

RIVEREAST

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Winning Artists... Pictured here are the Hebron Maple Festival Art Contest winners, Charlotte Pintavalle, Anne Straut and Aaron Ouellette. The contest was open to all Hebron students ages 6-18. Students were asked to depict maple sugaring activities. They could use any medium they wanted. Checks for \$25 were awarded to three students, one each from grades one through three, four through six and seven through eight.

Residents Express Outrage Over E-Mails

by Joshua Anusewicz

Since the last East Hampton Town Council meeting, there has been no shortage of opinions on the offensive e-mails sent by Police Chief Matt Reimondo. At Tuesday's Town Council meeting, residents had a chance to voice those opinions to the public.

Several residents stepped forward to comment on Reimondo's e-mails, which were sent in March 2010 from his work computer to two town employees. The e-mails depicted the rapper Coolio, who has dreadlocks, with the caption "Take a look at the 30-pointer my neighbor shot that he caught running across his backyard," and a picture of President Obama as a witch doctor with the caption "Obama Care." Reimondo did not write any of his own words on the e-mails.

Copies of the e-mails were anonymously delivered earlier this month to interim Town Manager Robert Drewry, who met with Reimondo and gave him a written reprimand. Resident Pete Brown presented copies of the e-mails to the Town Council at its March 8 meeting, causing outrage in the town, not just toward Reimondo but towards council members as well, as some residents felt they were unfairly targeting the

police chief.

Reimondo has issued a written statement apologizing for what he called a "lapse in judgment."

Resident Jim Vick told the Town Council Tuesday he had heard about the e-mails in a "round-about way and was told it was no big deal." He stated that his biggest problem was with the chief's apology, wondering if his "lapse in judgment" was in using his work computer to send personal e-mails, or the content of the e-mails themselves.

"It doesn't seem like a lapse in judgment, but a lapse in character," Vick said.

Other residents felt that these e-mails hit closer to home. Resident Marilyn Myers, who is the mother of an adopted 9-year-old black daughter, stated that she talked to people to get their opinions and many seemed unfazed.

"I was told that some people are being overly sensitive," Myers said. "When did it become a bad thing to be sensitive?" Myers, who also has a 15-year-old white son, said she now has to tell her daughter that "East Hampton is not the same place for her as it is for her brother."

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Portland Basketball Team Nets State Championship

by Joshua Anusewicz

A center that is only six-foot if she has a ponytail. A point guard that weighs maybe a shade over the century mark. A coaching staff made up of a 37-year veteran and his former star player. Representing a town of just over 9,000.

Stop me if you've seen this one. (*Hoosiers*, anybody?)

But this is Portland High School girls' basketball, the 2011 Class S state championships, avenging a heartbreaking loss in the finals last year with a magical run that brought Portland its first state championship, in any sport, in 29 years.

The Highlanders defeated archrival Cromwell 45-41 at Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville last Friday, March 18, capping a 24-3 season. Portland High School had not won a state title since the boys' basketball team won in 1982.

At the helm, as he has been since the program's inception, was Head Coach Nick Chaconis, who will remember the last moments of his 520th career win and first state title with fondness.

"When that buzzer went off, what a feeling," Chaconis said. "Just seeing the sheer joy of the girls and former players in the crowd crying. It's something I'll never forget."

The bricks for this season were laid last season, when a go-ahead bucket by St. Paul's with 20 seconds to go sunk Portland 39-37. Bent but not broken, Chaconis believes the experience was invaluable for the girls' returning this season.

"The trip getting there last year was a real motivator this time around," Chaconis said, admitting they just seemed happy to be there. "This year, they came to win."

Assistant Coach Diane Coleman, a former Portland player and mother of starting center Kelly Coleman, agreed that there was much more focus this time around.

"When you get there, it's all glitz and glamour and it can be mesmerizing," Coleman said. "Having been there before definitely changed our attitude."

Another attitude-changer was their rigorous schedule early in the season, which included scrimmages against the larger Glastonbury and Windham and nine games before 2010 ended. Chaconis credited that with spurring their 13-game winning streak in the middle of the season, which ended with a tough 42-41 loss to Coginchaug in the Shoreline Conference Championship.

The Highlanders scored a four-seed in the tournament, knocking off Kaynor Tech and Thomaston to set up a semifinals match-up with top-seeded Capital Prep. Trailing late in the fourth quarter, Kelly pumped in six points in the last 1:37 to give Portland the 51-46 victory.

"I just didn't want our season to end, we wanted another shot at Mohegan," Kelly said. "Our motto all year was 'believe' and we had to believe we could get it done."

The win set up the showdown with their Connecticut River rivals, a game with enough drama to fill a daytime soap opera. Kelly, the school's all-time leading scorer and all-state



After a 29-year dry spell, Portland High School secured a state championship win last week when the girls' basketball team defeated Cromwell 45-41 at the Mohegan Sun Arena. A crowd of more than 200 people welcomed the girls home Friday night.

winner, fouled out with just over five minutes to go and Portland leading by two. Chaconis, who usually ran just six players all season, said he learned the true meaning of a team in those last few minutes.

Led by senior Lindsey Dionne and efforts from Meaghan Rodgers, Sarah Bierly, and Alyssa Unikewicz, the Highlanders gutted out the remaining minutes, sinking 13 of 14 free

throws in the process. At each stoppage, Chaconis and Coleman could feel the team gain energy and "believe" they could win. With the girls on the bench locking hands and Kelly acting as a second assistant coach, Portland sealed the victory.

"There's no way to measure the energy level in those last few minutes," Chaconis said. "The

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E-Mails cont. from Front Page

Milton Davis, a retired teacher who owns property in East Hampton, recounted an incident six years ago when he believes he was profiled by East Hampton Police.

Davis, who is black, said officers showed up at his home after a larceny occurred in town. Police said the suspects were two black men and questioned Davis, who said the officers had not checked any other houses on his road. According to Davis, when he asked the officers why they questioned him first, the officers replied, “if the suspects were Mexican, we would have stopped at a Mexican’s house first.”

Davis said he contacted Reimondo about the incident at the time and that Reimondo planned to schedule sensitivity training for his officers, which Davis said “clearly didn’t take.”

While most of the residents that spoke excoriated the chief, several residents pointed fingers at members of the Town Council, accusing them of targeting Reimondo in attempt to remove him from his position.

Angela Sarahina said she believes that the whole issue is being used as a “distraction,” stating that “key people in this town are trying to forward their agendas.”

“Chief Reimondo isn’t a key player in your plans, and you are trying to get rid of him,” Sarahina said, who also stated she feels sorry for not just Reimondo but Brown as well, as she believes he is being used by the Town Council.

Brown responded with a powerful statement, saying, “I don’t need anybody to feel sorry me.” He stated that his family has been in East Hampton longer than most people in the town and is proud of his upbringing.

“I’m proud of me, who I am and what I am,” Brown said, drawing a round of applause from the audience.

Resident Fran Klein looked at the issue from a legal standpoint. She said she had been in contact with a federal official, who told her to ask whether or not the town has a policy on use of work computers or sensitivity training. She also said she believes that if Reimondo’s e-mails have been looked at, then all town officials should have their e-mails from the past year reviewed to deem if any are inappropriate.

“If there is no due process, this makes Reimondo a target,” Klein said. “This is reverse-discrimination and I am outraged.”

Members of the Connecticut chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) were on hand to support Brown, but did not speak during the meeting. President Scot X. Esdaile has said the NAACP will launch an official investigation into the matter, particularly whether or not the e-mails violate state or federal laws.

Reimondo “doesn’t just have a responsibility to the town, but to state and federal laws,” Esdaile said Wednesday. “And if East Hampton receives state and federal dollars, this will be a problem.”

Esdaile also stressed the importance of “preventing this from happening again,” stating that the town needs better sensitivity training and a zero-tolerance policy for discrimination and harassment.

Championship cont. from Front Page

girls just fed off of it. They were so focused and not intimidated at all.”

The team received a hero’s welcome on the way home that night, escorted to the school by police cruisers and fire trucks. Along the side of the road, people came out of restaurants, stores and homes and at the school, a crowd over 200 people waited to welcome their champions – all at midnight.

“The whole town was pumped,” Coleman said with a laugh.

And the celebration won’t stop there. A banquet has been planned to commemorate the title, the New Britain Rock Cats baseball team has invited the girls to appear on the field during a game and First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield is planning to hang a banner over Main Street. The outpouring of support doesn’t come as a surprise to Chaconis, who feels they couldn’t have done it without the people of the town.

“We had students, families, town residents, former players,” Chaconis said. “To see that

Drewry was not present at the meeting and, according to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, the town’s labor attorney recommended that council members reserve comment on the remarks made by any residents. However, Vice Chairman John Tuttle asked those accusing the council of targeting Reimondo to reconsider their opinion, as the council would react this way if other town officials had sent the e-mails as well.

“What would happen if those e-mails were sent by Drewry, or [former Town Manager Jeffery] O’Keefe or [Superintendent of Schools Judith] Golden?” Tuttle said. “Then ask yourselves if we would have an agenda.”

Reimondo was not present at the meeting, either, but his attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, was. Rosenblatt said he believes the e-mails are offensive and should not have been sent around, but also believes some of the facts surrounding them are incorrect.

“There were no rules in place at the time, which means he broke no rules, and he still accepted the reprimand,” he said. Rosenblatt also took notice of the fact that Engel referred to the e-mails as “racist,” which he believes is incorrect, preferring to call them “offensive” or “racially insensitive.”

Rosenblatt also maintained that Engel has a “personal vendetta she’s using to embarrass and harm” Reimondo. When asked of Reimondo’s feelings, Rosenblatt said his client is “extremely upset that he’s the center of attention again.”

* * *

Although Drewry was not present at Tuesday’s council meeting, a letter written by Drewry was presented by Engel, outlining the punishment levied on Chief Matt Reimondo for forwarding the offensive e-mails.

The letter stated that the town has issued a letter of reprimand to Reimondo for “expressing the serious lapse of judgment” in sending the e-mails. It also warned Reimondo that “more serious discipline would result for further misconduct in this regard.”

The town has also issued a memorandum to all town employees reminding them of “the town’s policies with regard to personal use of the town e-mail and computer/Internet service.” The memorandum warned employees that the town computers are used for business purposes only and that the town “reserves the right to monitor its equipment to ensure employees are in compliance with this policy.”

The memorandum also warned of obtaining, reviewing, sending or receiving “fraudulent, harassing, threatening, discriminatory, sexually explicit or obscene messages and/or materials.” Violations of this policy, the memorandum said, may result in disciplinary action “up to and including termination.”

Drewry has also scheduled training for its department heads on March 31 to review the town’s anti-discrimination and harassment policies and appropriate computer usage, and will continue reviewing additional available e-mails. He stated in the letter that further discipline will be imposed “if any additional policy violations are discovered during the investigation.”

kind of support was really something special.”

Kelly said she will remember all of the fans at the games, but will remember the bonds she had with her teammates most.

“The whole team just played together and accepted their roles perfectly,” Kelly said. “I’ll always miss playing with my close friends and spending time together. We became such a close knit group.”

But while Kelly and fellow senior Lindsey Dionne move on, taking 75 percent of the team’s scoring with them, Chaconis, Coleman, and the rest of the team will stay to chase another title next season. Though the veteran coach wants to win again, he couldn’t be prouder of what the girls accomplished this year.

“You have to have a lot of things go right for you to win,” Chaconis said. “You need a break here, a break there. And if there was ever a team I’ve had that deserved to get all of the breaks, it was this one.”

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

When I went home Monday night after work, I was all set to see my alma mater, the Marist Red Foxes, take on Duke in the NCAA women’s tournament. I was looking forward to collapsing on the coach, cracking open a beer, and watching the Marist women hopefully continue an impressive season.

Only, as it turned out, the game wasn’t on TV. ESPN2 and ESPNU, the two cable channels showing the women’s tournament, offered what it called “whiparound” coverage of five games all being played at 7 p.m., focusing on one while offering occasional peeks at others. Marist was one of those games that got occasional peeks, although the final minute or so of it did air – after the Marquette-Tennessee game was finished.

This type of coverage was a far cry from what the NCAA men’s tournament has enjoyed this year. There have been four channels broadcasting the games: CBS, TBS, TNT and TruTV. Now, I realize that up until this year men’s games were televised the same way the women’s games are, with CBS broadcasting games based on the region you lived in or what it felt were the matchups of greatest interest. But now that nearly all of the men’s games can be shown nationally, it just really makes it seem like the women’s tournament is getting the short end of the stick.

Not helping matters is that the women’s games Monday were delegated to ESPN2 and ESPNU, the latter of which is a relatively obscure station not even able on all cable systems (and some of those that do carry it – such as my cable system, Cox Communications in Manchester – place it on a higher-priced digital tier of stations). What was the main ESPN station, the face of the franchise, airing? Coverage of the men’s NIT – a sort of consolation prize-type of tournament for those college basketball teams not good enough to make the cut of 68 teams in the main NCAA tournament.

So this left two ESPN outlets to broadcast five games. (ESPN was quick to note in its little “ticker” that ran across the bottom of the screen that all of the games could be watched online at espn3.com, but that’s sort of like when a network cancels a show but airs the remaining episodes at its website. It’s not quite the same as watching it on your TV screen.) And yes, if ESPN had included its main channel in the mix, there still would have been more games than there were channels. But why not put the booby-prize NIT on espn3.com? The women’s teams playing Monday were all looking for a trip to the Sweet 16. Shouldn’t that be more important?

The short answer, I guess, is no. As the “whiparound” coverage, and ESPN’s focus on the NIT, indicates, college basketball seems to very much still be a man’s world. Here in Connecticut, we’ve been lucky to have had for years a superb women’s college basketball team, one that could likely trounce many men’s teams in the country. As far as media attention, and attention from fans goes, the UConn women’s and men’s teams are pretty much on equal footing.

For the bulk of the nation, though, women’s basketball still seems to take a back seat. And that’s a shame.

* * *

Over the years, I’ve been to a few restaurants touting an eating contest of one form or another. For example, down a 30-ounce steak and you get your picture hung up on a wall at the restaurant’s “hall of fame” and a free T-shirt, or something like that. Well, the good

folks at couponsherpa.com have compiled a list of restaurants across the country that offers various, as they call it, “gut-busting restaurant challenges for free food.” The list is by no means all-inclusive, but most of the states in the country do seem to be represented.

Connecticut gets two restaurants mentioned. Bang Bang Pizza in Norwalk requires you to eat a 22-inch pie with two toppings in a mere 30 minutes. As an added twist, you’re not allowed to consume any beverages during the competition. If you finish, you’ll get one free pizza per month for one year, a T-shirt and your name on the restaurant’s “Wall of Fame.” If you fail in your pizza quest, you get your picture put up on the “Wall of Shame.”

The other Connecticut eatery on the list, What’s Cooking in Fairfield, gives you 30 minutes (at least this time you’re allowed a cup of water) to eat a two-and-a-half foot “San Diego Chicken Sub” (a chicken cutlet with jack cheese, lettuce, tomato, bacon and ranch dressing). If you succeed, you’ll get back the cost of the sandwich, plus an additional \$25 and a T-shirt.

Both of those challenges, if you’re hungry enough, sound slightly doable. But some of the others on the list, not so much. For example, a place called Gus and Paul’s in Springfield, MA, challenges patrons to eat the “World’s Biggest Corned Beef Sandwich.” What makes the sandwich so big? Well, it contains two and a half pounds of corned beef, a pound of Swiss cheese, two sliced tomatoes, half a head of lettuce, a half-pound of mustard and a pound of sliced pickles, all served on a one-and-a-half-pound water roll. Oh, and it comes with a pound of coleslaw and a pound and a quarter of French fries. Finish the \$60 sandwich in an hour or less, the restaurant says, and it’s completely free. Yeah, good luck.

Perhaps the most eye-popping item on the list comes from Clinton Station Diner in Clinton, NJ, which challenges you and three friends to eat the 50-pound “Mt. Olympus Burger” in three hours. That’s right, a 50-pound burger! At least you get to split it among four people, but still, that’s more than 12 pounds per person. That’s a lot of burger.

For a slightly less beefy (emphasis on the word “slightly”) challenge, head down to Denny’s Beer Barrel Pub in Clearfield, PA. Two people are given three hours to take on the “Beer Barrel Belly Buster.” This burger is a mere 15 pounds, and contains a 20-inch patty, 17-inch bun, two onions, a head of lettuce, 25 slices of cheese, three tomatoes, mayo, mustard, relish and ketchup. If you complete the challenge, the \$50 burger is free.

* * *

Lastly, I’m happy to pass along some news about two former *Rivereast* reporters. Michael and Sarah McCoy, who were with the *Rivereast* from 2005 through the end of 2009 (well, Mike actually left here in mid-January 2010), are now parents. Charlotte Loretta McCoy was welcomed into the world Tuesday, March 8.

The McCoys tell us mother and child are home from the hospital and doing great. A birth announcement appears in this week’s *Rivereast*, in the Marlborough section (as Sarah used to live there).

Congratulations, Mike and Sarah!

* * *

See you next week.

Bacon Bots Bag Best Badge

by Katy Nally

Conditions were optimal – prime, if you will – for Bacon Academy’s Robocats at a regional robotics competition last weekend.

After days of working to get their robot to complete tasks and, at the same time, play defense, the Robocats won the gold medal Saturday, March 19, at the Chesapeake Regional FIRST Robotics Competition.

The team competed against 59 other teams from 11 different states, and earned the first gold medal win for Bacon.

This year’s competition was called Lego Motion.

As winners, the Robocats have the chance to compete in the national championship in St. Louis, MO, in April. As of press time, the team had not found businesses to sponsor their trip to the nationals, and they were going to decide today whether they would go.

While the 25-member team got off to a rocky start Friday, the Robocats were able to overcome a few malfunctions and join a worthy alliance Saturday, which propelled them to their victory.

In total, there are 14 Bacon students, four junior mentors (who are FIRST Robotics alumni) and seven adults on the Robocats.

On Friday, the Robocats began the first of their seven qualifier matches. In one match, the robot radio – the communication tool between the robot and the field – broke, and junior mentor Chris Deslandes volunteered to walk four miles to purchase a new radio.

Also, the jaguar motor that controls the five-foot robot stopped working, so the Robocats’ robot couldn’t perform its tasks.

Junior mentor Katie Deslandes explained the robots had to pick up small tubes and place them

on pegs arranged at various heights. While this might sound simple, during matches, there is another robot that is also working to pick up the same tubes and place them on its own pegs. Deslandes said one aspect of competing is “playing defense” and trying to steal tubes from opposing robots, “so they have no chance of scoring.”

By the end of Friday, the Robocats were in 40th place, and the team’s morale was dissipating.

“On the end of Friday everyone’s spirits were down, so we were really happy when we came in first,” Deslandes said.

Fortunately the Robocats had no technical difficulties during Saturday’s qualifier matches and ranked 27th before the final rounds.

As part of the competition, the top eight teams choose two teams to create an “alliance” and eight teams (each with three robotics teams) move on to the finals.

In a surprise move, the second-place team selected the Robocats to join their alliance. Deslandes said they were impressed with the Robocats’ average number of points scored per qualifier match.

The alliance worked in perfect harmony and the trio was undefeated throughout its elimination rounds going into the finals.

Then, it was best out of three for the gold medal.

In their first match, the Robocats and their alliance lost, 96 to 65.

But, they won the second match after the opposing bot crashed into their bot and was disqualified.

At one game apiece, the Robocats and their alliance secured the final game in the last 10



Bacon Academy’s Robocats won the gold medal at a regional robotics competition Saturday. The 25-member team is pictured above.

seconds, with a move from their mini-bot.

Deslandes said the mini-bot has to physically climb down from the larger robot and climb up a pole, which they accomplished successfully, and subsequently took home the gold.

As a veteran member of Bacon robotics teams, Deslandes said this year “everything seemed to fall into place” for her team. Cur-

rently a sophomore at Eastern Connecticut State University, Deslandes said the farthest the team went when she was at Bacon was the quarter finals.

“It was a very good regional,” she added.

The Robocats will have another chance to take home the gold next Thursday at a regional competition in Hartford.

Colchester Selectmen Review Five Proposed Ordinances

by Katy Nally

Five ordinances, one of which would establish Colchester’s first Agriculture Commission, were discussed at last Thursday’s meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The board also interviewed its first applicant to sit on Chatham Health District’s Board of Directors, and announced a plan to pay off its MIRMA balance.

While none of the ordinances were approved last Thursday, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said he would present the changes to Town Council, then bring the revised ordinances back to selectmen at their April meeting. A town meeting would then be scheduled where residents could give input and vote.

Chris Bourque, who has championed the Agriculture Commission initiative, told selectmen he had finished his presentation to town boards and commissions.

“I was received very, very accommodat- ingly,” he said.

Schuster thanked Bourque for educating people on the “intentions” of the proposed commission.

According to the ordinance, the Agriculture Commission has four objectives: To act as a conduit between farmers and the town, to educate the public about “local agricultural enterprises,” to educate town agencies about agricultural laws and to provide guidance to the town on agricultural issues.

The commission would have five members and two alternates.

“I think it’s a great idea,” selectwoman Rosemary Coyle said.

Three of the ordinances discussed last Thursday, regarding alarm systems, rapid access and fire hydrants and water mains, were proposed by the fire department.

The alarm ordinance aims to decrease the number of “false alarm” calls the fire department makes by instituting a fee system.

“It’s really in the best interest of the town to put in a policy like this,” Fire Chief Walter Cox said. Each response to a false alarm, which “happens quite frequently,” comes at the expense of taxpayers, Deputy Fire Chief Don Lee said.

“People allow their alarm systems to go into a state of disrepair,” Lee added.

According to the proposed ordinance, if firefighters respond to three false alarms in the same location in one year, the “alarm owner” will be issued a written warning. The fourth false alarm calls for a \$25 fee, and a \$50 fee for each subsequent false alarm in that year.

The alarms include burglar, fire, medical and any other “emergency signaling devices,” the ordinance says.

Coyle said she recognized the importance of such an ordinance, but added she felt the way it was written was “very harsh.”

“Situations happen that don’t fit into these categories,” she said.

For instance, Coyle asked Cox if the alarm owner would be sanctioned if he or she were out of town when the alarm sounded.

While the proposed ordinance doesn’t address specific scenarios, Schuster pointed out the town has a hearing process for the violation of any ordinance.

Still, Coyle said she thought the ordinance should have “more flexible” language.

Selectman Stan Soby said he thought the fee schedule might be too lenient, specifically waiting for the fourth false alarm to charge someone. He suggested a graduated fee structure that

increased with the number of false alarms.

The ordinance also asks alarm owners to register alarms with the town, providing information such as location and key holders.

Selectmen questioned how this information would be protected.

Secondly, Cox and Lee explained their proposed ordinance regarding hydrants and water mains, which looks to streamline the hydrants in town and keep a “standardized guide” for any businesses that might come to Colchester.

Lee said developers would provide the hydrants on their site, and the ordinance outlines which ones are acceptable and compatible with the fire department’s equipment.

Lastly, the rapid access ordinance asks new or renovated commercial buildings to utilize a “heavy-duty key vault” called a Knox-Box, so firefighters can enter the building without damaging the property.

Cox said the Knox-Box would cost about \$265, which totals much less than damage firefighters might cause while entering a building.

The ordinance would not apply to existing businesses, but they are encouraged to use a Knox-Box.

The fifth ordinance, outlined by Town Planner Adam Turner, sets up a “fee in lieu of” for developers who opt out of constructing sidewalks on their property. This would cut down on sidewalks that “don’t lead anywhere,” Turner said.

The fee, which developers would pay instead of constructing sidewalks, would go toward connecting sidewalks between the schools and within the center of town.

What exactly the fee would be, will be de-

termined by the town engineer and finalized by the Board of Selectmen, the ordinance says. Schuster said residents would get their chance to “debate the engineer” at a public hearing after the fee structure is proposed.

Selectmen, except for Soby, interviewed Blyse Soby (Stan Soby’s wife) as the town’s first candidate to sit on Chatham Health’s Board of Directors. While the transition to Chatham Health District takes effect July 1, Schuster said Colchester is “entitled to representation right now.”

Because of its size, Colchester will have two members on the Chatham board, one of whom will most likely be Schuster, at least initially.

“I feel it’s important for the integration with Chatham that I be there to help out,” he said.

Prior to the selectmen meeting, the Board of Finance voted last Wednesday to appropriate about \$20,000 from the town’s fund balance to pay off some of its MIRMA debt.

Schuster said it was the “collective opinion that it’s in the best interest of the town” to start paying off an outstanding bill from the town’s former workman’s compensation provider, Municipal Interlocal Risk Management Agency, or MIRMA.

The bill is based on how many claims are still open, Schuster said, and he anticipates the assessment will go down.

Another \$9,000 has been factored into the 2011-12 budget to finish paying off MIRMA.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, April 7, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

Geography Bee Queen in Colchester Moves to State Competition

by Katy Nally

You'd think Christmas had come early for fourth-grader Amanda Magyarik the way she talks about her upcoming state geography bee.

Her eyes, already magnified behind wire frames, widen even more when she thinks about the April 1 competition.

When asked Tuesday if she's excited to compete against 99 other kids from across the state, she inhaled sharply and said, "ooh yea."

"It's gonna be difficult," the Jack Jackter Intermediate School student added.

Amanda won the school geography bee in January, beating six other fourth and fifth graders – all of whom were boys.

Standing in front of her entire school and competing against only boys, Amanda said, "was rather weird."

But before the showdown at the schoolwide assembly, Amanda and her classmates in Liz Aichele's class took qualifier tests, and the winners from each JJIS class went on in the competition. From there, Amanda took another test, landing her and six others in the finals.

In the end, it was Amanda and fellow fourth-grader Colin Larkin. Amanda remembers correctly naming the highest mountain in Africa, to put her ahead of Colin.

And with that, she was crowned geography bee queen.

"I was shocked," Amanda said of her win.

Most of the questions were about US geography, but the championship round asked about world features and places.

Another question asked what state other than Illinois bordered the Wabash River. Again, she answered correctly with Indiana.

The questions, JJIS Principal Deb Sandberg said were so difficult "many of the adults standing in the back didn't know the answers to them."

Amanda attributes her success thus far to studying textbooks and traveling with her family.

"I read, I go places," she listed.

Going on family vacations "out west" really helped Amanda get to know the placement of certain land features like mountain ranges and deserts, she said. Also, having practice question-and-answer sessions with her parents helped the fourth-grader prepare.

But it's also her own curiosity. Since kindergarten and first grade, Amanda said she's been interested in geography. And it's not even her favorite subject; well, it's one of her "top three." She can't leave out math and music, as she plays both flute and piano.

Sandberg recalled Amanda's stellar work ethic throughout the qualifying process. While taking one of the tests prior to the competition, Sandberg remembered Amanda accidentally missed her lunch, as "she was really focused on her test because she wanted to do well."

With the state competition just one week away, Amanda said she is "scared to death," but also, hard at work studying geography by continents and working on placing all the countries in Africa and the states in the U.S.

"I've been practicing!" she said excitedly. "It's like a puzzle, and you kinda have to figure out where countries go."

But that's particularly difficult with landlocked places, she added.

So far, Amanda's favorite places to study are Africa and Asia because "their cultures seem pretty interesting." But, that doesn't mean she necessarily wants to go there. She listed a few cultural customs, like wearing neck rings, that she probably doesn't want to witness.

With all her worldly knowledge, geography could play a role in Amanda's future, but, as a fourth-grader, she's "still working on it."

Amanda was stumped when asked what she wants to be when she grows up.

"I've been trying to think, but I can't come up with anything," she said.

For now though, one week in advance is enough.



Fourth-grader Amanda Magyarik will compete in the state geography bee next Friday at Central Connecticut State University. The Jack Jackter Intermediate School student won her school's competition in January.

The state geography bee will be held Friday, April 1, at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain. The winner of that compe-

tion will head to the national bee in May, held in Washington, DC.

Another Honor for Colchester's Coach Shea

by Katy Nally

Earning plaques and awards is almost routine now for longtime Bacon basketball coach Dave Shea, whose name pops up all around the high school – most notably above the entrance to the gymnasium that was named in his honor 10 years ago.

But even after accepting his latest award, the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC) Merit Award, Shea remained modest and said this week some of his greatest recognitions as a coach happened with the help of his Bobcats. Specifically, he noted when his girls' team reached 300 wins this year, and won the state championship in 2009.

That 300th mark sets Shea apart from other high school coaches, as it's actually the second time a team of his reached its 300th win. His boys' team achieved the same milestone decades ago, making Shea the only high school coach in Connecticut history to hit 300 wins with both a girls' and boys' team. His boys' team also won the state championships in 1981.

This was his 17th season coaching the girls' team, and he stuck with the boys for 24 seasons prior.

Of his latest award, the Bacon coach said, "You're happy they're thinking of you."

CIAC's Girls' Basketball Committee selected Shea as one of its recipients for this year's award and presented him with a plaque last Friday, March 18.

"Being honored by the prestigious CIAC and

the Girls' Basketball Committee is certainly a highlight off my career," Shea said during his acceptance speech at Mohegan Sun. "I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity to coach outstanding boys' and girls' teams. I feel my career would have been incomplete if I hadn't had the opportunity to coach both boys' and girls' teams."

The award recognized Shea's contribution to high school girls' basketball.

"You have demonstrated truly outstanding qualities as a professional and have had a positive and lasting impact on amateur sports in Connecticut," CIAC Girls' Basketball Committee Chairwoman Sue Homrok-Lemke wrote to Shea.

But Shea shared his accomplishment with a few people who helped him along the way.

"I was fortunate to have many outstanding and hardworking players, and great assistant coaches over the years, including my present staff of John Shea [Dave's son, as well as varsity assistant coach and junior varsity coach], Vic Battaglioli [freshman coach] and volunteer assistants Richard Zalusky and Izzy Chisem," Shea said as part of his speech.

He also attributed the success of his program to Bacon's administration.

"Criticism and scrutiny go with the territory of coaching," Shea explained in his speech. "You need strong administrators to back you. I am very fortunate to have this kind of support from Jeff Mathieu [principal of Bacon] and

Kevin Burke [Bacon's athletic director]."

Incidentally, the Class L State Championships were played last weekend, also at Mohegan Sun, but Shea's Bobcats missed out on the action. The same team that had knocked Bacon out of the tournament, New Haven's Hillhouse, took home the title.

As a veteran coach, Shea said he wasn't surprised Hillhouse won the championship.

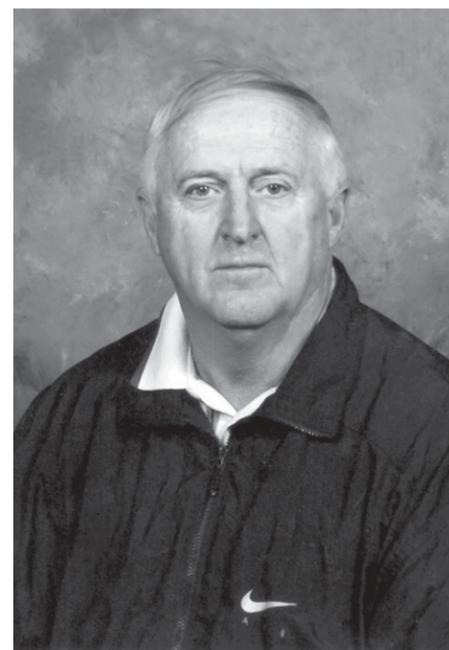
But still, even though they didn't make it to the finals, the Bobcat's record for this season shouldn't go unnoticed. The *New Haven Register* ranked the team fifth out of 160 girls teams statewide, and the *Hartford Courant* ranked the Bobcats seventh. During their regular season, the Bacon girls maintained a record of 25-0.

In addition to his girls' and boys' teams accomplishments, Shea looked back at a career dotted with many titles and awards and noted his two inductions to halls of fame.

First, in 2004 he was inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Hall of Fame, and then just five years later he made it into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame.

Other awards include such honors as being named the *Norwich Bulletin* Coach of the Year in 2009, and the Connecticut High School Coaches Association Coach of the Year in 1983.

With his career clock still ticking away, only time will tell what achievements are still in store for Coach Shea.



Veteran Bacon coach Dave Shea received the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference Merit Award last Friday for his contribution to girls' high school basketball. Shea has coached the Bacon Bobcats girls' team for 17 seasons.

'You Couldn't Find a Better Dog' in Colchester

by Katy Nally

It's just not the same when Connie Lopez comes home from work late at night.

When she looks down, just past the door threshold, her small dog isn't there to greet her with his wagging tail and large eyes.

Elmo, Connie's rat terrier, passed away March 12.

But his death isn't only hard to take for Connie and her husband Martin; Elmo was a regular in the community.

"He went with Martin everywhere," Connie explained. "Everybody in town knew Elmo."

Martin, a disabled Air Force veteran of the Vietnam War, routinely sells raffle tickets outside local businesses like Stop & Shop on Linwood Avenue and Noel's Market on Broadway, to raise money to participate in games for military veterans. His canine companion, Elmo, was usually there by his side.

Even as Connie and Martin mourned the loss of their family member, they were able to help other families with a donation made in Elmo's name.

On Monday, 21 bags of dog food, worth about \$100, were given to the food bank in honor of the deceased canine.

"That's definitely going to help us, at least for a while," Social Services Coordinator Amy McClafferty said. "We usually don't get that much."

The \$100 donation was quickly followed by a \$25 one from Stop & Shop Manager Jon Reardon, once he became aware of the cause.

While most residents think to take care of their fellow humans and donate goods like canned green beans and shampoo, McClafferty said dog and cat food are much-needed items.

"It's definitely a big one that's requested quite often," she said. "Most families have pets, because they have kids."

Connie said she was originally just going to

donate some cans of soup to the food bank, but it occurred to her that families in need might also live with pets in need. It was also the chance for Elmo to get some recognition.

"You couldn't find a better dog," Connie, said tearing up. "You can't replace him."

Connie bought Elmo 13 years ago from a pet store, but it wasn't exactly love at first sight. As Connie was browsing at the shop, looking for "a little tiny dog," an employee suggested Elmo, but Connie said she brushed him off.

Then she learned Elmo was scheduled to be put to sleep the next day, because his tail was cut too short and his markings weren't up to breeding standards.

So she gave Elmo another chance.

"I went and sat with him and that was it," Connie said.

Once she brought him home, she introduced him to her son's Brittany Spaniel, Angel, and, after learning from a pro, Elmo picked up training on his own.

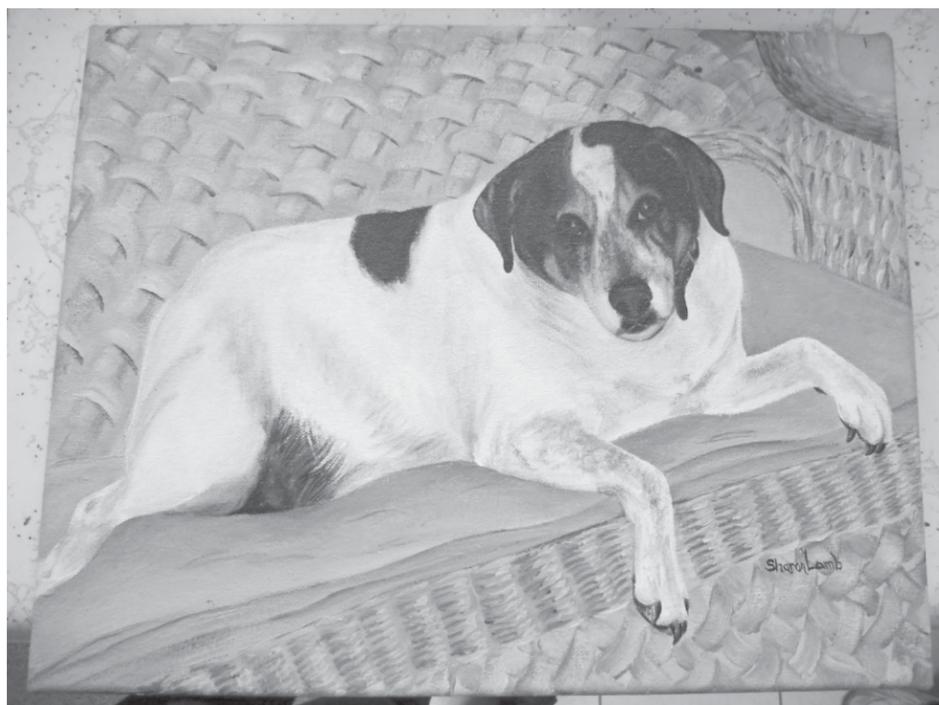
Connie said he eventually learned to look at the door when he wanted to be let out, or look at his water bowl when it was time for a refill. He even learned how to open the door to his crate.

Then, when Connie met Martin, there were some territory issues, but soon the two became friends. Connie said Martin and Elmo even wore matching fatigues at one Pumpkins 'n Pooches event.

Eventually it was the three of them shackled up together in their Colchester home, with Elmo in his own comfy chair, which he had claimed.

But earlier this month, Elmo began acting differently. Connie knew something was wrong when Elmo had trouble standing. But, she said, he was able to wag his tail, which was "enough to say it was alright."

Connie called her veterinarian, but on the way to the office, Elmo passed away.



Elmo, Martin and Connie Lopez' rat terrier, passed away this month. He was regularly seen around town with Martin, a disabled veteran who sells raffle tickets outside various business. Elmo is depicted above in a painting by Sharon Lamb.

Reliving the events this week had Connie and Martin in tears.

"Of course when you come in, that chair's empty now," Connie said, getting choked up. "I come home at night and he's not there."

Fortunately, an upcoming event will help the couple take their minds off of missing Elmo, at least for a while. The raffle tickets Martin sells raise money for him and his team to attend the National Golden Age Games, which are held

in Hawaii this year.

"With everything that's going on we need a break," Connie said.

Martin will sell raffle tickets one more time, on Mother's Day weekend, May 7 and 8, in front of Noel's Market, before he departs for the games.

Martin has dedicated his games to "all the people and companies that had anything to do with me going."

East Hampton Council Members Still Can't Agree on Noise Ordinance

by Joshua Anusewicz

The ongoing discussion over a noise ordinance for East Hampton will, for at least two more weeks, remain just that: ongoing.

At the Town Council meeting on March 8, council members Thom Cordeiro and Susan Weintraub presented the council with their recommendation to adopt the state regulation on noise control. But according to Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel, a review by Town Attorney Jean D'Aquila shows that by adopting the state's noise ordinance, the power of enforcement would belong with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and not with the East Hampton Police Department.

"To have our own town noise ordinance, it would have to originate from our own writing," Engel said, "even if it was just excerpts from the state's noise ordinance."

The ruling by D'Aquila is a setback, as it seemed the issue was close to being resolved. The noise ordinance has been a topic of discussion among the Town Council for several years, with many in the town, particularly those that live near Angelico's Lake House Restaurant, pushing strongly for the council to adopt

new regulations.

The Town Council has now decided to allow Weintraub to write up a proposed ordinance, which she will present to the council members next week to review before its next meeting on April 12.

Council member Christopher Goff, who has been opposed to adopting the ordinance, questioned whether or not East Hampton Police currently have the ability to enforce rules against noise complaints by issuing citations for disturbing the peace.

"And if yes, why haven't they been enforcing it?" Goff said. Cordeiro said he is unaware if the police have given citations for such instances, but said they do have that ability.

Another obstacle that the council has kept in mind is if the ordinance is just being made for one area of the town: Angelico's. The council has been warned by owner Paul Angelico's lawyer Michael Dowley on several occasions that action would be brought against the town if the ordinance were selectively enforced.

In a letter to the Town Council handed out

on Tuesday, Dowley not only warned the council of this, but also stated that a noise ordinance would only be "wasting time, resources, and ultimately taxpayers' money which could be better spent elsewhere." He continued on to say that the town would have to enforce the ordinance "24 hours a day and in a manner that is compliant with the state noise regulations."

Cordeiro said he has been well aware of the ramifications.

"We are certainly concerned with making spot legislation," Cordeiro said. "We want this business to succeed, and there are definitely people in town who enjoy the music. But even if just one person has a complaint, we have to validate it. Doing nothing is not an option."

Cordeiro said he also has concerns that having a noise ordinance would stretch an already busy police department, who may have in influx of calls at times. He said he has spoken with officials from other Connecticut towns, including Newtown First Selectwoman E. Patricia Llodra, who told Cordeiro that a noise ordinance has not put a strain on her police

force.

The proposed ordinance will be discussed at the Tuesday, April 12, Town Council meeting, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 20 East High St.

According to Town Council Chair Melissa Engel, following final interviews last Saturday, the council unanimously voted on a new interim town manager. However, they are unable to announce the person at this time, due to them being currently employed.

The council received 36 applications for the position, before narrowing them down to five candidates. The candidates have been interviewed individually during the last two weekends.

Engel said the person is currently working with current interim Town Manager Robert Drewry on signing the contract, as well as working out particulars, like salary.

The council did not say when the identity of the new interim town manager would be disclosed.

Portland Resident Improving After Being Struck By Car

by Joshua Anusewicz

A Portland woman who was struck by a drunk driver last month in New Britain is "improving and doing well," said a close friend.

Kim Tyrseck, 23, was hit by a Volkswagen Jetta on Feb. 24 near the Central Connecticut State University campus. Tyrseck was immediately transported to St. Francis Hospital in Hartford with multiple injuries.

Friend and fellow Portland Restaurant employee Shana Beaulieu said Tyrseck is currently "in recovery."

Tyrseck's uncle, Portland resident Tony Lombardo, said she is currently at Gaylord Rehabilitation Center in Wallingford. He said she is walking and talking, and was able to visit her grandmother's house in Portland. He said Tyrseck "looks and sounds great," and added his niece is "such

a sweetheart."

The driver in the incident, Jessica Parr, 23, of Canton, was charged with driving under the influence, her second offense in the past year, and had a blood alcohol level over twice the legal limit of .08. At a hearing on March 9, Parr pled not guilty in New Britain Superior Court, and will appear at a pre-trial hearing on April 14.

According to Beaulieu, a benefit event will be held at Portland Restaurant this Sunday, March 27, from noon-5 p.m. The event will help to pay for Tyrseck's medical expenses through a buffet, a 50/50 raffle and the tips made by the staff.

Tickets will be \$25, \$10 for children under 10 and free for children under five. For more information, call Portland Restaurant at 860-342-2636.

Water Main Breaks Near Colchester School

by Katy Nally

Jack Jackter Intermediate School closed early last Thursday, March 17, after a water main broke on Halls Hill Road around noon.

The 12-inch line that broke was located off the road, Water Department Supervisor Steven Klobukowski said, so most of the water pooled in a nearby park and drained into a pond.

"Nothing really went into the road," Klobukowski said.

Students were sent home early as a precaution.

"When you got a big break, you have to isolate and do the repair," he said. "It's pretty much a standard thing."

Crews worked to fix the broken pipe Thurs-

day night and service resumed by 5 a.m. on Friday, Klobukowski said. Because only a few residents live near where the main broke, "a very limited number of customers" were without water, he said.

Klobukowski theorized that the pipe busted because of ground movement, which can "put tremendous pressure on the pipe."

He said it could have been caused by a "frost heave and thaw."

With the first day of spring this week, Klobukowski said, "I think we're through the period of where we can expect to see those breaks, but you never know." At times, pipes are weakened but don't fail until "a considerable time after."

Hebron's 'Church of Hope' Out of the Mouths of Babes

by Courtney Parent

The First Congregational Church of Hebron recently went through a makeover, changing its name and logo.

The new name, Church of Hope, proved to be especially inspiring, not only as an emphasis of purpose, but also as the suggestion from a child.

According to Pastor Kevin Zufall, the recent name change revolved primarily around the church's desire to more clearly define its message. Zufall said, while the name "First Congregational Church" had great value as both a geographical and historical destination, it told the community "very little" about the congregation's message.

"The message of the church is that there is hope of eternal life for everyone who believes in Jesus Christ," Zufall said. "We wanted a name that somehow conveyed that message."

Zufall also noted that the word "congregational" was being misunderstood by many, even those who had been in the church for numerous years. The church was looking for a more inviting, user-friendly name.

Despite the recent name change, Zufall says the purpose of the church remains the same. Zufall has served as pastor since 2004. Prior to his arrival in 1999 the First Congregational Church of Hebron officially left the United Church of Christ and joined the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference.

"My purpose as the pastor of this church, and the church's purpose in cooperation with the Conservative Congregational Christian Conference is to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ," Zufall said. "That purpose has never wavered. The name simply attempts to communicate the purpose more effectively."

The idea of a name change had been floating around for nearly two years before being unanimously approved by church members at a meeting on Jan. 30. And a unanimous vote from its members was the only way the church could

change its name, Zufall said, according to the congregational church structure.

Amidst a night of pizza and fellowship, the name change was approved, and the next step was to narrow down and decide on one new-name proposal. Upon the suggestion of church treasurer Christine Zodda members of the church agreed to let the children suggest names as well. According to Zufall, the new name, "Church of Hope" came out of the mouths of babes.

"I was so pleased because it said two things to me," said Zufall. "First of all, our children's voice is heard here. Secondly, they view the church as a place of hope. That is very inspiring to me."

Along with a new name, comes a new logo. According to Zufall, there are three different elements included in it: A cross that serves as a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus Christ made, "2 Corinthians 5:17" (the location of the church's scripture verse), and a butterfly that is a reminder of the change experienced in Jesus Christ.

The "hope" of the church is that its new name will provide a better understanding of what its purpose is, as well as attract new members who may have otherwise been discouraged by the term "congregational."

"If the new name gives people a new reason to visit us and see what God is doing here, we will feel that all the change has been worth it," Zufall said.

During the week of Easter, the Church of Hope is inviting the community to a Good Friday service at 7 p.m., in its new Hebron Prayer Garden, behind the red ministry barns.

On Easter Sunday, there will also be a sunrise service at 6 a.m., followed by a light breakfast and an Easter celebration service at 9:30 a.m.

Planting of the garden will take place this spring and Zufall invites anyone in the community to join.



The First Congregational Church of Hebron, located on Main Street, now goes by a new name – the Church of Hope.

Hebron Canine Companion Snow Replica Wins Top Dog

by Courtney Parent

The winners have been crowned in the first annual Snow Sculpture Contest.

Christine Couture, along with daughters, Hannah, 9, and Abby, 6, won the contest for their sculpture of a dog.

Couture said she and her two daughters became intrigued after reading an edition of the *Hebron Bulletin* that stated that the Parks and Recreation Department was hosting a snow sculpture contest. The three immediately decided to take part.

According to Couture, waiting for the weather conditions to cooperate proved to be much more difficult than the actual task of building the sculpture. Couture said the snow was either too hard or too soft, so the three waited until the snow was just right and the perfect consistency for sculpting.

The girls' original intent was to create a replica of their family dog, 3-year-old Yellow Labrador Retriever Buddy. However, Couture said as the snow was being sculpted, Buddy "ended up looking more like a poodle."

It took just shy of three hours to complete the composition of their canine companion. Couture noted that the poodle's "fur" was the most time consuming part of the process. The three formed snowballs, cut them in half and then stuck them on the body of the dog.

The trio finished just in the nick of time –

one day before the contest ended. And wouldn't you know it, the weather held out just long enough, raining the next day, and as Couture put it, then "it was gone."

According to Couture, the family got a call saying they had won the contest and were invited to the Parks and Rec. Commission meeting on Tuesday.

"They presented us with a framed photo of the snow sculpture and Hannah," said Couture. "And also a \$100 gift certificate towards any Parks and Rec. program."

"We had a lot of fun," she added.

The contest took place following the first snowfall in January and ran through March 5. Entries were to be judged in different categories: kindergarten-grade three, grades four-eight, adult and child, adult only, and business. But due to small attendance numbers, an overall winner was chosen instead.

The event was offered a few years ago, but due to lack of response Parks and Rec. put the event on hold. According to Parks and Rec. Coordinator Jared Redmond there were seven participants in this year's contest.

Other participants embraced the traditional winter wonderland through their sculptures of snowmen, walls, and igloos, but the Coutures' creativity ultimately won over the judges.



Christine Couture and her two daughters, Hannah, 9, and Abby, 6, won the Snow Sculpture Contest with their poodle entry. The event was organized by the Parks and Rec. Department.

Hebron Resident Retiring as Glastonbury Police Officer

by Shawn R. Dagle

It was not a long and storied tradition that drew Sgt. Alan Roy to a career in law enforcement – it was a trip to the beach.

Roy said this week he can still remember the time when, as a teen, he and a couple friends were visiting Cape Cod when they were “run” out of town by a group of Massachusetts police officers who believed the youths were indigent.

From that point onward, Roy knew he could do a better job as a police officer – and he would spend 35 years at the Glastonbury Police Department proving just that.

After more than three decades on the force, Roy, who lives in Hebron with his three children, retired from the Glastonbury Police Department on Feb. 28 – one of the department’s longest-serving and most well-liked officers.

Fixing a tree damaged by the winter weather Tuesday, Roy recalled how he first became involved with the Glastonbury Police Department.

In January of 1976 Roy was still working as intern for legendary state’s attorney Arnold Markle. He asked his boss to recommend a police department he thought Roy would enjoy working for. Markle suggested Westport, Darien and then Glastonbury.

“It was a very small town, but they had some progressive thinking,” explained Roy, looking back some 35 years.

The University of New Haven graduate applied for a position in Glastonbury and was chosen. Starting as a traffic officer, Roy worked his way up to a patrol officer, to the investigation division, all the way to undercover narcotics investigations with the statewide narcotics division and the Drug Enforcement Association.

Roy was also a founding member of the Glastonbury Emergency Response Team, where he was the acting sniper and through the years has received his fair share of commendations and recognition for his many valuable years of service.

Roy has received commendations by the Naval Intelligence Service and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) and was named Glastonbury’s Police Officer of the Year in 1982.

Through it all – whether on traffic patrol or working the beat – Roy always emphasized the

importance of working with the community.

As part of the department’s Community Policing Concept, Roy began the practice of having two officers go to South Glastonbury each morning, visit the local shops and businesses and talk to business owners and members of the community.

“It really gets a lot of information into the community,” he explained. If a resident has a question, it allows them to directly ask an officer. It also provides information to police about things going on in town that they might not already know about.

It was during his visits to a local garage that Roy forged a close relationship with Glastonbury resident Jack Casella.

Roy said he met Casella 32 years ago after a police cruiser got stuck one day and a nearby garage helped get the car back on the road. Roy became friendly with the owners of the garage and every once and awhile would stop by. Casella often visited the same garage.

Roy became close with the family, often visiting for dinner. Casella became a steady supporter of the department before his death earlier this year – often donating money to allow the department to purchase special equipment such as its SEGWAY patrol unit – a motorized vehicle which an officer can stand on and travel around a shopping plaza or in other public areas getting up close and interacting with the public.

It is relationships with the community such as this that Roy believes is so important to getting out information to the public and letting people know how their local department works.

Unfortunately, he says, the public receives much of its information about law enforcement from television shows such as *CSI*.

“They literally think we can get a fingerprint off a rock,” explained Roy. “Most of that is Hollywood. We need to communicate our abilities to the community.”

Over the last three decades, Roy has worked tirelessly to do just that. In the process he has become a familiar face around town and one of the most well liked officers in the department.

“Alan was a great asset for the department,” Glastonbury Police Chief Thomas Sweeney said. According to the chief, Roy was one of the most well-known officers in the department,



Sgt. Alan Roy stands by his locker on his last day on the job at the Glastonbury Police Department. Roy retired in February after 35 years with the department. A dinner in his honor will be held at The Gallery, 141 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, on April 8.

and everyone seems to know him.

Roy said he decided to retire this year after his uncle was diagnosed with cancer and he decided he needed to spend more time with his relative. He also has taken on the added responsibility of looking after Jack Casella’s wife.

With contract negotiations up once again and his own private business to manage, Roy said he felt it was time to retire.

Roy is also a state licensed arborist, and 29 years ago started his own business, Arborist Services. Roy said he plans to continue with the business.

But Roy will miss the Glastonbury Police

Department, and all of his fellow officers.

“The daily activities and cases we handled, along with the stresses we shared bonded us as family,” he explained. “I’m also going to miss my daily interaction with all the local townspeople.”

Family, friends, fellow officers and local residents will honor Sgt. Roy during a retirement party at The Gallery, 141 New London Tpke., Friday, April 8, at 6 p.m. The public is invited to attend and can purchase tickets from the day shift patrol officers or the police dispatchers.

Shawn Dagle is a reporter for the Rivereast’s sister paper, The Glastonbury Citizen.

Hebron Resident Making Miracles Happen...On Ice

by Courtney Parent

A once winless ice hockey team has evolved into a national competitor over the course of just three short years, thanks to Hebron resident Virginia Maxwell.

Maxwell has served as head coach of the University of Connecticut women’s ice hockey club team for the past three seasons. As a Hebron resident for 18 years, Maxwell works as a professor in the forensic science department at the University of New Haven.

According to Maxwell, when UConn officials first contacted her about coaching, they called her in a “panic.” The team did not have a coach for the season, but heard that Maxwell had some experience as a hockey coach and asked her to “help out” for the year.

Maxwell said she had gone up as far as Level 4 coaching, so she accepted the invitation to coach. (Level 4 represents an advanced level of coaching for teams that are national tournament-bound.)

Prior to her start, the team had not won a game in a couple of years. During her first season as head coach the team saw little improvement over previous years, tying just one game all season and losing the others. According to Maxwell, participation numbers were a big contributing factor in the team’s weak first season. At a game against the University of Rhode Island in late 2009, UConn had just one sub and URI actually had to lend UConn players just to finish the game.

Since the team is a “club” team, there are no scholarships available, which means that there is no real recruiting. Because of this, Maxwell said the majority of the team is from Connecticut, with two players from Canada, one from Massachusetts and another from Rhode Island.

Despite small advancements made during her first season as head coach, Maxwell pushed forward. That push proved to be the right move.

The team showed dramatic improvement over the next year, finishing the season with a

.500 record. That win-loss split landed them a spot in the playoffs, in which they earned a third place finish.

In her third season, Maxwell and her team moved mountains. This year, the once winless team found themselves earning a bid to the American Collegiate Hockey Association (ACHA) National Tournament in Kalamazoo, MI, losing just one game during the regular season. Maxwell said the team lost the second game they played this year and then “never again.”

“We’ve been working hard rebuilding the program,” Maxwell said, “and we had a really great group of girls this year.”

The team returned from their trip to the national championship just last week.

“This year we made it all the way to nationals with a tremendous season,” Maxwell said.

The team finished fifth overall at nationals, which Maxwell said she was pleased with. However, she did show her true competitor spirit, adding that despite the grand accomplishment, she thought the team could’ve finished better.

“We made it to nationals and came in fifth and I’m happy with that,” Maxwell said.

For Maxwell, it was an interesting and memorable experience, attending a national championship as a coach. Maxwell said while attending Oxford University in England “back in the 80s” her team also earned a bid to a national championship and won.

According to Maxwell her team then went on to win a European tournament in the same year. Maxwell said while her younger glory days were “a lot of fun,” she got just as much enjoyment from going to nationals as a coach this time, even though there was more responsibility involved.

“From my perspective I enjoyed it,” Maxwell said. “I got a national championship as a player, so it was a lot of fun to see it from the other end of things.”

In her earlier playing days Maxwell said she



Hebron resident Virginia Maxwell led the UConn women’s ice hockey club team to the national tournament this season. She’s pictured above, center, flanked by players Erica Drake, left, and Deana Kaminski.

played center, but now that she is a bit more seasoned and her limbs don’t move quite so quickly, she plays wing.

Hockey is a sport of passion and determination. It’s wet, it’s cold, and it can hurt like hell when facing off in what seems to be a David

versus Goliath match up.

It’s full of sticks, skates, pucks, nets and an excess amount of padding. If you don’t love it then you better get off the ice...but we hope that miracle-makers like Virginia Maxwell never do.

Hebron Butterfly Project Remembers Innocent Lives Lost

by Courtney Parent

Upon entering the Douglas Library, you will see a display case full of colorful handmade butterflies, accompanied by words such as "peace," "love," and "remember." These butterflies are part of a nationwide effort to remember the 1.5 million children who lost their lives in the Holocaust.

Nina Krasser, a member of the United Brethren Synagogue, heard about the Butterfly Project, which was being conducted by the Holocaust Museum in Houston, and brought the idea to the synagogue.

According to the Director of Marketing and Public Relations at the Holocaust Museum in Houston, Ira Perry, the project began back in 1996. The idea for the project came from current executive director, Susan Myers.

Myers' idea for the Butterfly Project derived from the poem "The Butterfly" by Pavel



Above is a unique wire butterfly created for the Butterfly Project.

Friedmann, who spent time in the Theresienstadt concentration camp in Czechoslovakia. Myers was an educator at the time and very familiar with the poem.

Perry said since the museum started the project it has collected approximately one million butterflies.

According to United Brethren Synagogue Treasurer Arlene Snyder, initially just a few members decided to make butterflies for the project. Snyder said they anticipated making a dozen butterflies to send to the Holocaust Museum in Houston and "were thrilled with that."

However, after putting an announcement of the activity in the paper, many local community members showed an interest in contributing to the project. Snyder said as a result, the synagogue proceeded to hold a "butterfly night" open to the public, in which community members came together to make butterflies. Approximately 50 people attended the event.

Since that night, other local houses of worship such as St. Peter's Church and Gilead Congregational Church have joined in the project and hosted displays at their own locations. According to Snyder, as some members of Gilead's congregation are teachers at RHAM Middle School, the project is now also being incorporated there. The butterfly count is currently at around 400, not including any additional butterflies that are residing at RHAM.

Accompanying the butterflies within the library case, is a letter from the United Brethren Synagogue to the Holocaust Museum in Houston, thanking them for the opportunity to participate in the project. The letter also included a promise that the children of the Holocaust "will forever be in our memory and prayers." Below it is a list of more than 30 signatures of Hebron participants in the Butterfly Project.

Despite the glare and glamour of some of the butterflies covered in shiny "jewels" and containing shimmering silver pipe cleaner wings, sometimes less is more. This could not be better exemplified than through a single, pink paper butterfly outlined with the words "never forget."



Though cheery and colorful, these butterflies, which are exhibited in a display case in Douglas Library, commemorate the 1.5 million children who died during the Holocaust.

The butterflies vary in size, shape, color, and materials used. There were some made of paper, some of cloth, some of tissue paper and clothes pins, some of feathers and even some of wire. No matter how different they may appear, they all serve the exact same purpose: remembrance.

In a statement inside the display case, the United Brethren speaks of this project as a model for hope and tolerance.

"This is truly an example of thoughtful, loving people coming together from all walks of life and many different faiths to remember those tragically taken from the world, well before their time, because of hatred, intolerance and ignorance," the statement reads. "Hopefully, it

is also a statement and outcry to end hatred and intolerance wherever it exists."

The synagogue plans to send the butterflies to the Holocaust Museum in Houston by early next year, to aid in the museum's attempt to collect 1.5 million by June 30, 2012. (The museum is planning to have the exhibit completed by spring of 2013.) Snyder said a low estimate for the total number of butterflies the town would be contributing as a whole would be approximately 600 to 650.

"I think everybody just feels really good that they were able to do something to remember the kids who lost their lives for no reason at all," Snyder said. "We can be a little piece of the world that helps."

RHAM Lacrosse Program Stirs Controversy at Board Meeting

by Courtney Parent

A RHAM Board of Education meeting Monday dealing with the proposed 2011-12 budget stirred up not only financial conflicts, but also athletic controversy.

After making a number of reductions to the original proposal, the proposed budget now stands at \$24.69 million, or a 1.93 percent increase over current year spending. Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski also included a "mid-point budget" of \$24.55 million, or a 1.37 percent increase over the current year; and a \$24.22 million spending plan, a zero percent increase.

The main hot button items in this year's proposed budget revolve around athletics and information technology, with the majority of Monday night's controversy circling around the lacrosse program. The big question among board members was whether they would partially fund the lacrosse program or continue with the initial agreement. The initial agreement stated that the program would be self-funded for three years, at which time the board would re-evaluate it. When lacrosse season starts this spring, it will mark the second year of the program.

Right now, Pay for Play is currently budgeted at \$150,000, costing athletes and their parents approximately \$150 per season. (The term Pay for Play is used when money is exchanged for the opportunity to participate in sports or clubs.) With the planned addition next year of boys' junior varsity and varsity lacrosse, as well as girls' junior varsity and varsity lacrosse, that would be an extra \$24,000 per year, bringing the total to \$174,000.

However, Siminski said only \$162,000 would be paid for out of user fees, to reduce the per-season user fee. The additional \$12,000

per year needed for lacrosse would need to be raised by parents and boosters.

The main problem arising with the concept of self-funding is that it may bring about Title IX issues. Title IX states that nobody in the United States "shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

According to RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie, the boys have raised a significant amount more money than the girls. Currently, they have more than 20 times the amount of funds in their account for the upcoming season.

"The boys currently have \$5,000 in their account; the girls only have \$200," said Leslie. "This is to supplement what the parents have to pay. Due to Title IX, all of the money will have to be split evenly. This would mean \$315 per athlete to participate this year."

Board member Debra Dee redirected the discussion from specific dollar amounts to the slight shortening of the three-year self-funding timeline, noting that, when the program launches next month, it will have been completely self-funded its first two years.

"What I'm hearing is the district saying we shouldn't wait that long, we need to re-evaluate now," said Dee. "If we half-fund it for next year, that will have been two-and-a-half years anyways."

Vice Chairman James Cherry was in agreement with Dee, saying that they were aware that lacrosse would eventually be a financial obligation; it simply may have come sooner than originally anticipated.

However, Turner was not quite so ready to

commit, pointing to the overall budget and user fees as a deciding factor saying that he needed to see where the budget came out before making a decision.

"If there was a significant increase in Pay for Play, I think I'd prefer that they fund for themselves," said Turner.

Board members were torn between sticking to the initial three-year agreement of self-funding and deciding to partially fund the programs.

"It's remarkable how, when you look at all the athletics we offer, it doesn't sound like much to add one sport," Leslie said, "but it really is a great undertaking to make sure everything is done right. I don't think we anticipated how complicated it had the potential of getting."

To which board member Thomas Tremont responded with a laugh, "I guess education doesn't come cheap."

Board member Sandra Sudduth pointed to other sports programs such as freshman football that had existed in previous years, but had been cut and that students wanted back. Sudduth questioned why they should deny students sports such as football while funding lacrosse.

Finally, after numerous thoughts and opinions were expressed Turner brought the athletic hullabaloo to a close, throwing out a slight incentive to board members. He noted that if the board was able to come to an agreement at their meeting next week, there would be no need for a meeting the first week in April.

The other main budget item addressed was in regards to IT positions. The IT Department currently consists of three individuals: one database person, one technician for the high school and one network administrator based at the middle school.

At the previous Board of Education meeting on Monday, March 14, Director of IT, Hector Marciano, addressed the board with his concerns. Marciano stated difficulty keeping up with service demands with such a limited staff. He also noted that the district will continue the five-year rotation plan, replacing approximately 10 percent of the older systems.

During his presentation, Marciano noted that he provides additional services to the town of Hebron and the Hebron School System. This brought about questions as to how much of his time was dedicated strictly to Hebron and if a restructuring of the fee was in order.

At this week's meeting, the board discussed this in more detail. Siminski said they would be using e-mail addresses to calculate Marciano's network administrator time for the towns.

Board of Education Secretary Maryanne Leichter opposed the restructuring of the funds, which would require that Hebron pay in part for Marciano's work, saying that she would have to "venture to guess" that the majority of Marciano's time was spent for the schools, rather than for the town of Hebron.

Again, unable to reach a common consensus the issue was tabled so that the board would have time to review the items discussed and come back prepared with suggestions.

Turner asked Siminski to "take a look at Hector's time and see how it gets allocated," before the board's next meeting.

"We aren't ready to make a decision yet," Turner said, "but we'll get there soon."

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School chorus room.

Colchester Task Force Stands Up to Bullying

by Katy Nally

With suicides stemming from bullying taking the national stage lately, one local task force has stepped up and provided a preventative measure against this type of harassment.

At least a half a dozen teens made national news last year after being literally bullied to death. Most notably was Phoebe Prince, who had moved to Massachusetts from Ireland and was teased by her classmates until she killed herself last January. Months later, in September, Rutgers University freshman Tyler Clementi, 18, followed suit and committed suicide after his roommate recorded a sexual encounter between him and another man.

Along with Clementi, several other teens that had experienced bullying killed themselves in a one-month span during September. It seemed media outlets were suddenly flooded with stories of teen suicide and cyber bullying. Even a new term surfaced – bullycide.

In the wake of these tragedies, a local initiative was afoot. In November the Colchester Anti-Bullying Task Force formed. This month, it came before the Board of Education to present a survey, which is now available for residents on the town's website, colchesterct.gov.

The survey was created to track bullying that takes place in the community, and it will help the task force determine what types of harassment are occurring and where it is taking place.

It asks the surveyor such items as: if you have ever witnessed bullying; what form it took; why the target was bullied; and what your response was. The survey is logic-based, so questions change depending on certain answers.

In addition to the community, Diane Hettrick, who established the task force, asked the Board

of Education to administer the survey to students in grades five through 12, and have them take it during school. Her request was unanimously approved at a March 8 Board of Education meeting, and students will take the survey after school-wide testing is over.

"We feel Colchester is a community of caring, and we want to make sure every child in the community thinks it's a community of caring," Hettrick told the board.

Hettrick mentioned bullying doesn't simply occur on school grounds anymore; it's also online on sites like Facebook and Myspace and can continue after the students go home.

Online, "there's no escape from bullying," Hettrick said. "It follows them 24-7."

"It's out there forever," task force member and Bacon Academy student Brian Currie said. "It can ruin somebody's life."

The most powerful deterrent against bullying, Hettrick continued, is a "positive school climate."

Bacon took steps toward creating a positive climate this month, Hettrick said, when it celebrated Diversity Week, beginning March 14. Each day the Diversity Club highlighted a group of people who are discriminated against, based on culture, physical appearance and disability.

The goal, Hettrick said, was "to spread more awareness."

The task force's proposed survey was well-received by the board.

"I just think this is so important," Board of Education member Betsy Ciccone told the committee. "We're always ahead of the game. I just want to say thank you for this."

Police Say RHAM Student Found with Pot

by Courtney Parent

Last Tuesday, March, 15 a 17-year-old RHAM High School student from Hebron was arrested after school administrators found a small quantity of marijuana and two smoking devices in his vehicle, which was parked on the school grounds at the time, according to State Police.

The student was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said. He was processed and has been released to his parents' custody.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said he could not comment on the matter. However, he did speak on the schools general policy saying that "if a student is found to be in possession of or distributing drugs then we typically do a 10-day suspension with the recommendation of expulsion."

East Hampton Police News

3/9: Cynthia Andeen, 50, of East Haddam, was involved in a one-car accident in the area of 135 Middle Haddam Rd., East Hampton Police said. Andeen was issued a written warning for traveling too fast for conditions, police added.

3/10: Paul Andre Lefebvre, 42, of 28 Deer Run Tr., Manchester, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

3/12: A 17-year-old of East Hampton was arrested for third-degree burglary and sixth-degree larceny, police said.

3/13: Brian J. Sellier, 22, of 5 Park Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for DUI, traveling too close and failure to drive right police said.

3/16: Patrick A. Lachapelle, 23, of 6 Markham Ln., was charged with disorderly conduct, interfering with a police officer and assaulting a police officer (according to police, Lachapelle kicked the officer).

Colchester Police News

3/14: Michael Lea, 23, of 38 Connecticut Rd., South Lyme, was charged with storage of narcotics outside the container, possession of narcotics, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and traveling unreasonably fast, Colchester Police said.

3/14: Sometime between March 11 at 7 p.m. and March 14 at 7 a.m., copper wire and tools, valued at \$757, were stolen from M.J. Electric on Old Hartford Road, State Police said. The investigation is ongoing.

Hebron Police News

3/9: An altercation between four juveniles occurred on Wall Street in the area of Veterans Park sometime between 5 and 6 p.m., State Police said. A 15-year-old was cut in the arm with a knife, as a result of the fight. Anyone who witnessed the incident is asked to contact Hebron Resident State Trooper James Nolting at Troop K, 860-537-7500.

3/15: Matthew Webb, 31, of 104 Heatherwood Dr., Colchester, was charged with evasion of responsibility, operating a vehicle while license is suspended and stop sign violation, State Police said.

3/18: David Green, 36, of 104 Nathan Hale Rd., Coventry, was charged with third-degree larceny and third-degree burglary in connection with a 2010 burglary that occurred in Hebron, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

3/15: John Ferla, 46, of 206 East Hampton Rd., was charged with failure to appear, State Police said.

3/17: Kevin Barrett, 45, of 6 Fuller Rd., was charged with second-degree assault, disorderly conduct and third-degree strangulation, State Police said.

Portland Police News

3/13: Erin Nolan, 23, of 106 Tow Bridge Place, Naugatuck, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, Portland Police said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Ray W. Hubbard

Ray W. Hubbard, 68, of East Hampton, husband of Marsha (Fish) Hubbard, died peacefully Sunday, March 20, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Jan. 26, 1943, in Binghamton, NY, he was the son of the late Edward and Helen (Blackham) Hubbard.

Ray graduated from Bryant Collage in Providence RI, and began his career in the computer field. Ray was employed by Northeast Utilities and thoroughly enjoyed his retirement years. He was a gentle giant of a man who loved life and treasured his friends. Ray was known for his quick wit and when he walked through a door laughter was sure to follow.

Besides his wife of 47 years, he is survived by a son, Reid Hubbard and his wife Jill of Roswell GA; a daughter, Kristen Hubbard of Wethersfield; three brothers, John Hubbard and his wife Rhoda of Tuscon, AZ, Thomas Hubbard and his wife Ginny of Greenville, TN, and Donald Hubbard and his wife Betty of Spring, TX; a brother-in-law, Brian Fish and his wife Sue of Malone, NY; and two precious granddaughters, Jodi and Sophia Hubbard of Roswell, GA, and many nieces and nephews.

Ray's family would like to thank Drs. Rabuffo and Frink and the staff at Middlesex Hospital.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 24, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home Thursday before the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice c/o Middlesex Hospital Department of Philanthropy, 55 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Kevin P. Shepard

Kevin P. Shepard, 38, of Colchester and New Britain and formerly of East Haven, passed away unexpectedly Saturday, March 19, at home. Born July 23, 1972, in Burlington, VT, he was a son of Robert and Elaine (Stewart) Shepard of Colchester.

Kevin was a self-employed landscaper in the greater New Haven area for many years before suffering from a serious cycling accident, as he was also an accomplished professional motocross racer, ranking 85th in the nation prior to that time. As his condition had been improving, he was studying to be an EMT. In his spare time, Kevin held an avid love of the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing, but found his greatest joy in his children.

In addition to his loving parents, he is survived by his two children and their mother, Skyler, Kassondra and Lisa Shepard, all of North Haven; his brother, Russell and his wife, Kimberly of Fairfax, VT; his girlfriend, Jess; a nephew, Kyle Shepard; two nieces, Amber and Brittany Shepard and numerous extended family members and friends.

A celebration of his life will be held at 11 a.m. Monday, March 28, at the Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., Colchester. There are no calling hours and burial will be private.

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

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Arlene W. Caldara

Arlene W. Caldara, 69, of Marlborough, beloved wife of Nicholas Caldara died Tuesday, March 8, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Born Jan. 17, 1942, in Catskill, NY, she was the daughter of the late Floyd M. and Ethel B. (Tompkins) Ward. Arlene had lived in Marlborough since 1962. She was retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft where she had worked as an administrative assistant.

Besides her loving husband, she is survived by her son Nicholas Caldara and his wife, Isabella, of Newington and her daughter Tammy Abbott and her husband, Bill, of East Hampton; her seven grandchildren Billy Abbott, Christopher Abbott, Elizabeth Abbott, Matthew Abbott, Stephanie Caldara, Dan Laraia and Keith Laraia. Arlene had a large family with seven brothers and sisters, all in New York.

The family received friends Friday, March 11, in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Funeral services and burial will be private on Saturday in Catskill, NY.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Ruth J. Grover

Ruth Althea Johnson Grover, wife of the late Allen F. Grover of Portland, passed away peacefully, surrounded by her adoring family, in the early hours of Monday, March 21, at Middlesex Hospital, at the age of 83. She was born in Middletown, along with her identical twin sister Evelyn M. Johnson, on Aug. 27, 1927.

She spent all of her life as a resident of Portland. Ruth and Allen were wed at Zion Lutheran Church in a dual wedding shared with her twin sister Evelyn on Feb. 5, 1949. Ruth was a dedicated homemaker, and mother of three sons. Additionally, she was an avid volunteer, contributing countless hours to the Portland Senior Center, The American Legion Auxiliary, and various church-sponsored volunteer activities. In her spare time, Ruth thoroughly enjoyed knitting and quilting, and traveling to various destinations with Allen. She was also an active participant in the local TOPS organization, dedicated to the healthy living of its participants.

She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Algot Johnson of Portland.

She leaves behind her sister, Marion Anderson; son, Richard Grover and his longtime companion Peggy Grover and son, Mark Grover and his wife Stephanie Heil-Grover; grandchildren, Christine, Amy, Carl, Melissa, Aaron and Nathan Grover, and Michaela Hungerford and Kerianne and Madison Heil; and several great grandchildren, nieces, and nephews. Ruth also leaves her best friend Lilly the family pet. She is predeceased by sister, Evelyn Johnson, and son, Carl Grover, Sr.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, March 26, at 11 a.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery. Friends may call at the church from 10 to 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland, CT 06480.

Biega Funeral Home has care of the arrangements. To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Lawrence F. Fagan

Lawrence "Larry" F. Fagan, 90, of Marlborough, beloved husband of the late Victoria M. (Baboian) Fagan, passed away unexpectedly Thursday, March 17, at Marlborough Health Care Center, Marlborough.

Larry was born and raised in Hartford, son of William J. Jr. and Frances (Jenkins) Fagan and was a graduate of Hartford Public High School. Larry had resided most of his life in West Hartford, moving to live with his daughter, Nancy in Hebron and most recently had lived in Marlborough at Marlborough Health Care Center. He was a veteran of the U. S. Navy, serving in World War II, and went on to work at Hamilton Standard, retiring in 1986 as a quality control manager. Larry always looked forward to his time spent with his beloved grandchildren, who fondly referred to him as "Poppy." He also enjoyed time on the golf course and his New York Yankees, especially the spring training visits to Vero Beach, FL.

He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Brian L. and Susan Fagan, of Ivanhoe, IL; his daughter and son-in-law, Nancy F. and Peter Sadloski of Hebron; four grandchildren, Scott Sadloski and his wife, Samantha, of Andover, Mark Sadloski of East Hartford, David Sadloski and Lauren Sadloski of Hebron and two great-grandsons, Jameson and Tyler Sadloski; two sisters, Barbara Lohner, of South Windsor and Frances Johnson of Rocky Hill; and many nieces, nephews and step-grandchildren.

Besides his parents and his wife, he was predeceased by an infant son, Robert F. Fagan; a brother William Fagan III, of East Hartford, and a sister, Loretta Martocci, of West Hartford.

Mr. Fagan's family would like to thank the staff at Marlborough Health Care Center for all their love and care.

Calling hours were Sunday, March 20, at Sheehan-Hilborn-Breen Funeral Home, 1084 New Britain Ave., West Hartford. The funeral service was Monday, March 21, at the funeral home followed by interment with full military honors at Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford.

Donations in memory of Larry may be made to Folds of Honor Foundation, foldsofhonor.org or to Wounded Warrior Project, woundedwarriorproject.org.

Salem

Gene Briggs Jr.

Gene "Bud" G. Briggs, Jr., 47, of Buckley Road in Salem, passed away on Monday, March 21. Gene was born on March 6, 1964 in Meriden and was the son of Gene, Sr. and Elaine (Ritchie) Briggs of Houlton, ME.

Gene had served in the U.S. Army Special Forces in Kuwait and Iraq. He was proud to serve and had received the Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal (Second Award), Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Service Stars, Armed Forces Reserve Medal and mobilization.

He had also been employed by ACE Trucking Co.

Besides his parents, he is survived by his two daughters, Chelsea Marie Briggs and Allison Patricia Briggs of Meriden; two sisters, Wanda Bourgoin and her husband Donald of Torrington, and Wendy Paradis and her husband Vic of New Hartford; and his niece Kristin Foster with whom he resided with in Salem. Gene is also survived by several nieces and nephews and family friends.

Services will be held today, Friday, March 25, at 11 a.m. at the Apple Valley Worship Center 594 West Center St. Ext. in Southington with military honors.

Calling hours were yesterday at the DellaVecchia Funeral Home in Southington.

Burial will be in Maine at a later date.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Norwich Vet Center, General Post Fund, 2 Cliff St., Norwich, CT 06360.

For directions and online condolences visit dellavecchiafh.com.