

RIVEREAST

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DockDogs leapt through the air for enthralled onlookers at the Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend. The annual four-day event featured lots of food, games, rides and music, as well as a special tribute commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Sunny Skies for Hebron Harvest Fair

by Joshua Anusewicz

Wet weather throughout the week posed a threat, but a sunny end to the week brought out thousands to the 41st annual Hebron Harvest Fair last weekend.

The fair, sponsored by the Hebron Lions, showcased many of the amenities patrons have grown used to, but this year's edition provided something special – a tribute on Sunday to mark the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Fair Superintendent John Johnson Jr. said that “thousands” turned out for tribute, which included members of the Hebron Lions and the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department.

“It was a very nice crowd,” Johnson said. “The fire department did a great job, and we’ve had a lot of positive feedback from it.”

Also participating Sunday was country music singer Darryl Worley, who sang his biggest hit, “Have You Forgotten?,” a tribute to those who died on Sept. 11 and the soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Members of the University of Connecticut band were on hand as well to perform “America the Beautiful.” There was also a five-minute moment of silence.

But while the tribute provided a stark reminder of those we have lost, the fair itself gave a beautiful look at what makes living in our country so great. People of all ages walked throughout the fair with family and friends as they admired all there was to offer. Members of

the Hebron community, as well as the surrounding towns, gathered to share in the late summer tradition as they have for over four decades.

“It was definitely another success,” Johnson said. “We had good weather, beautiful weather, and great crowds. And we got great feedback from those who attended.”

The weather didn’t start out beautiful, however. Thursday night’s opening ceremonies were canceled, as rain caused a concern with the amount of electrical equipment needed on the stage. The rain, unfortunately, also created a large amount of mud for Friday, but Johnson said the warm weather that day helped to dry out the ground.

Friday was also Senior Day, and senior citizens were granted free admission from noon-4 p.m. During the day, as with most of the weekend, patrons were treated to live music, games, rides and performances by various acts. Two of the acts that drew large crowds were the DockDogs and the lumberjack shows. The DockDogs competition showcased 10 dogs leaping off of a dock and into a pool, reaching lengths of over 20 feet. People young and old cheered as the dogs splashed.

The lumberjack show featured several types of wood cutting and even featured logrolling. The four men who performed entertained the

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East Hampton Varsity Football Starts This Weekend

by Joshua Anusewicz

East Hampton’s rich tradition in sports is set to add a new chapter this weekend, as 20 East Hampton High School students will stride onto Palmer Field in Middletown as the first varsity football team in the school’s history.

The team is a co-op between East Hampton and Vinal Technical High School in Middletown. The team competed as a junior varsity team last year, going 7-3. But the seeds for the team were planted well before last year.

East Hampton High School Athletic Director Shaun Russell said that a parent group, the Friends of East Hampton Football, began the process of seeking a team five years ago. Russell said he conducted a 10-month study on the “economic feasibility” of fielding a team and presented the idea to the Board of Education.

Rather fortuitously, when it appeared a co-op team might be the best way to go, Vinal Tech broke off its co-op with Caginchaug Regional High School in Durham. Russell said that East Hampton and Vinal used to compete against each other in the Charter Oak Conference, so Russell was familiar with Vinal. It was a perfect fit.

And so the BellHawks (a combination of East Hampton’s Bellringers and Vinal’s Hawks) were formed. The varsity team will play its home games at Palmer Field in Middletown, while the junior varsity and freshman squads will play their games at Vinal. The team will

compete in the Pequot Conference, a 22-team division that’s home to most of East Hampton’s Shoreline Conference rivals.

Head Coach Joe Ceferatti said that the team’s biggest goal this year is to “be competitive.” He said that last year showed that the team has some promise, and he hopes to carry that into this season.

“Things have been great so far,” Ceferatti said. “We have some great senior leadership. They may not have the varsity experience like other teams, but they lead this team as a unit.”

On top of the senior leadership is quarterback Spencer Daly. A multi-sport captain (you may remember him from last year’s state championship baseball team), Daly was praised by Ceferatti for his leadership on and off the field. Other upperclassmen include running back Steven Hall (who attends Vinal, but lives in East Hampton), tight end/defensive end Kyle Adams, and linebacker Andrew Furchaw.

Ceferatti, a former coach at Newington High School, said one of the things he’s interested to see as the season progresses is how the team measures up “athletically” with the other squads on their schedule. He said most of the teams they play will have players “with three or four years of varsity experience,” making each game a challenge.

And the challenge won’t be any bigger than Saturday’s clash – Cromwell High School Pan-

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The East Hampton High School/Vinal Technical High School football team was practicing hard on Wednesday afternoon, readying for their first varsity season. The BellHawks will kick-off their first game against Cromwell Saturday, Sept. 17 at 11 a.m. at Palmer Field in Middletown.

Fair cont. from Front Page

crowd, not only with their skills but with their playful banter with the crowd.

Those who were hungry didn't have to look far, as over 50 concession stands were spread throughout the fairgrounds. A popular choice was the baked potatoes, which came in just about any style you could think of. The younger fairgoers busied themselves at games and rides.

Many town groups were represented throughout the fair – town government groups, the Rotary Club, the Hebron Lions, RHAM sports and music groups, and businesses from Hebron and the surrounding towns. There were also numerous vendors selling almost anything you could imagine.

The fair also featured several races and pulls

during the weekend, Johnson said, with the Figure-8 Demolition Derby on Friday and the New York Tractor Pullers on Sunday being the biggest draws.

Those who wanted a more toned-down experience with their families were able to see the hundreds of animals on display, which included cows, horses, sheep, goats, chickens, and rabbits. And the best thing about all of those displays? They were free.

Johnson said that attendance was down a small amount from last year, but said he was pleased to see so many members of the community at the fair.

"We had another great year," he said.



The BellHawks cheer at the end of practice Wednesday, as they gear up for Saturday's game against Cromwell High School. Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose!

Football cont. from Front Page

thers, the eighth-ranked team in the state.

"I won't sugarcoat it; they're good," Ceferatti said. "The question is, are we going to rise to the challenge?"

Russell said that East Hampton has a "long-standing rivalry with Cromwell across all sports" and that this game will be more than just a measuring stick for the team.

"There seems to be a lot more riding on this game than it looks," Russell said.

But everyone has tempered expectations for the team in its first year. Russell said his expectation for the team is "finish at .500," while Ceferatti said he wants the team "to make their mark" and establish themselves as a force to be reckoned with for years to come.

Ceferatti said one of his goals at the start of the season has already come through – "mesh-

ing" the kids from two schools together. He said that the fit was natural, as many of the players grew up playing football or going to school together. Some of the players from Vinal are even from East Hampton.

"You would never even know that there were two schools here," Ceferatti said. "They get along that well."

With the teamwork, leadership, and a few weeks of practice down, the only thing left is to step onto the field. And the BellHawks are ready as they'll ever be to do just that.

The game will take place this Saturday, Sept. 17, at 11 a.m. at Palmer Field in Middletown. There are nine varsity games scheduled this season; to see the schedule, visit maxpreps.com and search "East Hampton/Vinal RVT High School Football."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Well, I'm back from the land of fun and sun. Astute "Observations" readers no doubt noticed last week that Courtney Parent (in what was her *Rivereast* swan song; good luck, Courtney!) did the honors. That's because I was in California.

I won't bore you all with the details – except to tell you that Santa Monica continues to be one of the most spectacular places on the planet – but I will say I'm glad I missed all the rain. I understand it poured here while I was away. That's not really in southern California's repertoire; it did get to 100 a few days while I was there – the first time I recall ever experiencing 100-degree weather in September – but with the lack of humidity out there, it really didn't feel so bad.

Anyway, I returned to a pleasant surprise. As you'll see on the letters to the editor pages, there's a whole lot of thanking going on; residents thanking their neighbors, town officials, etc., for helping them get through Tropical Storm Irene and the long-lasting power outages that followed. I mean, it's still the letters to the editor section, so there's still a fair amount of rancor and verbal attacks going on – lately it's been of the "The Tea Party sucks!"/"The Tea Party's great!" variety – as well as the typical political endorsement letters that start to trickle in around this time of year. But it was a refreshing change to find, mixed in with these, plenty of letters applauding all of the Good Samaritans in the area.

It was heartwarming to read about so many good deeds, of people helping out, in some cases, complete strangers as they dealt with the effects of the storm. It seems that Tropical Storm Irene really did bring out the best in some people. (Which is not to say I want another such storm anytime soon; I realize I was lucky compared to many in *Rivereast*-land, but really, four days without electricity or hot water are more than enough.)

* * *

For obvious reasons, shows related to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks dominated the television this past Sunday. I didn't watch a ton of it, but I did see one of the cable channels aired the clip of all of the Congressmen and women, Democrats and Republicans, gathered together in Washington the night of Sept. 11 and spontaneously breaking into a chorus of "God Bless America." And the clip served to remind me a little of just what it was like in this country in the days and weeks after 9/11.

We were united.

All of the partisan rancor and mudslinging got shoved aside; there were no Democrats, there were no Republicans. We were all Americans, and we all had been attacked, and we were all trying to cope with it. For a time, nothing else mattered. We were all, as the song went, proud to be an American.

As we all know, the divisiveness eventually came back. These days, it's arguably worse than ever. I'm not going to point fingers and ascribe blame and tell you why I feel all the unity went away as quickly as it did; regular readers of the column know how I feel politically. But I will say that it's a shame it went away. And even more of a shame that it took the horrific, horrific events of Sept. 11 to get grown men and women to stop acting like spoiled 12-year-olds.

* * *

The baseball season is wrapping up, and as it does, there seems to be increasing chatter about Major League Baseball changing the way it does things next season. The wild card has added some late-season excitement to the game, but still, there are an awful lot of teams that are – realistically, if not necessarily mathematically – eliminated from postseason contention by the time Sept. 1 rolls around.

Plus, the presence of the wild card can ren-

der some division races rather meaningless. I mean, if the Red Sox and Yankees both know they're making the playoffs, that they're each headed to that first best-of-five series, then where's the drama in the multiple head-to-head matchups they always have in September?

As a solution, MLB is considering adding more wild cards. And while I was initially aghast – I'm something of a baseball purist – the more I've thought about it, the more I've come to like it.

Under the proposal, one team would move from the 16-team National League to the 14-team American League (thus creating 15 teams in each league). There would still be three divisions in each league, but each league would also have two wild cards. The two wild card teams in each league would then square off in a one-game playoff. The winner of that game would then advance to face one of the division winners, and the system would continue the way it does now.

Now, baseball isn't football; it's very much a game of series, not of one-game, sudden-death matches. Anyone can get hot for a game. (I tell myself that every time the Washington Nationals beat the New York Mets.) So one may argue that a one-game playoff just isn't fair; why not, for example, have at least a best-of-three?

I think it's perfectly fair. In fact, for the first time, wild card teams would be getting the second-class treatment they deserve. (And before anyone thinks I'm being too tough on the wild card teams, keep in mind my beloved Mets made it into the playoffs in 1999 and 2000 only thanks to the wild card.) Yeah, sure, right now they can't get home field advantage in the playoffs. But ask the '04 Red Sox if that's really a huge deal. Or the '97 and '03 Marlins. Or even the '00 Mets (who didn't go all the way, but still made it to the World Series, despite being a wild card team).

But, under the new system, the Yankees and Red Sox would actually *care* who wins the division. Because who would want to win the wild card? A one-game playoff is a huge crapshoot; it would be much better to be in a best-of-five series.

As a result, the division races would have more meaning than, for the most part, they've had in years.

And at the same time, a lot of the also-ran teams that, by this time of year, are usually just playing out the string would now have new leases on life. (Not all of them; this year's Houston Astros, for example, would be toast no matter what.) Fans would be flocking to stadiums they normally would be avoiding, because there would suddenly be meaningful September baseball.

I mean, sure, a one-game playoff is a crapshoot, but it's better than nothing, no? And if you win that one-game playoff, and go into that first best-of-five series with momentum on your side, well, who knows what can happen?

I think it's actually a win-win for baseball. You get more teams involved in the playoff hunt, and you also restore some power to the concept of winning the division. I wouldn't think the two would be possible to accomplish at the same time. But I think MLB has found a way to do it.

Now, I don't like everything about this new proposal (mainly the 15-team leagues, as it would mean that, in order for all of the teams to play every day, there would have to be one interleague game a day – and I feel the novelty of interleague baseball has largely worn off), but by and large I think this is something MLB would be wise to implement.

* * *

See you next week.

Network Celebrates 20 Years in Andover

by Bailey Seddon

Network Inc., a non-profit group that helps people with special needs, is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a Fall Festival next Sunday, Sept. 24.

The festival will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Network, which is located at 23 Route 6. Activities will include games with prizes, a clown, balloon animals, face paint, a moonbounce, an inflatable obstacle course, an alpaca to pet and a state police K-9 demo. Entertainment will include an Eastern Connecticut State University Jazz Ensemble a Scottish callanish dance, a Haitian/Reggae/Fusion band called The Phantoms, a swing dance competition and Kristen Zhea Pop, a country singer/songwriter.

There will also be over 40 vendors with lots of food, art, jewelry and other such items for people to buy. Admission is \$8 for adults and \$5 for children. This will be Network's first Fall Festival, but it is something organizers are hoping to do ever year.

"It's going to be a great event," said grant writer and fundraiser Kathleen McLean.

Network was started in 1991 as a way to get people 18 years or older with special needs out of institutions and into the community, said associate executive director Margaret Beglinger. Beglinger has been working at Network for four years and is glad that people with special needs have a place to go where they can do activities and interact with others.

"You just see people blossom in the community," Beglinger said, adding that this is why the program is important.

The participants can come and do day program activities such as: crafts, cooking, board games and puzzles. They can listen to stories and answer questions. There is also a sensory room where the participants can go if they have had a rough day to have some time to themselves where there are different objects, lights and sounds.

"We promote independence," said Day Program Advisor Erin Wojick, who has been at Network for 11 years.

Participants do not live at Network. They live with parents, live in community homes or in their own homes. There are 13 community homes and 15 apartments in Andover and the Dayville section of Killingly, where participants

live. If a participant lives in their own home, they can get individualized home support, McLean said, where someone will visit them one to two times a day for help, usually with cooking. Wherever they live, participants get transportation to and from work, to doctor's appointments or to Network.

For those participants who live in the group homes, losing power because of Tropical Storm Irene was not easy, but McLean said she was blown away by how well the staff did in making sure that people with needs were looked after and were well taken care of.

"I felt really impressed by the staff" and all they did, said McLean.

Network has a hard-working staff, which includes three full-time and one part-time nurse who manage the participants in the day program and in their homes. The nurses have different areas they are assigned to and have to have reports on any medical concerns. They also have annual training and emergency simulations where they go out to the community homes on unscheduled visits and practice emergency scenarios to make sure they are prepared.

Executive Director of Network, Richard Wilber, said the biggest challenge facing a non-profit is the uncertainty for continual funding. That is why Wilber said it is important to think ahead and know where the money is going to come from.

Wilber has been at Network for two and a half years. He said that in the future, he is hoping to expand Network's services to help challenged middle and high school students. Right now this is in the "idea stage" Wilber said, but he is hoping to get it started by the first of the year. Wilber is also hoping to further develop and enhance the day program. This could include staff lunches, made by the participants, once or twice a month. This will help "provide challenges for some of the clients," he said.

Another idea is a possible greenhouse at the group homes. They have started putting in vegetable gardens, but Wilber is hoping this will expand and be another activity for the participants to be able to take part in. He is also hoping that these programs will "make us more competitive and more attractive" so that more people will want to donate or more people with special needs will want to come and be a part of Network.



Network Inc. is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a fall festival next Sunday, Sept. 24. This is the first such festival for the organization, which helps people with special needs. Pictured from left are Educational Instructor Griselle Leon, program participants Bobby Masse and Evelyn Mercado, and Network Day Program Advisor Erin Wojick.

About once a month there is a presentation by someone who is knowledgeable on a specific subject and can help train staff to better help those they are taking care of with special needs. For instance, recently a man came to speak about autism, and even brought a device called a ProxTalker, which is a communication aide. According to Wilber, it records sounds, words and sentences to help those with autism, or even severe attention deficit disorder, to better communicate.

"Dick has a vision," said McLean, who went on to say that Wilber wants to be on the "cutting edge" to make sure Network is doing the best they can.

"It's somewhat limitless what you can do if you set out to do it," Wilber said in response to

McLean's comments.

Wilber was just as willing to praise McLean. "She does a marvelous job," he said, to make sure the participants have a "meaningful experience."

While this is the first Fall Festival, there have been other such get-togethers with the community. There is a community picnic every year, which helps get awareness of what Network does to the community.

"That's gotten more participation," said Wojick.

"It's an opportunity for them [the community] as well as us," said McLean.

For more information on the Fall Festival or any other Network programs, go to network-programs.com.

East Hampton Residents, Town Officials Speak About Irene's Impact

by Joshua Anusewicz

At Tuesday's Town Council meeting, residents and town officials sounded off on Tropical Storm Irene's impact, offering a range of opinions on the response from the town and Connecticut Light and Power (CL&P).

But everyone agreed on one thing – the town had to meet with CL&P.

Director of Public Works Keith Hayden provided the town with an update on the recovery from the storm, similar to a report he gave at an emergency Town Council meeting two weeks ago. Hayden said that the town's response was delayed by CL&P, which didn't want Public Works to touch wires or downed trees.

"We were willing to do whatever it takes to work with them," Hayden said. "They didn't take us up on it." Hayden said that he was bounced between "four different liaisons" in the week following the storm, and was not able to meet with a representative, Mark Smith, until Friday, Sept. 2. Hayden said at that point, 2,600 residents in East Hampton were still without

power, adding that there were still 450 residents without power by Sunday, a full week after the storm.

The process, Hayden explained, was an arduous one. Public Works was forced to "follow behind CL&P" as a line crew ground the wires so the trees could be removed by a separate tree crew. Hayden said that public works was "dependent" on CL&P to move the trees off of the wires.

For some, the delay didn't sit well. "If CL&P won't come clear the trees, we need to," Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel said. "Our guys need to do whatever they can do."

Resident Kimberly Fontaine said she was "appalled" to hear that residents were stuck on several roads, and that no emergency vehicles would be able to reach those residents if needed. "It should have been second on our priority list, after securing communication at the police and fire departments," she said. "What in God's name would we have done if there was an emer-

gency at one of those homes?"

But some defended the work of Hayden and the public works department. Fire Chief Paul Owen said that the town was told by CL&P not to "even make an attempt" at moving downed wires, as the high voltage of the wires and running generators throughout the town could cause serious injury.

"Those roads [that were impassible] were number one on all our lists," Owen assured those in attendance. "We had a plan, if we had to get in there and take the chance. We were prepared to do anything to get in there if we had to."

Resident Mary Ann Dostaler praised the town for "pulling together" and providing services for the residents during the storm, like keeping the high school open for showers and food. She also said that the storm damage was "not unique to our town" and that having a better plan in place could help in the future.

"Rather than lay blame, we should have a

constructive discussion to set up a better response for the next time this happens," Dostaler said.

The town intends to discuss the storm at a separate informational meeting, an idea that was pitched by council member Barbara Moore. A date for that meeting has yet to be determined, but the plan is to have representatives from CL&P present, as well as relevant department heads and members of the public.

"We need to inform residents what they can expect from the town in the future, what they can count on," Moore said. "CL&P has to work better with all of the cities and towns in the future. We need to start that communication."

Council member Sue Weintraub agreed, saying that the issue was "not going to be solved tonight."

"We need to meet, talk about what we did and talk about what we can do better," Weintraub said.

Next Town Council Meeting

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, 20 E. High St.

Portland Selectmen Consider Sponsoring Fair, Changing Its Venue

by Joshua Anusewicz

This summer's unpredictable weather has done a number on the Exchange Club Fairgrounds, knocking out the Portland Fireworks not once, but twice. The Portland Fair Association doesn't want to be the next victim, and is doing everything in their power to get the fair going.

On Wednesday, the Portland Board of Selectmen held a special meeting to discuss the possibility of sponsoring the fair so that the fair could be held on private property. The idea was brought to First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield last week by Don Bascom, president of the Portland Fair Association.

Currently, the Exchange Club Fairgrounds are in rough shape. Rains from tropical storms Irene and Lee have caused the Connecticut River to top, sending water onto Route 17A and most of the land in the area. Also, according to the association, there is a sewage issue at the grounds that has caused a bad odor.

What Bascom has proposed is a move of the fair to "the Jarvis property," a 12-acre parcel near the corner of routes 66 and 17, and runs near Ames Hollow Road. Because the land is private property, it is referred to as an IP (industrial) zone, said Planning and Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes. The only way the fair could be held on those grounds, Rhodes said, is if it were a town-sponsored event.

The fair association, with the sponsorship of the town, would then have to apply for a special permit to allow the fair to take place. Rhodes said that the Portland Fair had been held

on to the land in 1960s and '70s, but the "zoning rules have changed."

At Wednesday's meeting, Bascom spoke with the selectmen to ask for the sponsorship. He was surprised a similar arrangement hadn't happen sooner.

"I don't know why this hasn't happened in the past," Bascom said. "The town has been an integral part of the fair as long as I've been president." Bascom said the fair has used town property for parking and other needs in recent years, and town officials have worked at the fair.

Bascom said that using this land would mean the fair would not need to be scaled down. Two of the issues – water and electricity – would be taken care of, Bascom said; two water tanks would provide potable water and water for animals, while five generators would provide the power. Bascom said the association would rent 10 light towers to provide lighting for the fair and along Route 66 for parking, which would be across Route 66.

But parking provided the biggest point of contention. Selectman Brian Flood said his biggest concern was "balancing having the fair with safety issues," particularly the possibility of pedestrians along Route 66. He said that even the slightest possibility of young kids crossing four lanes of traffic did not sit well with him.

"I'm not comfortable making a decision tonight without getting an opinion from the fire and police departments," Flood said. Bascom said that the fire marshal would be "walking the grounds" today, and that he had spoken with

Lt. Ron Milardo about the possibility of having officers stationed at the intersection of Routes 66 and 17. He said he hoped to have an officer "manually control the stop light to allow people to cross."

But Bascom also said there shouldn't be any pedestrians on Route 66 at all; the parking lot will provide shuttle service to the grounds, and at least five parking attendants will be directing patrons to the shuttles and asking them not to walk along the road.

Flood, however, said there are always kids who are "going to do it anyway," and explained the position the town was in by sponsoring the event.

"If you're asking us to sponsor this, we need to have public safety be the biggest concern," Flood said. Bransfield agreed, saying "if the town puts its name on something, we have to be careful."

Bascom said he understood, but warned the selectmen that if the town didn't begin to "move" on the decision by next week, "there's a chance we can't have the fair." According to Rhodes, if the town planned to sponsor the fair, there would need to be a public hearing to vote on the decision before the permit can be approved. She said that there is a possibility that the association could be "in front of the board the week of the fair."

Bascom said that the association would need to be ready to set up the grounds by the Monday of the fair, and that it wouldn't be possible to begin setting up until the permit was ap-

proved. He said that if the fair is cancelled, the association could lose up to \$20,000 and with no income, the fair would be in jeopardy for next year.

Other ideas that were proposed were having the fair in another location or on a different weekend. Bascom said he had approached Camp Ingersoll about having the fair on their property, but a construction project would not allow it. Haddam Neck Fairgrounds in East Hampton was also proposed, but Bascom said the grounds are too far away and it would be impossible to prepare them on such short notice.

When asked if the fair could take place the next weekend, Bascom said much of the entertainment, rides, and vendors might not be available on another weekend, as many of them work events almost every weekend.

Running simultaneously with the selectmen meeting was a meeting of over 20 members of the Portland Fair Association. Susan Young, a member of the fair association, said that almost the entire association voted to have the fair "no matter what."

The selectmen made the decision to discuss the fair again at their next meeting, which will be held Wednesday, Sept. 21, at 7:30 p.m., at Portland Library. In the meantime, Bascom said he hopes to have the public safety concerns resolved so a public hearing can be scheduled.

The fair is scheduled to take place Friday, Oct. 7 through Sunday, Oct. 9. For more information on the fair, visit portlandfair.com.

Marlborough School Launches Healthy Lunch Initiative

by Bailey Seddon

With child obesity rates on the rise, parents are naturally concerned about what their children are eating if they buy school lunches. But school officials feel that, in Marlborough, this is not something parents need to worry about anymore.

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School started its 2011-12 school year off last week with a new healthy lunch program. If you walk into the cafeteria during lunch-time you can find such fruits and veggies as: carrots, squash, zucchini, salad, apples, pears, cantaloupe and celery with peanut butter.

"It's impressive," said Principal Scott Nierendorf. "We get the fruit and vegetable theme," in the lunchroom to try to get kids eating better, he said.

For lunch this past Tuesday, when the *Rivercast* stopped by for a visit, the students had all the fruits and veggies to pick from, and for lunch had French toast sticks with a blueberry topping (an alternative to syrup), sausage and potatoes, all for only \$2.35 a meal. There were even black beans with toasted pita chips and hummus during Tuesday's lunch. For drinks there was milk, water and juice.

"They are eating better and they're eating more," said longtime lunch supervisor Dawna Royce.

The change came about after the Health and Wellness Team, a team of parents, teachers and administrators had a "wellness committee." Some of the parents were concerned about the packaged and processed food their children were getting and were hoping the school could make a change.

The committee members then asked themselves "what can we do to make the meals better?" said Nierendorf. So, the healthier lunch program was born.

The school chef, Dave Bates, helped to coordinate with the school and Chartwells Company, a foodservice operator, to make healthier meals.

"He's a hard worker," said Nierendorf. The principal mentioned that Bates likes the saying

"Love what you do, do what you love" and this comes out in his work.

The school also incorporated a lunch card, or "frequency card" that parents can buy. When the student purchases four lunches the fifth one is free; if he or she buys four more then the tenth is free. This means if a student buys hot lunches for two straight weeks they can get two free lunches, and then buy a new card and start over.

Bates has been at the elementary school since 2004 and was very happy with the new lunch program. Not only are there more fruits and veggies, he said, but many are locally-bought. The apples, for instance, were from Belltown Hill Orchards in Glastonbury. Not only is the students' nutrition important, Bates said, but "let's help our farmers out as well."

As parents are well aware, it's not always easy to make kids eat what they should.

"It's always a hard push with a student" to get them to eat healthy, said Bates. "With kids you have to make it [food] jump out at you" so they will be interested in their meal, he said. Nierendorf felt the same, saying he wants his students to be able to choose healthy foods for themselves.

However, Bates said he was surprised by what the kids . For instance, when pork lo mein with whole grain noodles was introduced last week, as part of kids' once-a-week cultural meals, many of the students liked it, Bates said.

"To my surprise, it went extremely well," he said. Bates also tried to get the kids eating healthy by giving every student a free apple on the first day of school, said Nierendorf.

Bates was also astonished by how well other such lunches went, such as the salad with vegetable chili. The chili was yogurt-based and had sautéed seasonal vegetables and a little chili powder, he said.

"It's a little different.... trying to get them to try new foods than what they are used to" but is so far going well, Bates said. Bates mentioned that little things, such as putting romaine lettuce with a mesclun spring mix in the Cae-



Healthier lunches are on the menu at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School this year. Pictured here are some of the new offerings.

sar salad, instead of just iceberg lettuce which does not have much nutritional value, helps students get used to better food.

The administrators and parents are not the only ones who are happy with the new lunch program; the students interviewed Tuesday were as well.

"I love it" said Ethan Leslie, who was happy with having breakfast for lunch. "It has to be brunch."

"Pizza is my favorite; bread is a very good part of a lunch," said Ethan Allocca, who was very happy with his "Fun lunch." Fun lunches are in bags and vary. Tuesday's came with two small bagels, some pizza sauce, cheese and an apple.

Maddie Byrne was happy with the changes this year, "It is easy to get," she said, "and it tastes good."

Cameron Somers, who had a Caesar salad, said, "I like the croutons," the best. Cameron said this year's lunch was even better "because of the food."

Jake Phelan loved his breakfast lunch, especially the sausage. "This sausage is the best they ever had. It's moist!" While he liked the meat, Jake also likes the healthy choices. "I like all the vegetables and fruits."

It was easy to see that the lunches were popular considering the long lunch line. "I actually punched out 300 cards," said Bates, laughing.

Firefighters Visit Colchester from Across the Pond

by Bailey Seddon

Since 2004, firefighters from Colchester, England have been coming to visit their "brothers" at the Colchester Hayward Fire Department (CHFD). They were back again this week and were part of a ceremony to celebrate their return on Wednesday.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster started out the ceremony by welcoming all the visiting firemen. "No matter where we live, public safety" is very important, said Schuster. Schuster went on to say that someday he would love to send firefighters or police officers from Connecticut over to England.

"Some would fit in as they drive on the other side of the road already," Schuster joked, getting a laugh from the audience.

It was easy to see that brotherhood was not just a word but something much more as the firefighters joked with one another. Plaques were exchanged between the men, some of which went to the Brits and some to the Americans. Chief Walter Cox got a fireman's axe on a plaque from his British brothers. "I can use that!" Cox laughed.

"You can use it as a letter opener," Andy Sumner, a British traffic cop, joked back. (Sumner was the only non-firefighter visiting from England.) It was this kind of back-and-forth verbal sparring that made the ceremony a fun one.

Schuster said he was happy to hold this special ceremony in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and in recognition of the relationship the men from here and England have built together.

"They really struck up a fantastic friendship with our firefighters," said Schuster.

"The welcome is great," said Sumner, whose second year it was coming to Colchester. "I have the pleasure of coming over to meet such great guys."

The first year there were four men who came over, but this is a number that has grown over the years. The firemen and the one police officer, or "bobby" as they say in England, come over every year to visit Ground Zero in honor of the fallen firefighters.

"It was really quite a day for them," said CHFD Company President Dave Martin.

Ground Zero holds personal meaning to the firefighters, as they had another firefighter friend die on Sept. 11, 2001: Peter Nelson. Now the men go back every year to visit the site with Nelson's wife and children. This year was particularly special as the 10th anniversary and only family was allowed to go into the newly-built memorial, and people needed a letter to prove it to get in. Mrs. Nelson came with the firefighters from both Colchester's and her letter. When it came time for them to all go in "she said, 'they're with us,'" said firefighter Ken McKenna.

Nelson's wife and children "look forward to us coming down," fireman Tony Skut said, as this way they do not have to go through the Ground Zero experience alone.

At the memorial there were pieces of paper where families could do rubbings of their lost loved ones names. There was also a tree, the only one that survived the Sept. 11 attack, which was dug out, nursed back to health and then reburied at the memorial.

"They have done an amazing job there," Sumner said. "It's very tranquil."

Several days after Sept. 11, 25 to 30 firefighters from Colchester were sent to Ground Zero, Skut said, to help find missing people among the debris.

"The memories and the feelings...it's a great thing" to share with the other firefighters, said Skut.

Every year, after visiting Ground Zero, the men always go to O'Hara's, a New York City restaurant and pub, to have a drink. It's a "little tribute" said British Firefighter Ian Parks of the men and women firefighters who died on Sept. 11. Last year, Parks said they met a man and told him they would meet him there the following year on the 10th anniversary of the attacks. Parks said they would have a drink at 3:43 p.m., in memory of the 343 firefighters that died that day. Parks said he was amazed this year when they came back and there he was, waiting for them.

Despite the somber mood of their annual



Firefighters from Colchester, England, visited their Connecticut counterparts this week. The trip included a ceremony at Town Hall, at which plaques were exchanged.

Ground Zero trip, when the British firefighters are visiting their American counterparts in Colchester, they "have a lot of fun together," said McKenna.

The men joked about the "kangaroo court" they hold near the end of their visits each year. This is where the men do a mock courtroom where they recap what happened during the week. One year, Cox was even put in handcuffs only to have the handcuffs get stuck for a good 10 minutes before they finally managed to get him free.

"It's a way to say goodbye and enjoy the time we had," said Skut.

This year, while they were here, the British firemen also got to go through the "burn house" the town firefighters use. The burn house is designed as a way for firefighters to practice realistic situations in a controlled environment.

"It's a brilliant facility down here," said Sumner. "The support for the services here is indescribable."

Kieran Davis, a firefighter from England,

agreed "It's great that residents of Colchester support their fire department here." This was Davis' second year coming to the week-long event. "I wouldn't miss it," he said.

"The whole experience of 9/11 and the hospitality locally" makes it well worth the trip, said Davis.

Parks was one of the firefighters who came the first year. "It was just a fantastic trip, wasn't it?" he asked his friends. Everyone nodded in agreement as they thought about that first trip.

Parks has not only come back every September for the firefighters' annual visit, but he has also returned to the U.S. for a wedding of an employee of the CHFD, to celebrate New Year's with the Nelson family, as well as several other times.

The firefighters thanked not only the residents of Colchester for their warm welcome but also for the people at Huntington Manor Fire Department in Long Island, NY, who "put themselves out so much" for the visiting firefighters, Parks said.

Colchester CMT Results In, Talk of Success and Change

by Bailey Seddon

The results of this year's Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) were the topic of conversation that dominated this Tuesday's Board of Education meeting at 7 p.m.

At the Sept. 13 meeting, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development Barbara Gilbert showed the board a PowerPoint presentation of the 2010-11 CMT results. The CMTs are administered each year to students in grades three through eight. In each of those grades, there are around 250 kids, Gilbert said, and, on the whole, their CMT scores were ahead of the state average.

In her presentation, Gilbert discussed cohorts. A cohort is when the same group of children is tested over several years to see if the same students are making improvements as they go through the school system. This is a way for schools to see if they are improving.

The lowest improvements were for cohorts in grades six to seven. In 2010, 82.5 percent of the students in grade six scored at or above the state goal for math, 75.2 percent for writing and 88.5 percent for reading. But in 2011, 81.7 percent of those same children, now in seventh grade, scored at or above goal in math, 75.7 percent in writing and 89.4 percent in reading.

The highest improvements were in fourth to fifth grade. In 2010, 83.5 percent of fifth-graders scored at or above goal in math, 70.6 percent in writing and 67 percent in reading. In 2011, 90.1 percent of those same children, now in sixth grade, scored at or above goal in math, 80 percent in writing and 77.4 percent in read-

ing.

The board was also happy to hear that the percentage of students achieving "advanced" scores on their CMTs was higher than the state average. Gilbert said administration expected these children to make the advanced (or level five) scores, because they are students in the enrichment program who are the top five percent of the school.

Despite all the growth and high scores, there are some areas that Colchester schools need to work on, said Gilbert. Gilbert touched on Jack Jacter Intermediate School not making adequate yearly progress.

"The school as a whole did not get an AYP in reading," said Gilbert. She said that kids with special education require more help in math and reading. Gilbert also touched on the fact that children from low income families are not doing as well as other children in the school. However, Gilbert said low-income students are still higher overall than the state average in growth, in every area.

Gilbert also laid out the goals the school needs to work on for the 2011-12 school year. The goal for JJIS, Gilbert said, is to "improve math and reading skills of all students, including those receiving special education services and those who are economically advantaged."

The goal for William J. Johnston Middle School is to "increase the number of students with special education services...on the CMT in reading and math."

Principal Christopher Bennett agreed with this goal, saying, "the more time you put into

it, the better results you will see" and the school will work to reach these goals.

The PowerPoint presentation also said that the administrators want to provide parents with "more insight into their student's performance." Gilbert said the sad part is that the schools did good overall, but the state standards are so high that JJIS and WJMS were still considered "failing schools." Overall through, Colchester is not a failing school district, because Bacon Academy made AYP.

Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle mentioned that she thought it might be a good idea if teachers got together at the end of the week to learn from each other, to see how each of them does things differently. Then they could help better teach their students. Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein agreed with Loiselle and brought the focus to what the board should be doing to help better the schools.

Loiselle agreed and said it is important for the board to have a "willingness to go out and get resources," for the teachers.

"We also as a board need to educate ourselves as to what all these numbers mean," said Goldstein.

* * *

Another noteworthy item on the agenda was the social networking policy, which was unanimously approved Tuesday night.

The policy was first introduced at a July 12 board meeting. Loiselle said, at the meeting, that the idea for the policy came about because of lawyers and the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, who suggested it to the

board.

"We wanted to make sure there was no confusion," Loiselle told the *Rivereast* in July. "We have an employee handbook and the policy will go in it."

Loiselle said in July that she does not want to take away anyone's freedom of speech, but to just make sure that teachers and staff are "acting appropriately."

* * *

The board approved two student members of the Board of Education. Students Josh Kvasnik and Emily Boucher are now going to sit in on all board meetings and be a sort of liaison between Bacon Academy and the board.

Goldstein discussed the concept of having the student members with Loiselle, Bacon Principal Jeffrey Mathieu and Bacon Academy Student Council advisor Tom Frickman, all of whom were very happy with the idea. Goldstein then wrote the policy allowing the kids on the board.

"I think all the credit has to go to our chairperson on the board," said board member Michael Egan.

Egan went on to say that having the students on the board will give it more transparency and will give the students good role models. Goldstein thanked him and told the students that they were not just reporters, but an active part of the board.

* * *

The next Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, Oct. 11, at 7 p.m., at WJMS.

Bogush Bows Out of First Selectman Race in Colchester

by Bailey Seddon

John Bogush was excited to be running for first selectman, but when the job opportunity of a lifetime came along he weighed the options and decided he could not turn it down.

Bogush, who is a certified real estate appraiser, was not looking for a job but a job found him nonetheless. After all of the damage done to people's homes after Tropical Storm Irene, Bogush was approached by an area company to be a staff appraiser.

"There's a little bit more option with this type of job," said Bogush. Because he is technically self-employed, he will get to spend more time with his family, which is the best option for him and his family.

Despite the fact that he is looking forward to his new job and the prospect of more time at home, Bogush was disappointed that he would not be able to run for first selectman.

"I was really looking forward to making a go of this," he said. Bogush also mentioned that he was sad he was no longer going to be running with fellow Democrat selectmen candi-

dates James Ford and Rosemary Coyle.

"It wasn't easy telling [Ford and Coyle] I had to back out," he said, adding that it was like telling your family you are leaving.

Previously, Bogush had been on the Board of Assessment Appeals. He was appointed to the board in February but stepped down recently to run for first selectman. While Bogush said he could see possibly running for another board in the future, he is not planning on running for any boards anytime soon.

"I'm going to be fairly busy with what I took on," he said.

Democratic Town Committee Chairwoman Dorothy Mrowka said she was "happy for him for his job offer" but wished Bogush could have stayed.

"I think John would have made an outstanding first selectman," she said.

Mrowka said that Bogush would have made the office open to better communication and transparency.

"John is a great communicator," she said.

Former Democratic Town Committee Chairman Tim Gilman said he was "disappointed, but I certainly understand his reasons."

Gilman said Bogush would have made a great Democratic candidate but, "if you get a job offer in your field," then you have to take it.

"Family comes first," he said.

Coyle felt the same. "He would have been a terrific first selectman," she said. However, Coyle echoed others sentiments that it was the opportunity of a lifetime and that it is important to put family first.

"We really wish him well," she said.

Coyle mentioned that the committee still has a great slate of candidates who are going to work very hard and are looking forward to running.

While Ford said he is "very sorry" to see Bogush withdraw from the race, he said he respects the decision he made for his family; that it was an offer Bogush could not turn down.

Still, Ford said, "I'm going to miss him. I

thought he was a fantastic candidate."

It was not only Democrats who had good words for Bogush.

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said, "I wish John well in his new position." He said Bogush's withdrawal does not change anything, as he is still running in a "close campaign" against Independent candidate James McNair, and said he does not take "anything for granted."

The committee has until Oct. 15 to find another candidate to run for first selectman. Mrowka said they are looking but have not found anyone willing yet. She mentioned that it is hard to find people willing to serve politically, whether someone is a Democrat or Republican, but that the people who do volunteer for the town are great.

Despite this setback Mrowka is still looking forward to the election.

"The rest of the ticket is still intact; we have excellent candidates for the rest of the ticket," Mrowka said.

Sewer Extensions Still an Issue in Marlborough

by Bailey Seddon

The biggest topic of discussion at last Thursday's Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) meeting was the continuing refusal of residents to connect to the sewer system.

At the Sept. 8 meeting, the board discussed possible legal actions they could take against residents in the sewer district who refuse to connect.

On June 14, 20 letters were sent out to residents who had still refused to connect to the system, telling them they had until July 1 to connect to the system, or steps would be taken for a forced connection.

Hughes said that 11 properties were sent letters about their failure to connect. Hughes said of those 11, only one replied, and said previously three of the letters were returned unopened. Board members appeared bothered by the fact that only one person had replied to the letter.

At an Aug. 18 WPCA meeting, it was noted that Hughes said those three properties would be served with notices by a state marshal the week of Aug. 22-26, to make sure they understood the seriousness of the situation. Hughes had also said the WPCA could get a court order to go onto the properties and connect them,

though that is not required. He said the regulations give the WPCA the right to give notice to the properties and then connect them and put a lien on their homes.

WPCA Chairman Jack Murray and other board members seemed frustrated that residents in the sewer district were still unwilling to connect. "As a general rule, those who are getting the sewers don't want them and those who are not getting the sewers do," said Murray.

The board was going to have an executive session at last Thursday's meeting about the unconnected properties but decided to wait so they could speak with the town's lawyer about the issue.

During citizens' comments, Amy Traversa questioned the board pushing the executive session back to a letter date. "I urge you" to do it as soon as possible, Traversa said. Traversa said the longer the board waits the more the legal fees are going to be for the town. Murray agreed and said they would set a date for the executive session.

During the discussion of the 2010-11 budget, Hughes told the board that the WPCA has a deficit of \$53,875.45, with \$12,367 in legal

fees related to the appeals. The rest of the balance, which is not related to the legal fees, is due in part because of delayed connections. Members of the board felt that the outstanding balance should be covered under Construction Costs because it should be considered to be startup costs. Before any decisions are made the board agreed that they would meet with the Board of Finance and the Board of Selectman.

The board also voted to send a letter to First Selectman Bill Black requesting that the town cover the deficit under construction costs. Before sending the letter to Black though, Murray first drafted a letter and sent it to Hughes, who then in turn sent it to the other members of the board: Bill LaPoint, Bill Lardi and Brad North. Murray cannot send the other members the letter himself as that would constitute a meeting.

The members are in the process of reading the draft and once they are done will get back to Hughes, telling him if they approve it or what changes need to be made, which Hughes will tell Murray. Once the letter is ready it will be sent to Black, and a copy of it will be sent to the Board of Finance.

During public comments Board of Finance member Cliff Dennis asked if the letter sent to

Black concerning the budget deficit could also be sent to the Board of Finance. The board agreed to send a copy of the letter to the Board of Finance when they sent the letter to Black.

Talk of the budget brought up a discussion of another letter that was sent by Town Treasurer Robert Hannon to Board of Finance Chairwoman Cathi Gaudinski and carbon copied to Murray, Black, Selectman Joe La Bella Selectwoman Riva Clark and Assistant Treasurer Hayley Wagner.

In the letter, Hannon wrote the WPCA "needs to prepare a more realistic budget." Hannon said the \$53,875.45 was a deficit and will have to be taken out of the town's undesignated funds, which has already had money taken out due to last winter's snow removals. Hannon also said the fund is "crucial to our strong bond rating."

Hannon also wrote that the WPCA should consider having a "reserve for unanticipated expenses (i.e., burnt-out grinder pumps, etc.)." According to an attachment sent with the letter, the WPCA has \$12,674.62 in assets and \$66,550.07 in liabilities.

The next WPCA meeting is Thursday, Oct. 13, at 7 p.m., in Town Hall.

East Hampton Resident Killed After Hit in Crosswalk

by Joshua Anusewicz

A local woman died after being hit by a pickup truck while crossing East High Street last Saturday, Sept. 10.

According to East Hampton Police Sgt. Garritt Kelly, at about 7:30 p.m., Gail Patterson, 58, of West High Street, was struck and killed while she was crossing East High Street (Route 66) in the area of Stop & Shop.

Patterson – who was in the crosswalk at the time of the accident – was brought to Middlesex Hospital Emergency Clinic in Marlborough, but died after receiving treatment. The Office of the Chief Medical Ex-

aminer determined Monday that the cause of death was "multiple blunt traumatic injuries."

The driver of the pickup truck has been identified as Sean Martland, 26, of Mark Twain Drive. Kelly said the accident remains under investigation and no charges have been filed, and that any pending charges are "unknown."

After preliminary investigation, Kelly said Wednesday that Martland did not seem to be "intoxicated" or "distracted." He said that the time of day – around dusk – could have been a factor.

Andover Police News

9/7: Police are investigating a burglary that happened on Parker Bridge Road between 10:50 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Entry was forced at the rear of the residence and jewelry was taken, State Police said. Anyone with information is asked to contact Resident Trooper Robert O'Connor at 860-742-0235.

9/9: Police are investigating the damage of a vehicle on Kingsley Drive. The victim found that her vehicle had been scratched and an egg white substance had been poured on the rear window and trunk, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

9/10: Christine Kezmer, 54, of 67 Brookview Ave., Wallingford was charged with failure to pay, State Police said.

C

Police News

9/5: Bryan St John, 21, of 157 Pine Brook Rd., was charged with DUI, Colchester Police said.

9/7: Donald McKenzie, 45, of 29 Boulder Rd., was charged with risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

9/8: Christopher Billard, 32, and Jessica Billard, 28, both of 60 Balaban Rd., Apt. 407, were each charged with risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

9/8: Luis Z. Diaz, 20, of 224 Jackson St., Willimantic, was charged with violating a protective order and third-degree assault, State Police said.

9/9: A 16-year-old juvenile was charged with third-degree criminal mischief, Colchester Police said.

9/9: Christine Higgins, 53, of 122 Wadsworth

Woman Strikes Rock Ledge in Marlborough

A woman traveling on a rain-covered road spun out of control and struck a rock ledge last Thursday, Sept. 8, State Police said.

Michelle Manuel, 19, of 30 Juniper Dr., Coventry, was driving her 2008 Honda Civic westbound on Route 2 in the left lane, when her vehicle spun out and struck the rock ledge on the right side of the road.

Manuel was taken to the Marlborough Clinic for possible injuries after her car struck the rock. She was issued a written infraction for traveling too fast for conditions, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

9/8: Police are investigating the burglary of a residence on Laurel Lane. The suspect(s) gained entry by going through a rear door which was pried and smashed open. A jewelry box and its contents were stolen, State Police said.

9/8: Angela M. Lomnicki, 22, of 626 Gilead Rd., Hebron was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia and sixth-degree larceny, State Police said.

East Hampton Police News

9/8: Joshua J. Saglio, 22, of 62 Lafayette Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for third-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit same, East Hampton Police said.

Obituaries

Portland

Sari Rosenbaum

Sari (Arum) Rosenbaum of Portland, wife of Howard Rosenbaum, passed away Friday, Sept. 9, leaving behind a devoted family who will forever treasure her memory.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, and a graduate of Cornell University, Sari will be remembered as a loving wife, an adored mother and grandmother, loving sister and extraordinary friend. Sari served on multiple community organizations, including the Board of Directors of Congregation Adath Israel, the Middletown Chapter of Hadassah, the board of the Middlesex County Medical Alliance and the Greater Middletown Community Corporation. She was a founding member of both the Brownstone Quorum and The Fund for Women and Girls. She and her husband were joint recipients of the 2010 Distinguished Citizens Award from the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce.

In addition to Howard, she leaves her daughter, Julia and husband Garry; son, Michael and wife Amy; son, Daniel and daughter-in-law Mare; grandchildren, Cecily and Alec; brother, Robert Arum and wife Lovee; sister, Gloria and husband Yaacov; and many devoted nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held on Sunday, Sept. 11, at Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue in Middletown.

The family will be sitting Shiva. Contributions in honor of Sari's memory may be made to The Fund for Women & Girls at the Middlesex County Community Foundation, 211 South Main St., Middletown, CT 06457 or Middletown Chapter of Hadassah c/o Congregation Adath Israel Synagogue, 8 Broad St., P.O. Box 337, Middletown, CT 06457.

Colchester

Henry Andrew von Roemer

Henry Andrew von Roemer, 93, of West Road, Colchester, widower of the late Winifred (Brown) von Roemer, passed away Thursday, Sept. 8, at the Connecticut Hospice in Branford.

Born June 4, 1918, in Valley Stream, Long Island, NY, he was a son of the late Hugo Sophus and Mary Ann (Herkert) von Roemer.

Henry graduated from Valley Stream High School where he was an outstanding scholar and musician. He went on to graduate from the New York State Institute of Agriculture in Farmingdale, Long Island, NY in 1938.

He was the operations manager and outside representative for the Wm. Weiner Hatchery in Colchester, introducing many innovative ideas over his 30 year career. Following a back injury, he went on to pass the Connecticut State Exam and served as an Eligibility Technician State of CT Income Maintenance in Middletown for 10 years before his retirement.

He and Winifred shared 68 years of marriage before she predeceased him on Feb. 1, 2009.

Mr. von Roemer was a faithful member of the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in New London.

Over the years, he enjoyed music, fishing and was an avid fan of the Boston Red Sox and UConn basketball.

He is survived by three children, Margaret Battaglioli and her husband, Victor of Marlborough, Arthur von Roemer and his wife, Yvonne of Glen Allen, VA and Maggie McKenzie of East Hartford; four grandchildren, Edward von Roemer of Alexandria, VA, Amy (von Roemer) Spearing of Sandy Hook, VA, V. Joseph Battaglioli, Jr. of Westford, MA and Peter J. Battaglioli of Longs, SC; five great grandchildren, Brandon, Bailey and Bennett Spearing and Victoria and Caitlin Battaglioli; a brother, Arthur "Bill" von Roemer of Andover; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Funeral services were held Monday, Sept. 12, directly at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 31 Cedar Grove Ave., New London. Graveside services followed in the Brown/von Roemer family plot in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers and in honor of his charitable nature, donations in his memory may be made to his church, the CT Hospice, 100 Double Beach Rd., Branford 06405 or to the charity of one's choice. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Edward A. Rousseau

Edward A. Rousseau, 88, of Portland, died Saturday, Sept. 10, at Hartford Hospital. He was the son of the late Dr. Alfred A. and Helen C. (Rodauch) Rousseau.

Born on May 11, 1923 in Meriden, he worked as an interior designer in Hartford and was associated with the Portland Memorial Funeral Home for many years. He enjoyed collecting antiques and also Saturday morning tag sales.

He is survived by two nieces, Joan M. Hall of Boston, MA, and Diane S. Rousseau of Ludlow, VT; three grandnephews, Gregg Hall (Megan) of Santa Monica, CA, Grant Hall (Molly) of Boston, MA, and Brendan Hall of West Hartford; two great-grandnephews, Will; and Charlie and a great-grandniece, Jane. He was predeceased by a brother and sister-in-law, Robert A. and Helen (McLay) Rousseau, and by a lifelong friend, John P. Reynolds.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, with Rev. Stephen Ling, priest-in-charge, officiating. Burial will follow in Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Wednesday before the service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111 or to the Goodspeed Opera House, 6 Main St., East Haddam, CT 06423.

To send an online expression of sympathy, visit portlandmemorialfh.net.

East Hampton

JoAnn M. Anderson

JoAnn M. (Magoni) Anderson, 46, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Darryl J. Anderson passed peacefully on Friday, Sept. 9, at Middle-sex Hospital. Born March 5, 1965, in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Joseph L. and Janet (Ring) Magoni. JoAnn was a longtime employee of Liberty Bank where she worked as an IRA specialist and had many friends.

Besides her husband she is survived by her daughter Richa Lee Walker of Boston, MA, her son Joseph Walker of Luke Air Force Base in Phoenix Arizona, also several aunts, uncles, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews and cousins.

JoAnn will be remembered for her contagious smile, great sense of humor and her vast collection of Yankee Candles. JoAnn's life was rich in love and laughter. She loved to cook and took great pride in the home she and Darryl had been remodeling.

All are welcome to celebrate her life with her family and friends at a memorial service to be held today, Sept. 16, at 11 a.m., in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home today from 9 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to The American Cancer Society, 825 Brook St., I-95 Tech Center, Rocky Hill, CT 06067.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



East Hampton

Marianne Francis Kelsey

Marianne Francis (Fitzpatrick) Kelsey, 79, of East Hampton, beloved wife of David Kelsey for 54 years, passed away Wednesday, Sept. 14, at Hartford Hospital. Born in New Britain, she was the daughter of the late Daniel and Olga (Baranowski) Fitzpatrick.

Marianne lived in East Hampton for 54 years and was a member and deacon of the First Congregational Church in East Hampton. She was also a member of the Board of Directors of CAGM in Middletown, a member of the East Hampton Village Association and instrumental in the development of the Children's Theatre in East Hampton.

Along with her husband, Marianne is survived by three sons, David H. Kelsey, Jr. and his wife, Sandy of Phoenix, AZ, Daniel S. Kelsey and his wife, Susan of South Berwick, ME and Dean P. Kelsey and his wife, Michele of Harrisburg, NC; a daughter, Kimberly K. Clouser of Thorntown, IN; a brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Margaret Fitzpatrick of Glastonbury; seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Nancy Fitzpatrick.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m., at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, with Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be private and at the convenience of the family in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton.

There will be no calling hours and in lieu of flowers friends may make donations in Marianne's memory to Weiss Hospice Unit c/o Middlesex Hospital, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457 or middlesexhospital.org/donate.

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

Colchester

Robert Marcel Godbout

Robert Marcel Godbout, "Bobby," formerly of Colchester, died Thursday morning, Sept. 8, at home, from a massive heart attack. He was 57.

He lived in Norwich with his grown children, two of them who have special needs. Along with his children, Joshua Keith, Justin Allen and Christina Ann Godbout, he leaves behind his mom, Lilly Mary Ringuette Godbout Menard in West Palm Beach, FL.

He also leaves his brother, Denis and sister-in-law Karen Godbout of Colchester, along with their children, Jeremiah of Olive Branch, MS, and Melissa Godbout of Norwich. He also leaves behind an ex-wife, Judy Boulay Godbout and many cousins spread all over the U.S.

His dad, Marcel Omer Godbout, and his young son, Robbie Marcel Godbout, predeceased Bobby in death.

His request in death was for cremation and his family will carry out those wishes with the assistance of the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. There will be no calling hours and services will be private.

Portland

Don Hibino

Don Hibino, long-time resident of Portland, passed away Thursday, Aug. 25, in Silver Spring, MD, two days shy of his 92nd birthday.

Don was born and raised in Berkeley, CA, son of Japanese immigrants. Don attended the University of California at Berkeley and graduated in the winter of 1940. A year later, following Pearl Harbor, the entire West Coast Japanese population of 120,000 people, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, was forcibly removed to ten internment camps in the interior United States. Don and his family were taken to the Topaz, UT, internment camp. Don was able to leave camp to attend graduate school at the University of Texas in Austin.

Upon receiving his master's degree, Don moved to New England and married his college sweetheart, Ann, in Cambridge, MA, in 1943. They relocated to Portland in 1952 where Don owned a business and he and Ann raised their family. Don was active in the Methodist Church and the Portland Organization of Protestant Youth (POPY). Always interested in sports, especially football, he and Marty Prout of Prout's Dairy, started the Midget (Portland Dukes) and Pony (Portland Panthers) football programs in 1956. Don coached the Panthers to the state championship in 1959.

While still working full-time, Don put himself through UConn's School of Law night program and graduated with his JD in 1971. He spent many years volunteering with Catholic Charities in Hartford, Middletown Legal Aid Services and the Portland Housing Authority. In his later years Don volunteered with the Literacy Volunteers of Greater Middletown and delivered Meals on Wheels. He loved to travel – he and Ann took 26 overseas trips in nearly as many years – gardening, and the UConn Huskies.

Don moved from Portland in 2006. In 2007 he was very proud to be inducted into the Portland Sports Hall of Fame for his achievements with the town's football program.

Don was predeceased by his wife and his only sibling, a brother. He leaves three children, Diane Hibino (Bethesda, MD), Tom Hibino (Andover, MA) and Jean Hibino (Albuquerque, NM); six grandchildren; sisters-in-law; a brother-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

There will be a private family memorial in Cambridge, MA.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the Nisei Student Relocation Commemorative Fund, 19 Scenic Drive, Portland, CT 06480. This is a 501(c)(3) scholarship fund that Don and Ann helped establish in 1980.

East Hampton

Charles Wayne McDuffie

Charles Wayne "Duff" McDuffie, 74, of Venice, FL, formerly of East Hampton, Boulder, CO, and Portland, ME, died Tuesday, July 26. He was born July 4, 1937 in Portland, ME.

After graduating with Bachelor of Science degree at University of Bridgeport and a Master of Science Degree at University of Colorado, he spent many years teaching recreation, health and physical education at the public school and collegiate level. He coached skiing, swimming and soccer during this time and continued coaching soccer until his move to Florida. Subsequent to his teaching experiences, he worked in the concrete and the sand and gravel businesses. He enjoyed hunting, fishing and many other outdoor activities and spent many summers on East Island in Lake Pocotopaug.

Duff is survived by his wife Merrilee "Misty" of Venice, FL, and his son Chad of Erie, CO.

He is predeceased by his brother, Glenmore McDuffie.

The family will receive relatives and friends from 10-11 a.m. Friday, Sept. 30, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. A memorial service will be held at the funeral home immediately following the calling hours with burial at the Lake View Cemetery. Memorial contributions can be made to the charity of your choice.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

