwell for five years in the early 1980s before coming to EHHS.

Last week, on June 10, Weybright directed his final concert at EHHS, and was treated to a surprise from a group of alumni. David Schramm, a 2006 graduate, worked with another alumnus, Richard Manning, to write a school song for EHHS and Weybright. Schramm said that, since EHHS didn't have a school song, it would be a fitting tribute to Weybright.

During the concert, about 20 alumni "literally raided the stage," Schramm said, to sing two songs for Weybright: the one Schramm and Manning wrote, entitled "The EHHS Alma Mater," and another song called "Goodbye, Weybright."

Schramm said fellow alumna Elyse Dolde organized the entire event on Facebook, and he was surprised by how many alumni showed up, since he thought most of them would be either too busy or too far away. "I think this is a testament to the amount of people Weybright has influenced," Schramm said.

Schramm added that he hoped the school song he wrote would become official at EHHS. "Curt Weybright will then be forever immortalized at EHHS," Schramm said, "[and] in what better form than a piece of music?"

Weybright himself was impressed by the outpouring of support from the alumni. "I'm not typically the sentimental type, but there were many people who were touched," Weybright said. He added that since he announced his retirement in February, he's had



East Hampton High School music teacher Curt Weybright is retiring after 24 years. He is shown here in the music room at the school.

students and fellow teachers telling him they'll miss him, and urging him not to leave.

Still, Weybright is confident that he's leaving his music program in good hands. Another teacher, Andrew Groves, is set to take over Weybright's longtime position, and Weybright said he's been working with Groves to make sure the transition goes smoothly.

Weybright's students, past and present, agree that he was a huge influence on them. Schramm pointed out that since most students do band or choir all through high school, they're able to develop close relationships with Weybright. In addition, he said, Weybright has been extremely dedicated to his work.

"More than any other teacher, he puts in more hours after work," said Christopher Perez, a senior who's been in band all through high school. "I think it's really cool that he's still really dedicated to teaching and students after all these years. It's inspiring to see."

Marissa Levy, another senior, just joined band this year, and said Weybright had been a huge help to her, helping her learn to play French horn in a short amount of time. "He really wants to see everyone succeed," Marissa said.

In his 24 years at EHHS, this is something Weybright has likely seen many, many times over.

## Top Two Bacon Students Looking Ahead to Future

by Katy Nally

A tough year of Advanced Placement classes and college admission essays came to a close last night after Bacon Academy's valedictorian and salutatorian said goodbye to their high school at their graduation ceremony.

Both valedictorian Nick Joaquin and salutatorian Andrew DeVoe said they have their sights eagerly set on college. Nick will attend Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and Andrew, the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) in New York.

"I'm excited about it, but at the moment, we're about to graduate high school," Nick said Tuesday, two days before the Class of 2010 had its commencement ceremony.

After acing AP calculus and AP statistics, Nick said he plans to focus on math when he gets to Dartmouth in the fall. Nick said having a math degree would open doors for his career down the line. "Everything comes back to math," he said.

Andrew, who also took AP calculus and AP statistics, agreed. "Math is the way humans interpret the world," he said.

But Andrew will take a different route and plans to major in computer science. He said he was unsure what he might do with a degree in computer science but added, "What happens in college is really going to dictate what I'm doing."

The two students were both members of the Math Team this year and competed against other schools at the Norwich Free Academy. This was Andrew's first year on the Math Team, but he also participated in the Math Club and fencing.

Nick was a Math Team member for all four years of high school and also played lacrosse.

Because of their experiences on the Math Team, both Andrew and Nick said John Lecce, who coached the group and also teaches statistics and math, was one of their favorite teach-

ers. "He's really fun and really personable," Nick said. In addition to the Math Team, Andrew had Lecce as a teacher five times at Bacon, and Nick had him three times. "There's such a great atmosphere in his class," Nick added.

With college on the horizon, both Andrew and Nick said they were most excited about meeting new people and having new experiences. Andrew, who will move to Rochester in the fall, seemed a bit apprehensive about what type of weather he might encounter in New York. But, he said, "it's alright, they have tunnels." Andrew explained RIT's campus is equipped with underground tunnels, so he won't have to bear the chilly winter when he goes to class.

Although no other Bacon students are attending Dartmouth with Nick, he said he was eager to meet students from other states. "It's kind of nice to have a fresh start," he said.

Dartmouth will be quite a change from Bacon's 2010 class of about 250 students. Nick added he's been in school with most of his peers since middle school. "You've had a class with everybody here," he said.

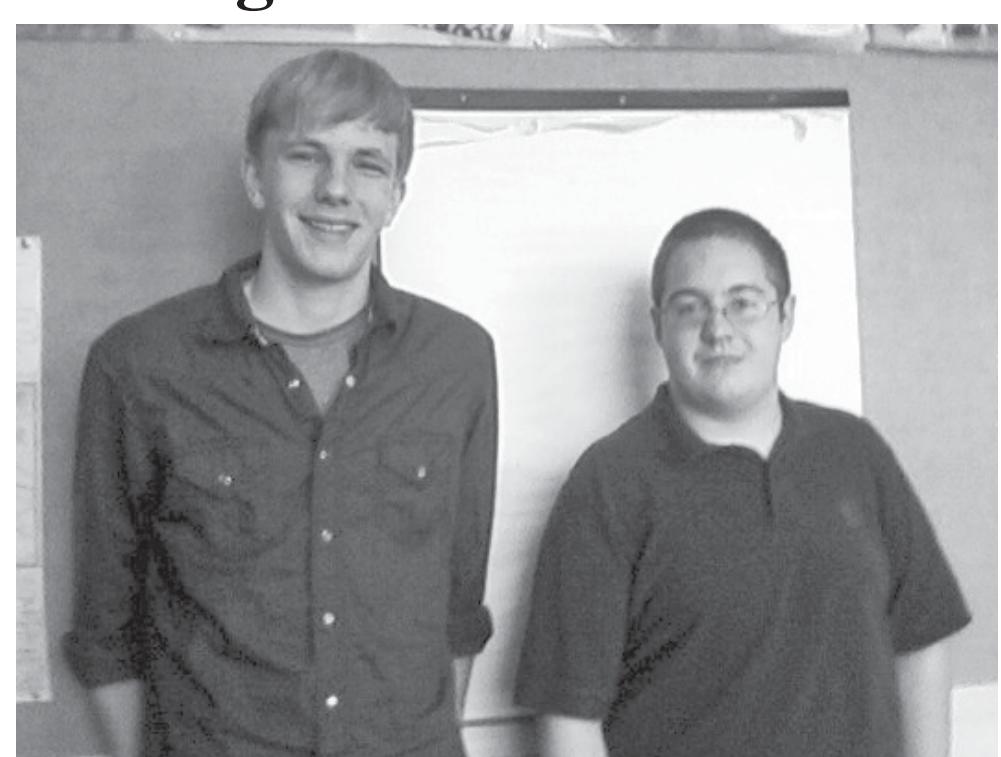
But before Andrew and Nick decided on their plans for higher education, they both endured a school year weighted with college-level courses and admission applications.

In total, Nick applied to 15 schools before choosing Dartmouth. Andrew applied to two – RIT and the University of Connecticut. Nick's advice to juniors and other Bacon students was to not follow his example and finish college applications over the summer.

"There's such a high volume of things to do [senior year]," Nick said.

Andrew agreed, adding, "The timetable is always the toughest."

But even with a full plate this year, both stu-



The Bacon Academy Class of 2010 graduated yesterday, Thursday, June 17. The class' top two students, valedictorian Nick Joaquin, left, and salutatorian Andrew DeVoe, both gave speeches during the commencement ceremony.

dents said they were able to submit their applications on time with the help of their guidance counselors. Andrew said his counselor was "a huge help," and Nick added, "She made everything happen instantly."

Now that they're graduated, both Andrew and Nick said this summer would be their chance to relax and not worry about school for a while. "I have zero plans," Nick said excitedly. "I don't

think it'll kill anyone if I take two months off."

Andrew said he has "no concrete plans," but is "finally going to Hawaii" with his family.

Nick, as well, has no agenda this summer, except to enjoy his new Volvo.

*Editor's Note: Last night's Bacon Academy graduation occurred after press time. A full story about the graduation will appear in next week's Rivereast.*

# Gifted Educator Leaves Marlborough

by Katy Nally

After working with gifted students at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School, it became Karen Brennan's "gift" to identify, teach and bond with children in the enrichment program.

For 12 years Brennan headed the program, at times instructing about 70 children from grades three through six.

"I loved seeing people's gifts get recognized," Brennan said last week. When students entered her classroom, she would tell them simply, "My job was to show off your gifts."

After 31 years of teaching enrichment, kindergarten, second, fourth and fifth grades, as well as being a special education paraprofessional, Brennan decided to retire from the elementary school.

When she leaves it all behind this month, Brennan said she will miss the kids most of all. "I love their minds; their fun nature," she said.

During her tenure at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall, Brennan spent the most time teaching enrichment. In addition to her 12 consecutive years, Brennan also instructed enrichment for one year after teaching second grade, but couldn't continue when the position was proposed to switch to part-time.

Brennan said the enrichment classroom offered much more than the chance to challenge bright students; it also allowed children to "develop confidence in themselves." Each year she taught enrichment, Brennan found a way to bond with her students. "There's an emotional component you're nursing," she added.

Ceili Peng, now an eighth-grader at RHAM Middle School, was one of those students Brennan challenged. "She was extremely helpful and caring and supportive," Ceili said of her former teacher. "She really wanted us to succeed."

Brennan was Ceili's enrichment teacher for four years, from third through sixth grade. "Her program was the reason I liked school," she said.

As the enrichment teacher, Brennan said she saw students who were "gifted across the board," and others who had trouble making friends and preferred to talk with adults. Those

children, she said, "are the kids who really need the gifted program."

Brennan said one student was "like a walking encyclopedia," but he "could never express what he was thinking."

"We need to recognize our gifted students," Brennan said. "They won't just be okay, they need to be challenged."

The key to making enrichment education work, Brennan said, was not only utilizing exercises and material for the identified students, but also to provide a forum for the enrichment children to come together. "It wasn't just me doing it," she said. "It was them getting together. They were bouncing off each other constantly."

"Watching kids build these relationships – that's what I thought was so powerful," she said.

In addition to teaching enrichment, Brennan also initiated several Challenge and Enrichment (C&E) programs at the elementary school, including Invention Convention, Future Problem Solving, Talents Unlimited, the Literary Board, Clusters, Pride Assemblies and Student Council.

Ceili took part in future problem solving, along with several other students, and continues to do so at RHAM. Ever since fifth grade she's had the same teammates and still competes against other local schools.

After teaching enrichment for 13 years, Brennan developed a passion for working with gifted students. "I liked the variety and the diversity," she said. "Because I'm a lifelong learner, it gave me the opportunity to learn new things along with the kids."

Although it's her passion now, Brennan discovered her love for learning later in life. She was an opera major out of high school, but the University of Hartford didn't offer that option, so she focused on musical theater.

After graduating, she moved to New York and worked as a waitress and performed with local troupes. It was not until she had her own two children that Brennan realized she loved teaching. When she moved to Connecticut, Brennan obtained her teaching degree and secured a job as a paraprofessional in Marlborough in 1979.

Brennan worked as a paraprofessional for one year and then moved on to kindergarten. "I had some really great experiences in kindergarten," she said laughing. Brennan said one of her most memorable moments was when she looked over at a girl who had been painting, and noticed she was covered "from the tip of her nose to the tip of her fingers," in paint.

After four years teaching 5-year-olds, Brennan moved up to second grade and stayed for nine years. During her time in second grade, Brennan said she "had all kinds of plans" and organized field trips to places like Mystic Seaport and the zoo.

But her time during fourth grade presented a memorable zoo experience. After studying endangered species, her children were excited at the chance to observe the animals in person. So excited in fact, that when the group finally reached the zoo, all the kids "came charging out of their cars saying 'Where's my animal?'"

But Brennan's heart truly lies with gifted students. Just talking about the enrichment classroom and reminiscing about past students, Brennan became emotional last week.

And just about a year ago to date, the teacher was emotional for a different reason – the enrichment program was slated to be cut as part of the budget.

"Not only was I fighting, but the parents were fighting," she said.

In the end, Brennan's work as the enrichment teacher was divided up between several staff members, but the pull-out system was removed. However, many of the C&E programs like Future Problem Solving, Invention Convention and the Literacy Board continued.

Brennan spent her last year teaching fifth grade, a move she said she was "scared to death" of. But, with the help of the fifth grade team, Brennan made it through the year and in true "out of the box" fashion, she and her class put on an 18-scene play, after reading the "Magician's Elephant."

Although she's retiring in June, as a lifelong educator, Brennan won't completely drop the profession. In September, she and two other women will travel to Tanzania to teach chil-



**Karen Brennan will leave Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School this month, after teaching in Marlborough for 31 years.**

dren for three weeks. Brennan said the opportunity "was so exciting, because I have a dream to go [back] to Africa." (A few years ago, Brennan spent one week in Mauritius instructing teachers how to teach higher-level thinking courses.)

When she moves on this month, many parents, teachers and students, will miss Brennan's zeal, passion and what she called "out of the box thinking." But, in her 31 years, Brennan has taught many how to let their gifts shine through, and the elementary school is a brighter place because of her efforts.

# Marlborough Selectmen Approve Ordinances, Plans Grant

by Katy Nally

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) approved four ordinances at its meeting Tuesday, June 8, and discussed plans to procure grant money to renovate the library's second floor.

Before their last meeting on May 18, selectmen held a public hearing to discuss five ordinances. Three of the ordinances outlined regulations for three boards/commissions: the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA), Nature Trails and Sidewalks and the Commission on Aging. One detailed how to manage illicit discharge in the town's water catch basins, and the last established Nature Trails and Sidewalks as a commission.

At Thursday's meeting, selectman Joe La Bella and First Selectman Bill Black (Selectman Riva Clark was absent) voted to make a five-member and three-alternate standard for each of the three commissions.

An attendance policy that called for a member's resignation after three consecutive

missed meetings, or after missing half the meetings, was also altered. Instead of an immediate resignation, the board/commission chair will come before the BOS to discuss the situation and the selectmen will decide what action to take.

In the Nature Trails and Sidewalks regulations, a clause that gave the BOS power to "remove any regular member or alternate...from office prior to the expiration of a term" was also deleted.

La Bella and Black discussed another issue that was brought up at the May 18 meeting. Some trails, Nature Trails and Sidewalks members said, are not suitable for horses, so the BOS looked into whether the town could regulate which animals use which trails.

Black said he asked town counsel if Marlborough could restrict horses on certain trails, and if so, how to go about it. However, he said the lawyer had not given a response yet.

Black mentioned the possibility of posting signs and delegating only some trails for horses, adding, "This is what it looks like we're going to get to."

The BOS approved the new regulations for the WPCA and the Commission on Aging, as well as the ordinance that established Nature Trails and Sidewalks and the illicit discharge management ordinance. However, the two selectmen tabled any action on the regulations for Nature Trails and Sidewalks, pending the town council's answer about horses.

The illicit discharge management ordinance went through unchanged, as there was no public opposition at the hearing.

\* \* \*

Black also mentioned there were plans in the works to possibly secure another grant to renovate Richmond Memorial Library's second floor. Last September, the library was awarded

\$250,000 as part of a Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. However, the library also faced additional charges for engineering and design of the renovation, which the STEAP grant did not cover, so plans were put on hold.

Also at the BOS meeting, Black said he spoke with the state Department of Economic and Community Development, which suggested applying for second STEAP grant. Black said this was a similar to when the town center was built with two separate STEAP grants that totaled \$900,000.

Black said he has already asked staff to "start preparing the grant application."

Whether or not the money is awarded, regarding the library, Black said, "We need the space. We desperately need it."

The next regularly scheduled BOS meeting will be Tuesday, June 22, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

# Hebron School Board Approves Budget Cuts, New Assistant Principal

by Lindsay Fetzner

The Board of Education (BOE) met Tuesday and approved, by a 5-1 vote, the \$127,239 in cuts the Board of Finance mandated last month. Also at the meeting, Amy Campbell was also appointed as the assistant principal at Hebron Elementary School.

Tensions were high in the music room as members of the public urged the board to reinstate non-certified positions and to reconsider positions on the chopping block.

The board had previously discussed the cuts at a June 10 meeting; a full story about that meeting appears on page 31.

Kathy Hoffman, a resident and paraprofessional at Hebron Elementary School (HES), said the board is "making a big mistake if they remove the employees whose positions were slated for elimination."

"I cannot understand why the board would choose to eliminate paraprofessionals who provide vital services and custodians who keep the school safe and clean," Hoffman said. "Shouldn't our priorities be with the employees who provide direct services?"

Another paraprofessional at HES and resident of town, Christopher Ambrose, informed the attendees that last Thursday, June 10, he was told that he would be "let go" due to the "budget situation." He also added that the termination was "performance-based."

"The budget would have been passed the first time had ADK (all-day kindergarten) been removed," he added. "You, the elected officials, have allowed your neighbors and children to suffer."

Ambrose added that the unions "must seriously consider a vote of no confidence" for the central office leadership.

Clyde Michaud, a custodian at Gilead Hill School, urged the board not to reduce any cus-

todian positions.

Resident Donna McCalla addressed comments directed toward BOE member Kathy Shea at the June 10 meeting. McCalla quoted the *Rivereast* letter to the editor, informing the board that Shea was not happy with a zero percent increase.

"Instead of blaming Mrs. Shea, why not blame the real culprit – the economy," she said. McCalla later added that if the board "took a few lessons" from RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski in open dialogue and transparency, the budget would have passed "on the first try."

"If you had openly told the public of the cuts you plan to make tonight – in order to hire another administrator – you would have most likely gotten the 'no' vote you wanted on the third referendum," McCalla said.

She urged the board to reinstate the non-certified staff and not to fill the assistant principal position at HES.

"I guarantee if you take this brave action, you will gain a lot of street credibility, respect and will earn the public's confidence," she said. "If you don't do this, the gauntlet will be laid for next year. People in Hebron do not tolerate injustice, and they do not forget injustice."

In a 5-1 vote, with Shea opposed, the motion to approve the \$11.716 million budget with the \$127,239 worth of cuts discussed at the June 10 meeting carried. BOE member William Moorcraft was absent from the meeting.

The cuts include \$5,611 in insurance savings for non-certified staff and \$6,748 for certified staff. A behavior reduction amounted to \$17,040 in savings, a reduction in electricity, \$15,000, and an additional \$4,000 in phone reductions. Postage, advertising, printing/binding, computer supplies, audio visual supplies and office

supplies totaled \$6,000, with a reduction of \$1,000 to each respectively. General insurance reductions totaled \$7,723, substitutes an additional \$11,000 and for Spanish supplies, \$8,500. The remaining four cuts were \$8,260 for a support staff aide, \$27,316 for a secretary position, \$1,379 due to a reduction in hours of one secretary and lastly, \$8,662 in paper.

\* \* \*

The board also approved the appointment of Campbell as HES' new vice principal. Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz announced that a total of 98 applicants demonstrated interest in the assistant principal position at HES. Through a "really intensive interviewing process," Cruz said, Campbell was chosen.

Campbell is currently a second-grade teacher at Preston Veterans Memorial School and a principal designee, filling in for the principal when she is not available.

Cruz said she is an "outstanding educator" and began her career in special education before switching to regular classroom teaching. Campbell has taught grades two, three and five in the past. She was also named Preston's Teacher of the Year in 2008, Cruz said.

"It was clear in the interview process that Amy's background and skills were a match for where our building is right now," said HES Principal Kevin Hanlon, and referred to Campbell as "a very strong candidate."

Cruz said due to the fact that the position was not filled when the former vice principal Vonda Tencza was appointed as the director of curriculum and technology in April, the district was able to save \$8,000. The assistant principal is a 10-month position encompassing 200 total workdays per year. Campbell will begin on July 1.

Campbell's appointment passed 5-1. Shea

was the lone board member to oppose the move, and said she felt the board should have held one of the administrative positions (director of curriculum and technology or assistant principal) in conveyance.

Also at the meeting, the board discussed the roughly \$52,000 in surplus that the district has. Out of that figure, up to \$20,500 was designated for Cruz to use for the lease of computer equipment.

"It is really important for us to keep technology in the kids' hands and available," Tencza said. "This is the nuts and bolts."

The \$20,500 would be used for the purchase of two servers and several computers for students and staff from Dell.

The vote was 5-1, with Shea opposed, saying it is her preference to discuss the surplus with the town first.

A \$31,563 excess cost grant, making up the remainder of the surplus, was allocated back to the town, in the hopes that \$1,000 would be reserved for the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) program. The vote was unanimous.

The DARE Program is funded by the State Police, and due to budget cuts, cannot be sustained. Cruz said when officers come to the schools for the program, they get paid in addition to their daily responsibilities as police officers. When the state trooper budget was reduced, the funds to pay officers outside of the normal working day, for activities such as DARE, were not available.

"It is a great opportunity for kids," Cruz said. "For many reasons, we felt it was important to maintain."

The BOE will next meet Tuesday, June 29, at 7 p.m., at Gilead Hill School.

## Cruz Presents Cuts to Hebron School Board

by Lindsay Fetzner

At a Board of Education (BOE) meeting last Thursday, June 10, Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz presented a list of \$127,239 in reductions to reach a zero percent increase in the \$11.716 million school board budget.

The proposed cuts – which were later approved at the June 15 BOE meeting (see related story on page 33) – did not go over well with all the board members.

The \$127,239 cut had been mandated by the Board of Finance (BOF) last month, after a second attempt to pass the town budget failed at referendum. (The budget was eventually passed at a third referendum on June 1.) Subsequently, the BOE was faced with identifying areas to make the cuts. A total of 18 areas were discussed at last week's meeting.

Insurance savings for non-certified (\$5,611) and certified staff (\$6,748) totaled \$12,359. An additional \$7,723 was proposed to be cut from general insurance.

Reducing the behavior analyst, a contracted service, from three days to two constituted an additional \$17,040.

A \$15,000 cut to electricity was also suggested. Board of Education (BOE) member Brian O'Reilly said the cut was reflective of the "teams working very hard with conservation efforts."

In addition to a \$4,000 cut to telephones due to lower usage, \$6,000 was directed to be reduced from postage, advertising, printing/binding, computer supplies, audio visual supplies and office supplies. Each area, respectively, was reduced by \$1,000.

A reduction of \$11,000 was recommended for substitutes. Previously, the budget has allocated for three interns, but Cruz said in the past years, only one intern has worked in the schools. The number of interns would be reduced from three to two.

Cuts to Spanish supplies totaled \$8,500. Vonda Tencza, director of curriculum and tech-

nology, said the funds would "still be able to support the program" and allow it to "grow."

The next proposed reduction was for a support staff aide in the amount of \$8,260, reducing the position from 1.0 FTE to .5 FTE. This cut was "not something we wanted to do," Cruz said. She also added that she is "very hopeful that we can protect as many positions as we can."

The reduction of one secretary position (\$27,316) and a reduction in hours for another secretary (\$1,379) were also on the list of cuts.

Due to a surplus of \$27,000, Cruz recommended cutting \$8,662 for paper and utilizing funds from this year's budget to pre-buy the paper. Many factors contributed to the surplus, but a warmer winter and conservation efforts have had an impact, leaving the school district with extra oil, Cruz said.

Cruz said that although she did not know what would happen before the end of the school year (which was actually Wednesday, but had not yet occurred at the time of the June 10 meeting) in terms of changes and/or fluctuations with the staff, "anytime there is a change, we are going to reabsorb the staff," she said.

"That has been our commitment from the beginning," she added.

Since December, at the beginning of the budget process, the total staff positions to be cut are one custodian, one secretary, three paraprofessionals, one classroom teacher and one C&E teacher. One paraprofessional would also be reduced to a .5 FTE and one secretary, by 2.5 hours per week, Cruz said.

BOE member Mark Allaben said the direction the board took was to take a "hard look at the services provided" and to "find a way to keep intact those things we value and [that] have the least impact on the students." Allaben added that he thought the board did "a pretty good job protecting those."

However, board member Kathy Shea did not

share Allaben's sentiments. "I have some serious concerns on what we are doing here," she said. Her concern, she said, was that on the list of cuts, "no administration was touched." All the "little Indians are coming out," Shea said, but "no chiefs."

Allaben responded to Shea's discontentment with, among other items, hot-button programs being discussed for possible reduction, recent layoffs before the BOE met to discuss cuts and no reduction to administration.

"I don't get it, Kathy," Allaben said.

He said that over the course of the budget process, he has heard Shea say, "don't cut this, don't cut that."

Furthermore, he brought up a letter to the editor Shea submitted to the *Rivereast* that appeared in the May 28 edition, which urged voters to vote 'yes' at the June 1 referendum.

In the letter, Shea said she was not happy with the zero percent increase. She also pointed out that there was uncertainty in what could have occurred if the budget failed for the third time, such as the BOF cutting the spending plan even more. Shea urged residents to vote in favor of the budget and to attend last Thursday's BOE meeting to "let [their] voices be heard for hopefully the last time on this budget."

At the meeting, Allaben went on to say that "when you go to a zero percent budget," someone is most likely to lose his or her job.

After addressing Shea, Allaben discussed the recent exit poll he conducted at the last budget referendum. There were a total of 148 residents who said the school budget was too low.

"Only 89 said it was too high," he said. "I understand there are people in town who think it was too high, but based on the results, the town does support education."

Shortly after, Allaben requested to "call the question," meaning he wanted board members to vote on the motion to accept the budget. The motion passed 5-2, with Shea and fellow mem-

ber William Moorcraft opposed.

After the vote was taken, Shea shared with the board why she opposed the motion. She said she was "disappointed" that the BOE has played "Mickey Mouse games since December." In addition to feeling that it is "wrong" to fill the assistant principal position, Shea felt the same way about filling the director of curriculum and technology position without "firm conversation and reasons why it would and wouldn't work."

"I feel again I've been misled by the majority on this board on what cuts would be made," Shea said.

Cuts to administration, Shea said, should have been made before "going after all these small charges." Although Shea said she thought "we could get by with a 1.5 percent" increase to the budget, the BOE "didn't get it because we played games." In addition to not supporting the budget, Shea said she could not support "many of the cuts made along the way."

Moorcraft expressed that he voted against the motion because he was looking for cuts in the "administration arena." But, BOE member Stephanie Raymond said, "cutting the administration structure at this time is not a wise thing to do."

Raymond addressed past lists of proposed cuts, adding that often, people "see it on a list and automatically think it's going to be cut [when in reality] it's just a discussion."

"It makes me very upset that certain people in town think members of the board are not looking out for the kids," she added.

BOE member Tina Marie Blinn commented on the administration as well. "We made our best judgment," she said. "This is what we have. We value it and we want to keep it."

BOE Chairwoman Jane Dube, the last of the BOE to express their thoughts, said the board agrees "far more" than they disagree.

"I hope we can put this behind us and move forward," she said.

# Portland Selectmen Expand School Committee

by Claire Michalewicz

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) voted to expand the School Facilities Study Committee at its meeting Wednesday evening.

The committee, which the BOS proposed earlier this year, will study the current use of space in Portland's schools and try to determine if the facilities they have will be adequate for predicted future enrollment.

Originally, the committee was to include two selectmen, John Anderson and Sharon Peters, two Board of Education (BOE) members, Christopher Bongo and MaryAnne Rode, and three other residents. On Wednesday, the BOS voted to add two alternates to the committee, because many residents had expressed interest in serving on it.

At their last meeting, the selectmen interviewed eight interested candidates, and they plan to interview four more at their next meeting in July, after which they'll choose the three regular members and two alternates.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained that while alternates would not usually have the ability to vote, the committee would not be taking many votes. She added that the alternates would still be able to attend all the meetings, and help write the study report. "You can still discuss and have input," she said.

The BOS initially considered changing the number of regular members of the committee, but selectman Mark Finkelstein suggesting having alternates. Bransfield agreed, explaining that in committees like this, members sometimes had to drop out because of other obligations.

The BOS also voted to change the dates that the committee would meet, moving their first meeting from April to September and their final report to February of next year.

In other business at the meeting, the BOS voted to officially close out the Indian Hill Pump Station Project, which was completed in

2005. Finance Director Tom Robinson explained that the town still had about \$73,385 in the account, which the Selectmen voted to transfer into the sewer operating budget.

Robinson explained that next month, in a similar item, he would propose that the BOS move \$809,000 from an old well development fund into the water operating budget.

The selectmen also voted to authorize Bransfield to apply for a grant from the state through the Homeland Security Grant Program. Bransfield said she didn't yet know how much money the town might receive. In previous years, she said, Portland has used the grant money to update its emergency management and communication systems.

In his report to the BOS, Robinson explained that the town's credit rating had recently been recalibrated, but that the town should not consider the change to be an upgrade. Robinson

also announced that the town would soon be moving its pension funds from Reliance Group to People's United.

Robinson also provided a quick overview of the town's current budget, as the fiscal year draws to a close at the end of June. One item that would definitely go over budget, Robinson said, was streetlighting, which is something he said he had anticipated. In addition, he said, vehicle tax revenues were lower than usual, which he attributed to people buying fewer new vehicles.

"We're not in bad shape," said Finkelstein, reading over the budget report. Robinson agreed, and thanked the department heads for not overspending. Robinson had instituted a freeze on discretionary spending this spring.

The next BOS meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 7, at 7:30 p.m. at Portland Library.



The nature walk at Blish Park was vandalized sometime last week. Pictured above is a railing that was broken off and a beer can floating among the lily pads.

## Nature Walk at Marlborough Blish Park Vandalized

by Katy Nally

Sometime last week the nature walk railing at Blish Park was damaged and graffiti was spray painted on the remaining railings and the platform, the Parks and Recreation Commission said this week.

The commission held a meeting Monday night and briefly discussed how to address the vandalism, Parks and Recreation Vice Chairwoman Louise Concodello said.

"It's so hard when you have such a beautiful park," she added.

This is the third time the nature walk has been vandalized since March. Another act, which also involved spray paint, targeted the park pavilion earlier this year, Concodello said.

This time, the back railing was completely removed and words and pictures were spray painted in a yellow-green color. "I think they kicked the wood [railings] into the pond," Concodello said.

The money to fix the railing will come out to the Parks and Recreation budget, as it has the previous times. Concodello said each time the department funds the repairs, there is less money available for programs and equipment.

"It's a little frustrating," she said.

On Monday night, the commission discussed the possibility of having a state trooper patrol the park more often. With the presence of a patrol car, Concodello said, the vandals would be less likely to stick around.

So far, this year the park incurred "a little bit more damage" than in previous years, Concodello said. "This is the beginning of an interesting summer," she added.

Until increased security plans are decided, Concodello said "we'll keep our eyes open." If the vandals are caught, she said "they will be prosecuted."

## Separate Incidents Lead to Multiple Portland Teen Arrests

by Claire Michalewicz

Four Portland teenagers have been arrested in the past few weeks, in three separate incidents.

In late May, a teenage girl was arrested after she spit on and scratched a police officer, Portland Police said. According to Sgt. Scott Cunningham, the 15-year-old girl scratched the officer's face when police were called to her house for an argument.

When officers arrived at the home on Airline Avenue on May 27, they found the girl's 19-year-old boyfriend walking away from the house. Cunningham talked to the boyfriend, who said his girlfriend had taken his keys. The boyfriend said he and the girl had had an argument, and he wanted to leave before the argument caused any more problems, Cunningham said.

The girl then emerged from the house, Cunningham said, and "started walking around screaming." The girl's mother arrived, and tried to diffuse the situation, Cunningham said, but the girl then threw the keys at Cunningham's car, "leaving a nice little scratch," he said.

While Officer Fran Ahlquist was trying to restrain the girl, Cunningham said, she spit on Ahlquist's chest and then scratched the side of his face. Cunningham said at that moment, they decided to arrest the girl.

Ahlquist and Cunningham brought her to the police station until she calmed down, then released her home with her mother. She was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, assault on a police officer and interfering with an officer. She was arraigned in court on June 9. Ahlquist didn't require treatment for the

scratch, Cunningham said.

In another incident on June 10, two boys, age 12 and 13, were referred to juvenile authorities for third-degree criminal mischief. Lieutenant Ron Milardo said he received a call saying that two boys were writing something on one of the monument stones at Veterans Memorial Park. When Milardo arrived on the scene, he found the two boys walking across the town hall parking lot.

Milardo found they had taken red flowers from the garden, and rubbed the flower petals into the stone, writing the word "Hi" twice.

"I honestly don't think they understood what they did," Milardo said, "but they did do damage that needed to be corrected."

"Anyone caught vandalizing is going to get arrested," said Milardo, adding that the veterans in town had worked hard to erect the memorial, and it was disrespectful to damage it.

Milardo said the Department of Public Works was able to erase the damage, though because of the texture of the stones, it took "a little extra work."

In a third incident, another teen was arrested and charged with assault after he punched another boy at the Portland library on Tuesday afternoon. A 14-year-old boy punched another teen in the chest and head, throwing him to the ground inside the library. Milardo said the suspect said the altercation had started earlier at the Burger King on Route 66, when the victim tried to stop him from picking on another teen. The boy who was punched sustained minor injuries, Milardo said.

# Hebron Resident Sees Award Slashed By State

by Lindsay Fetzner

Superior Court Judge Barry Stevens trimmed an \$18.3 million amount awarded to Hebron business owner Gina Malapanis by 90 percent last Friday, June 11.

The judgment was reduced to \$1.83 million.

Malapanis was initially awarded the \$18.3 million in January, the result of a countersuit against the state claiming its 2003 suit against her had "destroyed" her East Hartford-based computer business.

Stevens called the January jury award a "shocking injustice," and in his decision, said the award was "influenced by partiality or mistake," according to a press release issued last Friday, June 11, by Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

The release said Stevens found that the "jury had no factual basis to conclude the state's actions completely destroyed" Malapanis' business.

In response, Blumenthal said, "I am pleased that the court rightly reduced this award, saving taxpayers millions of dollars. We will continue fighting to overturn this verdict and cut the award to nothing."

In 2003, Blumenthal's office sued Malapanis and her company, Computers Plus Center, Inc. (CPC), for \$1.75 million. He sued at the request of the Department of Information Technology (DOIT), according to a 2003 press release, because DOIT accused CPC of providing "the state thousands of computers

that did not contain specified parts."

Malapanis and CPC were accused of then "fraudulently charging the state for the missing items," according to the release, "bilking the state out of more than half a million dollars, and possibly much more, worth of computer equipment."

CPC served as a vendor to the state for more than 10 years, entering into over 20 contracts with the state since 1998, some of which were estimated at \$15 million. The state computer contract included over 10,000 computers.

An audit in 2002 by DOIT revealed that at least 44 of the computer servers failed to provide the required level of memory. Instead, CPC installed "generic" memory, the 2003 release stated.

When Malapanis was awarded the \$18.3 million in January, Blumenthal issued a statement calling the verdict "wrong, inconsistent with law and evidence presented at trial."

"I will vigorously and aggressively fight to reverse this flawed finding," he said at the time. "We will immediately ask the court to throw out the award and verdict as a matter of law. If the verdict stands, we will appeal."

In the press release dated June 11, Blumenthal said his office will again "continue its appeal, seeking to further reduce the award to zero and overturn the jury's verdict."

Malapanis could not be reached for comment.

## Colchester Police News

6/8: Two passengers were transported to the Marlborough Clinic for "complaints of pain" after a one-car accident on Route 2 westbound just past Exit 18 at about 5:30 a.m., State Police said. Amanda Smith, 18, of West Warwick, RI, was driving a 2009 Nissan on Route 2 when she failed to maintain her lane, skidded into a metal rope guide rail and came to rest on the right shoulder, State Police said. She was not injured. Her front seat passenger, Zanfagna Gear, 27, of Cranston, RI, and her backseat passenger, a 17-year-old, were transported via

Colchester ambulance to the hospital. The car was totaled, State Police said.

6/10: A 14-year-old was charged with sixth-degree larceny after allegedly stealing an iPod, valued at \$100, from a gym locker at Bacon Academy, State Police said.

6/11: Catherine Roy, 49, of 28 Spice Hill Dr., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and a stop sign violation, State Police said.

6/14: David Lomatoski, 52, of 584 Westchester Rd., was charged with DUI and following too close, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

6/5: Nicholas Fischlein, 24, of 80 Hillcrest Dr., Amston, was arrested for speeding and driving under the influence of alcohol, East Hampton Police said.

6/7: David Wells, 54, of 43 West Cotton Hill Rd., Portland, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and failure to drive right, police said.

6/9: Wesley D. Zaino, 21, of 136 Lake Dr., was arrested for larceny and failure to appear, police said.

## Hebron Police News

6/10: A business on Wall Street was broken into, State Police said. The incident was reported at about 1 a.m. The front door was pried open with a crowbar or a "similar implement," State Police said, causing about \$1,000 worth of damage.

6/14: A Hebron woman and a Coventry man were transported to the hospital after veering off Route 85 around 8:50 p.m., State Police said. Joseph Tindal, 34, was traveling northbound on Route 85 in a 2005 Lexus, State Police said, when he lost control of the vehicle, crossed into the southbound lane and drove off the roadway into the woods. He was transported via Hebron ambulance to Hartford Hospital for a "minor cut." His passenger, Karen Pell, 40, was transported via Hebron ambulance to St. Francis Hospital for "minor cuts." The car was totaled and both airbags deployed, State Police said.

## Portland Police News

6/7: Sean Allen, 30, of 119 Center St., Windsor Locks, was charged with third-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

6/9: Robin Thomas, 44, of 1503 Portland Cobalt Rd., was charged with violation of protection order, police said.

6/9: Steven Marino, 20, of 47 Copper Beech, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree threatening, police said.

6/12: Eduan Perez, 21, of 25 Hubbard St., Middletown, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

6/13: Andreas Giuliani, 19, of 118 Bruno St., Van Buren, ME, was charged with two counts of failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

## Salem Police News

6/13: Rosemarie Cuadro, 46, of 149 Forsyth Rd., Salem, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

6/13: Michael Warley, 63, of 5 McKenna Dr., Middletown, was charged with disorderly conduct and second-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

6/12: Alexis McArthur, 25, of 162 Sheffield Ave., New Haven, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

## Marlborough Police News

6/10: Christopher Blustein, 24, of 147 John Olds Dr., Manchester, was charged with speeding, DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

## From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Some of you may have heard about Gov. Rell's veto late last week of a bill that would have allowed off-track betting at Shea's American Grill in Manchester, as well as at establishments in Windham and New London. The House and Senate had approved the legislation in May, but Rell went ahead and nixed it last Friday.

Many were surprised – including myself – at the vetoing of the legislation. In Manchester, the Board of Directors approved the OTB at Shea's pretty easily, and the bill seemed to have gone over pretty well at the state, with the House passing it 99-43 and the Senate 24-11.

But Rell said the legislation was part of "a worrisome and growing trend." The veto was a somewhat hypocritical move, I thought; after all, earlier this spring she had proposed adding keno – a popular casino game – to the state lottery, to help balance the budget. So Rell isn't a crusading anti-gambling governor; she just seems to not like OTB.

Why she does is not quite clear. In the explanation of her veto, Rell wrote, like a sermonizing grandmother, "Restaurants should be attracted and enticed by atmosphere, price, service, quality, menu and other such factors, not the availability of gambling."

You can practically hear the disdain surrounding the word "gambling" in that statement. And Rell's about-face on the matter really doesn't make sense. If she's anti-gambling, then why, like I said earlier, did she propose adding keno to the lottery? And if she's just anti-OTB, well, when did that happen? There have been four new OTB facilities in the state since 2007. Why didn't Rell put the kibosh on those?

It's the local businesses that are hurt by this. There's no doubt OTB would have brought more business into Shea's, as it would have in the other two businesses that had planned for it. The towns are hurt by it too, since revenue from OTB parlors is shared with the state and the town the parlors are located in. Manchester (and yes, I'm harping on Manchester, but 'tis my hometown) had estimated it would have made \$64,000 a year from the Shea's addition. For a town that, like all others, is financially hurting, that money would have helped.

In a story in last Saturday's *Journal Inquirer*, Manchester Board of Directors member Rudy Kissmann noted the apparent hypocrisy in Rell's veto, saying, "If the state wanted to set an example, they shouldn't allow gambling at all, but they're the first to use it as a revenue source."

Well said. This veto is one that just doesn't make sense.

Barack Obama no doubt figured out a long time ago something the 43 prior occupants of

the Oval Office learned: no matter what you do, there are always going to be people pissed off at you. Last week brought another example, this time from across the pond.

Some people had said it took too long for the Obama administration to get involved in the BP oil spill. But now Obama's gotten involved, it's clear that he's mad – he was quoted on the news last week as saying he wanted to find out "whose ass to kick" over the whole thing – and now some British are saying he's a little *too* mad; that he and other American politicians are being a little too rough on those poor souls over at British Petroleum. Some have even suggested this just confirms a long-suspected anti-British streak in Obama. (Seen as one of the "signs" of Obama's hate-on for the Brits: the fact that, upon visiting the Queen, gave her an iPod loaded with 40 showtunes. Yeah, I don't really get how that means he's anti-British either.)

The mayor of London, Boris Johnson, told the BBC recently, "I do think it starts to become a matter of national concern if a great British company is being continually beaten up on the international airwaves."

"It was an accident that took place," Johnson added, "and BP I think is paying a very, very heavy price indeed."

Yeah? Well, so's the Gulf coast.

\*\*\*

It's hard to believe it's the middle of June already, but it is, and with it comes another high school graduation season. While no wise words of advice spring to mind (other than, of course, to wear sunscreen), I will let you know of a new feature we're starting at the *Rivereast* this year. As always, we will cover the four high school graduations (Portland High, East Hampton High, Bacon Academy and RHAM) and run full stories in the paper with the list of graduates. But new this year, we'll also be publishing on our website dozens of photos from the graduation ceremonies themselves.

Every year, we wind up with more great graduation photos than we have space for in the paper. So this year, the pictures that we don't use in the paper will be up on our site, [www.glcitizen.com](http://www.glcitizen.com), in living color. (Click on 'event photos.') This week, you'll find pictures from the Portland High and RHAM graduations. Next week, photos from the East Hampton High and Bacon Academy commencement ceremonies will be added. (You'll also find extra photos from this year's Memorial Day parades in Hebron, Marlborough and Portland.) So, members of the Class of 2010 and your relatives and friends, head on over to the site and check out the pics; who knows, you might just spot yourself.

\*\*\*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Hebron

### Jack Bancroft

Jack Bancroft, 87, of Hebron, beloved husband of Margaret (Clapp) Bancroft, passed away Thursday, June 10, at Harrington Court Genesis Elder Care Center in Colchester. Born Jan. 14, 1923, in Oldham, Lancashire, England, he was the son of the late William and Annie (Broadbent) Bancroft.

A proud U.S. Army veteran of WWII, he served as a staff sergeant and communications chief with a HQ Company 763rd Tank Battalion in the Philippines. On Feb. 15, 1947, he and Margaret were married at the South Windsor Congregational Church. Mr. Bancroft was a supervisor of central office technicians for SNET for 41 years before his retirement in 1982.

In addition to his loving wife of 63 years, he is survived by four children and their spouses, Mark and Diane of Lebanon, Peter and Lois of Westbrook, Paul and Stephanie of Andover and Pamela and Jonathan Kelley of Essex; four grandchildren, Jennifer, Christopher, Emily and Colin; a sister, Edith Wooding of Bloomfield; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the staff at Harrington Court for the compassionate care that they provided to Jack during his time there.

Care of private arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit [www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Lois Fleischmann

Lois Mintz Fleischmann of Glastonbury, daughter of the late Samuel and Anna Mintz of Colchester, beloved wife of Joseph Fleischmann, passed away Wednesday, June 9, after a courageous battle with life, and learning how to turn lemons into lemonade.



Lois grew up in Colchester, graduating from the local schools and attending the University of Bridgeport, where she graduated from the Weylister Secretarial School. In 1957, Lois relocated to Hartford and later moved to East Hartford where she resided for 28 years. In 1990, she and her husband became residents of Glastonbury.

Lois was employed by the State of Connecticut for almost 30 years, working on the staff of the Board of Accountancy, Department of Administrative Services and on a transitional team at the Governor's Office. She was a member of Temple Beth Tefilah where she served as president of the Sisterhood, secretary to the Temple Board for many years. Lois was a charter member of the Lois Club of Hartford, Hadassah of Glastonbury, Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans, a member of the Glastonbury Chabad Jewish Center, as well as a member of the Glastonbury Historical Society where she volunteered in the office and acted as a docent for the museum.

Besides her husband Joseph, Lois is survived by her two loving grandchildren Natalie and Ethan Rosenfeld Gaudette, her brother-in-law George Chemerynski, sister-in-law Susan Fleischmann Gordon and husband James Gordon of Seattle, WA, and many nieces and nephews.

Lois was predeceased by her daughter Marci Lynn Rosenfeld, son Ronald Scott Rosenfeld, and sister Carol Mintz Chemerynski.

May Lois now rest in peace, embraced in the arms of her loved ones who went before her.

Funeral services were held Sunday, June 13, in the Sanctuary of Congregation Ahavath Achim, 84 Lebanon Ave., Colchester, with Rabbi Ken Alter officiating. Interment followed in the Ahavath Achim Cemetery. A memorial period was observed at the Fleischmann home. Arrangements were entrusted to Weinstein Mortuary, Hartford.

In memory of Lois, donations may be made to Chabad Jewish Center, 25 Harris St., Glastonbury, CT, 06033.

For further information, or to share memories of Lois with her family, visit [weinsteinmortuary.com](http://weinsteinmortuary.com).

## East Hampton

### Ralph A. Ceder

Ralph A. Ceder, 79, of East Hampton, died Tuesday, March 23, in Florida.

Ralph was an Army veteran who served in Korea and Okinawa. He worked in the Nike Ajax Missile System in Portland, Cromwell and Windsor Locks, and retired in 1985 from the Groton AVCRAD with a total of 35 years of military service. Ralph was a member of the VFW, American Legion, and the Eagles Club of Florida.

Ralph is survived by Sheila, his beloved wife of 55 years; his daughter, Lorraine Liswell and husband Bill of Ashford; his daughter, Eileen Barthell and husband Robert of East Hampton; his brother, Larry Ceder and wife Fran of North Branford; his sister, Dorothy Burr and husband Vernon of Middletown. Ralph leaves two grandsons, Dylan and Taylor Barthell of East Hampton and numerous nieces and nephews.

A patriotic and good-natured man, Ralph is remembered for his playful sense of humor and love of family, friends and music.

A celebration of Ralph's life will be held Saturday, June 19, at the VFW Club, Maple Street, East Hampton, from 1-5 p.m.

## Salem

### Alice Louise DeNigris

Alice Louise DeNigris, 63, beloved wife and lifelong friend of James M. "Jim" DeNigris, passed away peacefully Monday, June 7, at their campsite in Salem. Alice was born April 2, 1947, in Hartford daughter of the late George S. and Adella (Root) Derrick.

She was raised in East Hartford, graduating from EHHS Class of 1965 and Jim and Alice were married Feb. 25, 1967. She was the head cataloger for the East Hartford Public Library. Both Alice and Jim are longtime communicants of St. Mary's Church and they enjoyed dancing together and spending time camping. She was a voracious reader and loved to play bingo.

She is survived by her loving husband of 43 years, Jim; her three daughters, Stacie Rosedale of Stafford Springs, Tammy Fiske and Philip Szarka of Chicopee, MA and Kimberly and Thomas Daigle of Naugatuck; a sister, Grace M. Derrick of East Hartford; a special friend, Robert Shaw of Old Saybrook; 11 grandchildren Krystle and Vyctoria Cyr, Cassandra Casiano, Tyrone Rosa, Raymond and Benjamin Rosedale, Veronica and Patrick Fiske, Jason and Eric Szarka and Tessa Daigle; one great-grandson, Armani Gordon with another on the way; along with several nieces, nephews and friends.

Along with both her parents, she was predeceased by her brother, George S. Derrick Jr. of East Hartford.

Funeral services were Monday, June 14, from the Callahan Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford, followed with a Liturgy of Christian Burial to be celebrated at 10:30 a.m. in Our Lady of Peace Church, 370 May Rd., East Hartford, with the Rev. James Nock officiating. Interment followed in St. Mary Cemetery, East Hartford. Calling hours were Sunday, June 13, at the funeral home.

To share condolences and for a tribute online, visit [www.callahanfuneral.com](http://www.callahanfuneral.com).

## East Hampton

### Justin Tyler Stockburger

Justin Tyler Stockburger, 22, of East Hampton, died Sunday, June 13, at his home. Born June 18, 1987 in Middletown, he was the son of Joel M. and Deborah A. (Cook) Stockburger, both of East Hampton.

Justin attended East Hampton schools and was employed as a construction operator for Sweeney Excavation in Hamden. Justin had a great love of the outdoors and enjoyed working in the construction and landscaping business. He had previously worked for True Value Landscaping as a landscape foreman and Dream Developers as a Construction Operator.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his brother Marshall M. Stockburger of East Hampton, and his maternal grandparents Arvard and Janet Cook of East Hampton, many aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family.

He was predeceased by his paternal grandparents Jack Stockburger, Joan Evans-Stockburger and Richard B. Evans.

Justin's family will receive friends at the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton on Monday evening, June 21, from 6-9 p.m. Burial will be private in Lakeview Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Little League or the East Hampton Senior Citizens Center.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Albert J. Schufer

Albert J. Schufer, 81, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Ardys (Brown) Schufer, died Saturday, June 12, at Hartford Hospital. Born Nov. 23, 1928, in Portland, he was the son of the late Albert and Anna (Quirk) Schufer.

He had served his country in the U.S. Navy during WWII, and had retired from Pratt & Whitney where he had worked as an inspector for over 35 years. He was a member of the East Hampton Senior Citizens and a former member of the Polish National Home in Middletown.

Besides his wife Ardys, he is survived by two sons, Robert Schufer of Cromwell and Edward Schufer of Berlin; five daughters, Noreen Tow of Meriden, Barbara Lamarr of Cromwell, Jane Johnston of Cromwell, Dawn Planeta of East Hampton and Carrie Schufer of East Hampton; two brothers, John Schufer of Portland, Edward Schufer of Colchester; a sister, Shirley Bednarz of Middletown; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Marion Schufer and Theresa Bednarz.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, June 19 at 1 a.m. in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in East Hampton. Burial will follow with Military Honors in the Connecticut State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home today, Friday, June 18, from 6-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 31, East Hampton, CT 06424, or the CT State Veterans Home, 287 West St., Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Gustavo Guinazu

Gustavo A. "Gus" Guinazu, 53, of Haddam Neck Road, East Hampton, died Friday, June 11, at Hartford Hospital surrounded by his loving family. Born July 7, 1956 in Mendoza, Argentina, he was the son of the late Andres and Josefa (Tomachio) Guinazu.

Gus grew up in New Britain before moving to East Hampton in 1976. He had been employed as a shop foreman for Turbine technologies Inc. Gus was a motorcycle enthusiast so the family requested those who attended the funeral on Wednesday to ride their motorcycle in honor of Gus.

Gus leaves to mourn his passing his son Scott Guinazu of East Hampton and his girlfriend Andrea Adam; a daughter, Lisa Varni and her husband Michael of East Hampton; a brother, Raul Guinazu and his wife Celeste of Granby; a sister Maria Calvo and her husband Luis of Terryville; and a beloved granddaughter, Olivia Varni; also several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 16, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in Rock Landing Cemetery in Haddam Neck. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Tuesday, June 15.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Assoc., 1 Union St. No 301, Robbinsville, NJ 08691-4183 or American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Hebron

### Lowell Cherry Sr.

Lowell 'Jack' Cherry Sr., 94 of Hebron, went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, June 15, at Hartford Hospital.

Lowell was predeceased by his beloved wife Willie Mae (Foster) Cherry, and son Jack 'Sonny' Cherry.

He leaves to cherish his memory, Lorean Cherry of Hebron, Gradine Green and husband Willie Green of Hebron, Delores Little of Hartford, Charles Cherry of New London and Lowell 'Junie' Cherry Jr. of Ohio.

Calling hours were held from 9:30-10:30 a.m. today, Friday, June 18, with the funeral immediately following at All Faith Memorial Chapel, 90 John Fitch Blvd. (Route 5), South Windsor, CT 06074. Burial will be at the Wall Street Cemetery, Hebron.