

RIVEREAST

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**Memorial Tree Planted...** Former first selectman Howard Dean's wife Terry Concannon and son David Dean stand by a tree and stone placed at Richmond Memorial Library in his honor at a May 17 ceremony. Dean passed away last year. For the story, see page 20.

## Colchester Residents Remember Pearl Harbor

by Katelyn Kelleher

The Pearl Harbor theme of this year's Memorial Day Parade in Colchester is long overdue to residents who still have their memory of that day fresh in their mind.

Diana Giles said the Pearl Harbor theme idea came from the disbanding of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association in 2011. One of the members, Thomas Migliaccio, a Colchester resident, was not able to attend the last ceremony. The association asked Colchester's Veterans of Foreign Wars post to present him with a medal. "It led to my thinking about what people in Colchester on Dec. 7 remember about that day," she said.

Resident Melvin Scott was a 14-year-old living in Colchester on Dec. 7, 1941. "It was a Sunday, it was the 7th of December and, as was traditional to a lot of young folks, you would generally go to the Colchester Theater on South Main Street," he said. "On that particular day I was on my way home...when I went by what is now the Hayward Fire Company museum building. It was then a drug store run by a fellow named Earl Holmes."

"Holmes was known about town for having a transmission system and could hear news from all over the world," Scott continued. "It must have been a quarter to 5 as I passed his place and he was the first person who told me that the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor and it appeared that the U.S. would shortly be at war."

Scott walked home and pondered the news. "I knew where Pearl Harbor was, oddly enough, and it was an experience that I knew we'd read about," he said.

Manchester resident Stanley Ozimek, 91, will serve as the grand marshal for this year's

parade. Ozimek, who was born and raised in Colchester, was on his way to see a matinee in Hartford when he got the news of the attack.

He and three of his five brothers were called to serve in World War II. "It was something that we had to do. You had to defend your country when you needed to," he said. "You can imagine how my mother must have felt...she must have been heartbroken."

His brothers Joe, who served in the infantry, and Frank, who served in the armored division, were sent to Europe. His other brother, Al, was an Air Corps pilot.

Ozimek enlisted in the Marines. "I figured I'd get some easy duty in Washington, D.C. and that just didn't happen. They sent me into the Pacific," he said.

Ozimek participated in the Iwo Jima campaign and climbed Mount Suribachi.

"On the way up there was a temporary grave of Sgt. John Basalone," who was the recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for heroic acts on Guadalcanal, and Ozimek prayed over the grave before continuing on.

"It had the smell of death and rotting bodies and those young fellows are out there today," he said, adding that 6,500 American soldiers were buried there.

"Not a day goes by where I don't think of them and rightfully so," he said. "War is a terrible thing...but you never want to give up your freedom or you're lost. You're worthless."

Ozimek and his brothers' names are on the Veterans' Monument of Colchester. He had no regrets about serving his country. "I'd do it over again," he said.

See Pearl Harbor Page 2

## Hebron Budget Strikes Out Again

by Geeta Schrayter

The proposed \$33.88 million Hebron town budget was again shot down by voters Tuesday, sending finance board members scrambling, as the spending plan is destined for — what they hope — will be one more referendum.

The proposed spending plan would have been a decrease of \$211,888, or .62 percent, from the current year.

There were three separate questions on the ballot Tuesday. In addition to the Hebron budget, residents also voted against the RHAM budget, by a 982-745 tally. (However, the spending plan was approved by Andover and Marlborough voters, by enough of a margin to overcome the Hebron rejection; a story about the RHAM budget appears in this issue). The town's \$752,533 Capital Improvement Program budget was the only one to succeed, by a 906-818 vote.

But it was the town budget rejection that was on everyone's mind at a special meeting of the Board of Finance held Tuesday night after the referendum results came in. Members of the Board of Selectmen were also invited to the meeting. The meeting lasted more than two

hours, as members of both boards expressed their frustrations, concerns and uncertainties for over two hours.

"The town has faced extreme challenges," said Board of Finance Chairman Mike Hazel. "My take is, as we make further cuts, it will be very detrimental to the town."

Throughout the evening, town officials said they felt the budget was already extremely low — decisions meant for future planning were done away with, and all that was left was the bare minimum.

"All the boards try to position themselves for the future," explained Board of Selectmen Chairman Jeff Watt. After making over \$400,000 in cuts to the budget when the first referendum failed, "We say we're going to have to wait on a few things."

"We're trying to plan for the future but residents are saying 'cut, cut,'" said Board of Finance member Lynn Guerriero. "When you get this tight, planning goes away."

"The question now is, what services are we willing to give up as a town?" Hazel inquired rhetorically. "We're at that point."

"Anything we can reasonably eliminate is on the table," said selectman Mark Stuart.

But it became apparent soon after the meeting convened, the additional cuts wouldn't come from the Board of Education budget.

Hazel said spending is "flat to last year" in the Board of Education budget, because its additional increases are offset by an extra \$96,000 in state funding.

"They absorbed salary raises and the insurance increase" while offering a retirement incentive that eight teachers took advantage of, he said. "Net to net, their cost is flat, and that's a fact."

Stuart also said administrative costs, which have been a topic of contention among many voters who are against the budget, "are third from the bottom per pupil" compared to 46 other pre-kindergarten through grade six schools — and are lower than Andover and Marlborough.

"I think the argument for administration has been proven in the numbers not to be a valid one," said Board of Finance member Malcolm Leichter.

Additionally, Stuart said, the Board of Education has "cut all the way down to MBR."

MBR, or Minimum Budget Requirement, is a piece of legislation under Connecticut State Statute Sec. 10-262j, which says school districts can be funded no less than the amount appropriated in the prior year. If the district goes below that number, it will have to "forfeit an amount equal to two times the difference between said minimum expenditure requirement and the town's... actual regular program expenditures" which will be "withheld by the Department of Education from the grant payable to the town in the second fiscal year immediately following" the budget falling below the MBR.

In a May 23 letter sent to the board chairs, Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said "we are perilously close to our MBR... we are only \$38,798 from the prior year's appropriation. To go below \$38,796 would be a violation of the statute, and the town would be fined a severe penalty," she wrote.

"It's a dead man's spiral," said Stuart. "Ev-

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## Pearl Harbor cont. from Front Page

Resident Jennie Boluck-Lenkiewicz, a member of the town's Memorial Day Parade Committee, was in elementary school during the attack on Pearl Harbor and said neither she nor her classmates really understood what was going on. However, the war that followed had a significant impact on her life.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Bataan Death March, in which over 33,000 Americans and Filipinos were forced to march across the Philippines, Boluck-Lenkiewicz said, her brother being one of them. "If they faltered, they were killed," she said.

Boluck-Lenkiewicz's brother was taken as a Japanese prisoner of war for three years. Army General Douglas MacArthur returned for the prisoners, Boluck-Lenkiewicz said, and her brother was put on a "hell ship" carrying 750 people.

"They were packed so tight that they could just stand," she said. "If anyone died they would die standing up like that."

The ship wasn't marked as an American ship and still had its Japanese markings, and an American ship torpedoed it, killing nearly everyone on board and leaving the rest unaccounted for, Boluck-Lenkiewicz said.

Boluck-Lenkiewicz and her family were notified of her brother's death via telegram. "Nobody came to the house in person like they do now," she said. "To this day, I could hear when my father went to tell my mother and I could still hear her moaning."

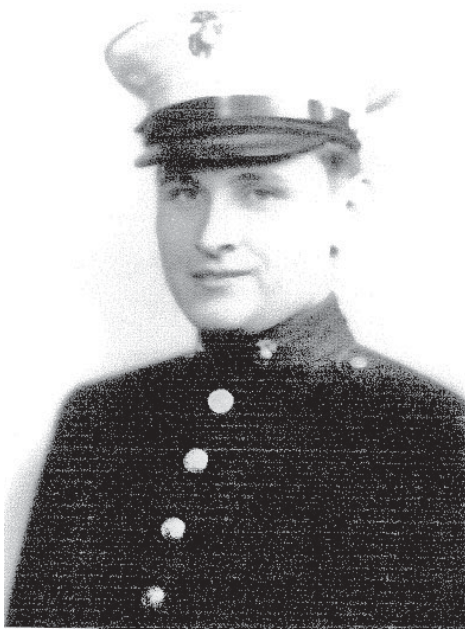
Resident Esther Nelkin Starkweather was 20 and living in New York at the time of the attack. All the reports came in on the radio after the attack. "All I could think about was, 'Oh my God, this means war,'" Starkweather said. "The rumors were flying and we were terrified because we didn't know where we were going to be attacked next and...it was a terrible time for all America."

The 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea, in which American troops intercepted and defeated a Japanese invasion fleet, re-instilled hope in her and many other Americans, Starkweather said.

"That looms so highly in my memory," she said.

Starkweather recalled American troops surrendering to the Japanese "in the name of humanity, relying on the Geneva Convention," which the Japanese did not respect.

"They were made to march for miles through areas where they had set up prison camps and



**Marine veteran Stanely Ozimek will serve as the grand marshal for this weekend's Pearl Harbor-themed Memorial Day Parade. Ozimek, 91, and three of his brothers were called to serve in World War II after the attack.**

the horror these soldiers went through, they were brutalized and tortured and killed and bits of this were being relayed back to the American citizens," she said. "Eventually when Harry Truman decided to drop the bomb, perhaps the empathy we should have felt was not there."

But, she added, "They awakened a sleeping giant and they paid for it."

Starkweather said that acknowledging the memory of the day that will "live on in infamy" is long overdue. "There's so few of us left of that era - we are just becoming to senior - but we have, as I have, a vivid, horrible, frightening, devastating memory of that time," she said. "In retrospect, I'm well over 90, and the fear, anxiety and terror is still so apparent."

Scott also called the acknowledgement overdue.

"I think it's keeping with the town's annual tradition of honoring historical events and individuals who have defended this country in times of need," he said.

## Hebron Budget cont. from Front Page

ery dollar below the MBR we lose funding the next year."

"I would not support trying to cut [the BOE budget] any closer than we are," added Leichter.

"My feeling is, don't touch the Board of Education [budget]," Watt said. "We need to put it on the shoulders of the town."

Selectman Brian O'Connell said "we're trying to hit a moving target," and added, "I will gladly put myself out there to discuss the budget if people want to go line by line. ...The budget right now, we believe as elected officials, is lower than where it should be... The Board of Education has already worked its way to the bottom."

It was reiterated throughout the meeting that the major increases in the budget were items the boards had no say over, such as salaries and benefits and insurance.

"People got sick," said O'Connell. "That's the big issue. There's no funny money thing going on. It's straight black and white."

Selectman Dan Larson added his own frustrations to the mix, regarding the lack of voter input.

"I see more letters, more complaints [in the past couple of weeks] since starting the budget process," he said. "I get very frustrated to think we've gone this whole period with only a few people giving input."

Watt spoke to that as well, as he noted the majority of voters in town didn't head to the polls.

"We need to encourage those other people to come out and listen and vote - we need them to come out. That's what we want," he said.

"We want good Americans that have said that they believe in what this country is all about, that they're willing to do their part... I don't think you can run the town on a 15-20 percent vote."

"If we're here to present a good budget, a sound budget, a fiscally-responsible budget, I think we've done it," said Leichter.

Ultimately, the Board of Finance voted to eliminate another \$100,000 from the town budget. The vote passed 4-2, with Paula Verrier and Tom Sousa Jr. against. However, no one seemed wholly pleased with the decision.

"I don't know if it's the right thing," said Hazel.

"There won't be any number that'll make [residents] happy," added Larson.

On Wednesday, Interim Town Manager Andy

Tierney explained just what that additional \$100,000 reduction could mean.

"We're going to be looking at open space; we'll look at all the new initiatives that were set forth in the budget," he said. "We're going to possibly look at closing the transfer station one day a week. ... One of the things is possibly going to one senior van [instead of two], looking at some park and recreation reductions, looking to back out of the town's payment for the police at the Maple Fest. ... It depends on the sentiment of the selectmen."

Tierney added, "We're trying to cut out the nonessential things first."

He also said regionalization was being examined for the animal control officer and the building inspector.

"The town isn't getting the message that these are serious cuts that are going to affect services," he said. "They dug a hole that I don't know how we're going to come out of."

"We cut the budget half a million dollars," he continued, adding, "it was a tight budget already - it was a responsible budget."

On Wednesday, Watt also said the additional cuts wouldn't be easy.

"From the Board of Selectmen's standpoint, we've got some tough decisions," he said. "But we're also feeling the voters really need to rally around this one."

Based on the town charter, Watt explained the tax level needs to be set by June 15. If the budget isn't adopted by then, the Board of Finance will set the rate based on the 2011-12 taxes, "which will be \$300,000 more than it is now," he said, adding he wasn't sure if ever, in the history of the town, taxes have ended up \$300,000 less than the prior year.

It was additionally noted at the meeting, that while many residents were worried about tax increases, 62 percent of the town would see a decrease in their taxes as a result of revaluation.

"We're really in a position where we're giving the taxpayers a budget less than the prior year," he said.

The Board of Selectmen held a special meeting Thursday, after press time, to determine what cuts would be made to reduce the budget the additional \$100,000.

"This is very scary," Finance Director Elaine Griffin said at Tuesday's meeting. "This is very scary for me as a finance director."

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# Coutu, Reynolds to Square Off in State Senate Race

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Upon the conclusion of Monday's Democratic caucus, the 19th Senate District has their two party candidates.

The Democrats endorsed Ledyard's Tom Reynolds over Sprague First Selectman Cathy Osten by a 35-13 vote at Norwich City Hall.

The caucus followed one held by the Republicans for the 19th District last Monday, May 14, at which state Rep. Chris Coutu of Norwich was unanimously endorsed.

Following the election, the 19th District will include Marlborough, Hebron, Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Lisbon, Norwich, Sprague, Ledyard, Uncasville and a portion of Montville.

Reynolds, who owns a consulting firm, was elected as the state representative for the 42nd District in 2004 and was re-elected in 2006, 2008 and 2010. The district includes Ledyard, Preston and part of Montville.

Reynolds, 45, rose as a candidate for the Democrats following current state Sen. Edith Prague's announcement earlier this month that she would not be seeking re-election. Prague, 86, has served as senator for the 19th District since 1994.

"Edith and I have talked on and off a little bit about this. I expressed to her my support as long as she wanted to run and her announcement caught most people by surprise, but luckily most of the officials were prepared to support me," Reynolds said. "Whoever follows Edith Prague needs to continue her legacy of fighting for seniors and veterans and workers' rights and that's consistent with my house record and I will continue to do that as well."

Reynolds said, if elected, he intends to continue the priorities he's set as state representative.

"I've long been involved in education reform...I've also been a leader in house issues

of budget reform and government accountability and I will continue to make progress there," he said.

He added one of those priorities also involves the Groton submarine base.

"One of the issues is in the submarine base and Connecticut's defense presence because of its potential to make jobs," he said. "This past session we appropriated funds in case there's another base closure at a federal level."

Marlborough Democratic Town Committee Chairman Richard Banbury called Reynolds an "extraordinarily qualified candidate."

"He's a hard worker and a smart guy," he said, noting Reynolds grew up as one of eight children - four of which, including Reynolds, were adopted.

Banbury said he believes the Democrats "have a pretty good ticket out there."

Reynolds will be fighting for the seat against Coutu, who has represented the 47th District - which includes Norwich, Canterbury, Sprague and Scotland - since 2008.

"I don't know if there could be a greater contrast than there is between Chris and me," he said. "Many of his votes on the house floor are inconsistent with the values and needs of Connecticut."

Coutu, an officer in the Army National Guard, dropped out of running for Congress and joined the senate race following Prague's retirement. Columbia's Steve Everett dropped out of the Republican race May 14.

Coutu, 35, said he made the decision to join the senate race for his family.

"I went away for three months, and talking to my wife and daughter on Skype, I started to realize that I was missing a quarter of my life and I said I can best serve the people of the senate," he said.

He said he took a minute to think about the



**Tom Reynolds**

decision.

"I was talking to people before we knew what Edith was going to do about potentially transitioning the race, and this was before I knew she was going to retire, and I knew I had to make a decision that week," he said. "It was just the right thing to do for my family."

Coutu said one of his goals if elected is to fight for Connecticut to be pro-business. "We need to stop passing anti-business legislation, stop passing municipal mandates, stop spending - there was a \$1 billion budget increase over the last budget cycle - and then we could stop borrowing and make sure to get rid of new taxes," he said.

Everett backed Coutu, and said this week he



**Chris Coutu**

dropped out of the race to strengthen the Republican ticket.

"My belief was that it ultimately was going to have to go for a primary...and I believed a primary would not bring our ticket more good than harm," he said. "Right now I'm putting the people of Connecticut before my own political goals. That's why we serve, to put the people first."

Everett said Coutu is a qualified candidate. "His experience and his name recognition in the Norwich area give us, the people of Connecticut, a greater opportunity to balance the power in Hartford for decision makers," he said. "It gives us another Republican senator in there."



# Tree Dedicated in Memory of Longtime Marlborough Selectman

by Katelyn Kelleher

A former first selectman who passed away last year was honored last week for his dedication to the town by placing his name at a place he valued greatly, Richmond Memorial Library.

Approximately 25 gathered at the library last Thursday, May 17, to remember Howard Dean, who served for three consecutive terms as Marlborough's first selectman from 1991 to 2003. Terry Concannon called her late husband "the Marlborough Man."

Dean was honored with a stone engraved with his name and a Kwanzan cherry tree planted at the library. The blooming tree was fitting for her late husband, Concannon said.

"I think he would've chosen a tree like that and the fact that there's a nice stone at the place that he loved," she said.

During the dedication, those who knew Dean well, including Concannon, Democratic Town Committee Chairman Richard Banbury, Library Director Nancy Wood, Library Board of Directors President Debbie Bourbeau and selectman Michael Gut, spoke of their memories of him. His youngest son, David Dean, a Marlborough resident, and his sister, niece and grandchildren also attended the ceremony, Bourbeau said. Some in attendance had never even met Dean, a testament to the impact he had on the town.

Banbury said the Democrats had no candidates to run for first selectman in 1991 until about four months in, when Dean, who had lived in Marlborough for many years, moved to Canada and had since come back, was brought up.

"I had no idea who they were talking about, but he had lots of relatives in town and found out he was related to some of the names in town that are now street signs," he said.

Banbury met Dean at the Democrats' candidate selection committee. "After 15 minutes I knew he was going to be our candidate," he

said. "1991 was a good year for Marlborough."

Dean passed away from leukemia at 72 on April 7, 2011. He grew up in Marlborough and returned to the town after his move to Canada. Concannon said the two wanted to stay in town, but were unable to find a community where they wouldn't have to worry about yard maintenance in town, so they moved to East Hampton seven years ago.

"My husband would have been really pleased and honored to have been recognized in this way. He was devoted to Marlborough," Concannon said. "He was an avid reader, apart from everything else, but the fact that it was recognized, the Dean family is delighted."

The library was a special project to Dean, Concannon said, who served as treasurer of the board herself after Dean left office as first selectman. "It mattered to him that the library was the best possible for the residents of Marlborough and of course anybody who uses it," she said.

When Wood became the library director, Dean "took me under his wing and walked me through the budget process the first year," she said. "The thing I liked best about Howard was he let you make your case when it came to funding. He always came to meetings with an open mind."

Wood said Dean understood the need for a good public library and was very supportive. The first year the library received a grant from the town, 1993, the grant was \$100,000. By the time Dean left office 10 years later, it was over \$250,000, Wood said.

Bourbeau said the library board talked about honoring Dean at its last meeting.

"Howard was the type of man who you could talk to at any time and who would listen to you," she said. "We wanted to do something special for him."

Several trees and shrubs had been removed



A stone was placed below a tree planted in memory of former first selectman Howard Dean at Richmond Memorial Library, in which he placed much value during his tenure.

from the property and that gave the board the idea to plant a tree in his honor.

Bourbeau, a retired Marlborough Elementary School teacher, taught Dean's two oldest sons, Andrew and Bill Dean, in 1973. She remembered Dean as a young father of three, before Dean's first wife, Irene, passed away and he moved to Canada to start a new business.

Concannon said she felt a complexity of emotions during the ceremony, but was pleased that her late husband was honored.

"There were good words being said," she said. "It made me feel sad because he isn't here anymore, but I was ultimately pleased and happy for him."

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## East Haddam's Ziobron Eyes Rep. Seat

by Joshua Anusewicz

While the two other hopefuls for the state representative seat in the 34th District are familiar names to residents in East Hampton, Republican Melissa Ziobron will be, to most, a relative newcomer to the political scene. But after squeezing out a victory at last week's Republican convention and winning the party's nomination, locals are starting to take notice of the up-and-coming candidate and her improved chances at the November election.

At the district's GOP convention at Angelico's Lake House Restaurant last Wednesday, East Haddam's Ziobron beat out challenger, former East Hampton Town Council member Bill Devine, by a 6-5 vote. Devine has announced his intention to primary, but Ziobron said Tuesday that no official announcement has been made.

Ziobron, 40, the former economic development coordinator of East Haddam, is making her first run at the representative seat, which will be vacated by current state Rep. Gail Hamm. Hamm announced earlier this year she will retire after her term ends in November.

The 34th District encompasses East Hampton, East Haddam and the Westchester portion of Colchester. Hamm has represented the district for 14 years.

Ziobron, a mother of two with her husband of 18 years, Scott, admitted that running for state office has "always been in the back of [her] mind" and had been asked before, but never explored the opportunity until last year.

That's not to say she hasn't been politically involved, however. Ziobron, who grew up in East Hampton but attended Nathan Hale Ray High School in Moodus, started her political career on East Haddam's Board of Education in 2000, serving for six years. This was a tu-

multuous time for that board, Ziobron said, as a proposed elementary school renovation plan failed three referendums due to opposition of the design. Ziobron would ultimately help in passing an alternate plan to renovate the town's middle school, instead; she served on the building committee for the project and then resigned from the school board in 2006 to form a political action committee that advocated for an additional \$10 million for the project.

Ziobron also made an unsuccessful run at the town's first selectman position in 2005. She was defeated by only 140 votes, an experience that she said taught her "what is important in small-town politics." In 2007, Ziobron was hired as the town's economic development coordinator, a position she held until last year when she resigned due to a serious personal matter.

But with the state seat still in her mind, Ziobron set the wheels in motion for her campaign last year, when the lines for the 34th District were redrawn to pair East Haddam with East Hampton. "I took it as a sign," she said. "My hometown would be working with East Haddam now, and they are areas I really love."

Still having family in East Hampton, Ziobron said she has kept up with the issues that have plagued the town in recent years, a development she called "heartbreaking."

"Over the last several years, I've seen East Hampton fractured as a community," Ziobron said. She added that many of the residents she has spoken with are simply looking for someone new to represent the town in Hartford and don't want to see familiar faces in office.

"I can be that fresh voice and get above the fray," she said. "I've heard all the sides of the problems in East Hampton. I'm not planning on getting dragged down by what's happening

in East Hampton; I'm really looking at what's happening in Hartford."

What's happening in Hartford, she said, is that "small rural communities don't have much of a voice," which is an issue for the residents of the district. She added that, despite the lack of clout in Hartford, the district is facing many of the same problems other towns throughout Connecticut are – mainly, "spending money we don't have."

"I take a common-sense approach to it: you spend what you make," Ziobron said. She also listed education, particularly the state's education cost sharing program, as a priority if elected, saying the district needed to "safeguard funding" so that its shares weren't completely stripped away for larger cities.

Ziobron also said she is big supporter of state parks – she is the former president of Friends of Gillette Castle – and particularly cited the former Sunrise Resort in Moodus as a priority. The site, which was purchased by the state several years ago, has fallen into serious disrepair and is a shell of the former campground that once attracted residents throughout the area in the summer months.

"It's very sad for me and many of the residents of this area," Ziobron said.

Ziobron hopes that she will be able to see these priorities through as state representative, and her campaign is off to a rousing start. Ziobron received unanimous support from the East Haddam and Colchester Republican town committees, which earned her five delegates at the convention. Ziobron said her victory was earned from one East Hampton delegate who crossed over and endorsed her.

"I respect [the East Hampton Republican Town Committee's] loyalty to Mr. Devine, but I feel I'm the best candidate," she said confi-



Melissa Ziobron

dently.

Ziobron's campaign will continue to plug along to November, using only Connecticut businesses for materials, she said proudly. Ziobron has also continually used social media to spread her campaign, including Facebook ([facebook.com/ziobron2012](https://www.facebook.com/ziobron2012)), Twitter (@MelissaZiobron), and her own blog, [melissaziobron.blogspot.com](http://melissaziobron.blogspot.com).

"I've really tried to work social media into the campaign; [it's] definitely part of our strategy," she said.

And that strategy has worked so far, earning Ziobron the Republican nomination and the opportunity to make some noise at the state level.



# 9-11 Shooting Victim Tries ‘To Live in a World Without Hate’

by Katelyn Kelleher

A Texan pointing a gun at a gas station clerk 10 days after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks wasn't after any cash.

“He wasn't looking at the money. He was looking at me,” said Rais Bhuiyan, a Bangladesh-born Muslim who moved to the United States to study in New York City. After winning the green card lottery, Bhuiyan moved to Dallas in May 2001 and began working at a friend's gas station. Four months later he was shot in the face by self-proclaimed “Arab slayer” Mark Stroman.

Bhuiyan spoke to a group of 20 Tuesday at Middle Haddam's Christ Episcopal Church of his ordeal and his campaign to save the life of his assailant.

Bhuiyan moved to the U.S. in search of “the American dream,” and, putting his computer systems studies on delay, found himself working at a gas station to help out a friend. Within a few months, he was robbed – though he didn't realize it at first. “People were always coming in to try to sell things. I thought he was trying to sell a gun,” he said. “He pulled it out and I kept saying, ‘how much do you want for it?’”

When Bhuiyan realized he was being robbed, he quickly handed over the money and police apprehended the suspect within six hours. However, the experience shook him, as did the terror attacks that occurred not long after. “I couldn't believe how people could do something to a country like this,” he said.

On Sept. 21, 2001, a customer walked in with a bandana and cap and pointed a gun at Bhuiyan. “I saw a gun and thought it was an-

other robbery,” he said.

In a thick Texas accent, the man asked Bhuiyan where he was from. Before he could respond, the man shot Bhuiyan in the face. “I felt the sting of a million bees stinging my face,” he said. “I saw blood pouring out the right side of my head and my face...and thought my brains were going to fall out.”

Bhuiyan said he threw himself on the ground. “I thought, ‘if he doesn't think I'm dying, he'll shoot me again, he said.’”

The shooter left, and Bhuiyan ran to the barbershop next door where he begged employees to call 911. “It was the first time I saw my face in the mirror,” he said.

On his way to the hospital, his eyes started to close and his clear thoughts were escaping him, Bhuiyan said. He saw images of his family, fiancée and a graveyard in his head. “I thought, ‘just give me a chance and I will devote my life to others,’” he said.

When Bhuiyan came to, he couldn't open his eyes. “I thought I died and angels were coming and looking for me,” he said. “Then I heard a beautiful female voice, ‘Mr. B., you're in the hospital.’”

Bhuiyan learned that Stroman had shot and killed Waqar Hasan, a Pakistani Muslim just six days earlier, on Sept. 15, 2011. Then, on Oct. 4, 2011, he shot and killed Vasudev Patel, a Hindu.

The uninsured Bhuiyan had to go to the hospital nearly every day for follow-ups. After numerous surgeries, his eye was salvaged but lost its sight. He still has 35 pellets in the right side

of his face. “It's bumpy to the touch,” he said.

Bhuiyan lived in fear that Stroman's friends would try to kill him and testified at the trial only with the promise of security escorting him. “I put myself on house arrest for three to four months except for going to the hospital,” he said. “I wouldn't go to the bathroom at the courthouse because I was afraid someone would be in there and try to kill me.”

Stroman was convinced his sentencing should be lowered because he considered himself a “patriot” for his actions, Bhuiyan said.

Stroman was sentenced to death for the first shooting and because he received capital punishment, he was not convicted for his crime against Bhuiyan.

Aside from the fear of being killed, Bhuiyan didn't focus much on Stroman for the first few years after he was shot. His own life was filled with “many disasters,” one of which was the growing debt from his medical costs. “I was focusing on my life and how do I fix everything,” he said.

In 2009, Bhuiyan went on a pilgrimage to Mecca and came back changed. “My heart was softer than ever before,” he said. “I realized hate and killing is not a solution. Saving a human life is the best thing. I did not see [Stroman] as a killer, I saw him as a human being.”

Bhuiyan also saw the potential for Stroman to be reformed and act as a spokesperson against hate. He reached out to the families of Stroman's two other victims. The wife of one of the victims was apprehensive about going public, but eventually saw it Bhuiyan's way.

“She told me, ‘I lost my husband, but by killing this man I will not get him back. But by saving his life, I might be rewarded by God,’” he said.

In 2008, Stroman wrote a letter admitting what he had done was wrong. Bhuiyan said when Stroman learned one of his victims was campaigning to save his life, he burst into tears.

Stroman's execution was set for 6 p.m. July 28, 2011 – although it ultimately was delayed until later that night. “I stayed until 8 p.m. fighting for his life,” Bhuiyan said.

Bhuiyan wanted to have a conversation with Stroman before he was put to death. “We needed to communicate as a human being,” he said. “I was never allowed to see him.”

He sued for a violation of his rights as a victim and on the day of execution, he was still not allowed to speak to Stroman. However, Bhuiyan ran into one of Stroman's friends who had Stroman on speaker phone. “He was sitting next to the execution chamber and I was in the free world. He's getting ready for death,” he said. “I said, ‘Mark, you know for sure I never hated you.’”

“He said, ‘I love you, bro,’” Bhuiyan said. Stroman ended the conversation with “I'll talk to you later.”

Bhuiyan said the conversation proved his point.

“Ten years ago he wanted to kill me. Now he is calling me his brother,” he said. “I never ask God why I was shot. ... I'm trying to break the cycle; to live in a world without hate.”

## Hebron Students Revisit Medieval Times

by Geeta Schrayter

On Saturday, May 19, walking through the entrance to the Hebron Elementary School gym meant stepping back in time. No longer was the gym a place for exercising and playing sports. Instead, visitors found themselves at the 31st annual Medieval Faire, complete with characters in authentic costumes, booths with an array of medieval-inspired activities, and decorations reminiscent of the long ago era.

The faire has been put on all these years under the guidance of former sixth-grade teacher Frank Lewis. Although Lewis retired four years ago, he still takes the lead in putting the event together.

“When I retired I just had too much invested in it,” he said as he stood at the entrance to the gym in a brightly colored jester's outfit. “My wife says I'm worse than the children. I just live for this day where I can dress up – where else can a guy my age dress in yellow tights and not be arrested?” he laughed. “I love losing myself in this and hopefully it gives the kids an experience to remember.”

Preparation for the faire begins in the fall, explained Lewis. Sixth-graders volunteer to take part, and then meet after school to practice and prepare. Over the years, Lewis said the number of participants has ranged from 42 to 92 students. But this year, he had the smallest group ever – just 28 – which he said made everything a bit more challenging. However, Lewis said he had a lot of help from three parent volunteers: Ryan Herington, Rebecca Mitchell and Kristin Ortegon and “without them I couldn't have done it.” Additionally, he said, “all the work that goes into it is worth it.”

And on Saturday morning, families were lined up to enjoy the results of said work, some in medieval costumes of their own, all waiting to purchase tickets and a pouch of shillings to spend on medieval food and games.

“This is something I love doing and I do it for the kids,” Lewis said before returning to character to welcome a guest.

“Hello my lady. Did thou forget thy dress?” he joked as he took in her modern-day jeans and top. “Tickets are five dollars, but I will sell you one for three dollars and a two dollar tip!”

The proceeds from the event are then used to fund next year's faire.

Once families entered, parents and children alike could be found taking part in a variety of games inspired by the medieval period. There was Loggats, a game similar to bowling where a bone is slid across the ground to knock over a group of cones. During medieval times, the shin bones of sheep were used in place of a ball.

Stumps in a Pond, a medieval tug of war where participants stand on stumps, was another popular game at the event. In the faire's information packet it was explained medieval people liked games “that challenged their skills, cunning, and bravery.”

Althea Ruderman, whose niece Madeline acted as one of the gypsies, said the event was “quite impressive.”

“I'm reading about these games and I'm thinking, ‘they didn't just pull these out of their head, they're real [games],’” she said.

For fourth-grader Brandon Boutin, Stumps in a Pond was enjoyable, but he said he liked all the activities.

“The games were really good and tug of war was pretty fun,” he said, and his brother Riley, agreed.

“And it was really fun to throw sponges at the jester,” Brandon added, referring to the game Hit the Jester, where players tried to hit an unlucky jester in the face with a wet sponge.

Their mother April commented on the amount of work put into the event – “they spend all year preparing for this” – and said the kids really liked it.

“The kids really enjoy looking around and playing all the games and feeling as if they've stepped back in time,” she said

In addition to the games, guests were able to use their shillings to purchase crafts like chaplets: wreaths made of flowers or cloth and worn as decoration, and medieval inspired food such as Pauper's Pickles, fresh fruits from the manor, Shrewsbury cakes, and drinks like meade (cranberry juice) and grog (apple juice).

The Medieval Faire had two sessions, and after an hour of game playing and shilling spending during each one, guests enjoyed a skit put on by the students with a cast of characters including King Arthur XIII and his family, an archbishop, a knight, a slew of noblewomen, sorceresses, gypsies and jesters.

Entertainment included a royal concert where



At the 31st annual Medieval Faire held May 19 at Hebron Elementary School, guests enjoyed a variety of games and food inspired by the period, while interacting with a host of medieval characters.

guests enjoyed performances such as the bean setting stick dance, a traditional agricultural dance; the maypole dance, which celebrates summer; madrigals and minstrels, or singers.

Humor was also scattered throughout the event, as seen on a cart with corpse feet sticking out and signs reading “plague victims” along with notices proclaiming “unattended children will be sold as slaves” and the “Rules of the Inn” which included “no sulking loafers or flea-bitten tramps,” “no thieves, fakirs, rouges or tinkers” and “no banging o'tankards on table.”

A spoof of the television game show “cash cab,” also took place, renamed a fitting *Cash Cab* and altered to include questions about the medieval period. The game was treated as though it were an actual television show, com-

plete with commercials like “101 Ways to Cook an Eel” – “thy will never look at eel the same way again” – and a spot for the pharmacy “Bugs and Drugs” – “two shillings off every purchase if you ‘like’ us on Facescroll!”

The audience exclaimed “huzzah!” (Medieval for “hurray”) throughout the show, and was set into fits of laughter during a medieval music countdown hosted by Lady Juliana Seacrest. The top songs of the day included Lady Gaga's “Bad Execution,” Jester Bieber's “One Less Lonely Lady-in-Waiting” and Taylor Swift's “Courtly Love Story.”

All in all, it was apparent that those in attendance would answer “aye” if asked if they'd had a good time. Forsooth (indeed), some children could be heard asking their parents, “Can we stay for the second session, too?”



# East Hampton Council Makes More Cuts to Budget

by Joshua Anusewicz

At a meeting on Tuesday, it appeared the Town Council had approved the newly-adopted Board of Finance budget and was prepared to send it along to referendum with little discussion. But an over-expenditure, caught by councilor Ted Hintz Jr., brought about additional reductions to the town budget.

Last week, the Board of Finance approved \$325,000 in reductions to the budget, which included \$227,500 from the Board of Education, \$70,000 from town operations, and \$27,500 from the capital budget. This brought the total spending plan to \$38.37 million, a \$605,439, or 1.60 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. The mill rate was calculated at 25.99, a 0.31 mill, or 1.21 percent, increase.

The budget originally proposed, which totaled \$38.69 million, was defeated at a referendum earlier this month by a 1,051-777 vote.

With the chance to make additional changes to the budget, council members discussed items they would have liked to include and items they would like to see removed, but ultimately unanimously passed a motion by councilor Barbara Moore to approve.

Councilor Kyle Dostaler questioned the removal of a \$20,000 economic development consultant, but stated that the "Board of Finance

did a very good job." Chairwoman Sue Weintraub agreed on the consultant position and added that the proposed town engineer position that was removed should be "monitored more closely" over the next year to prove that savings are available. Hintz asked why \$8,000 had been set aside in the capital budget for the police department to develop standard operating procedures, when only \$2,000 had been set aside the previous year.

Despite the concerns, the motion passed and the council moved onto the next item: discussion of a transfer to the water fund. Vincent Susco, the town's public utilities administrator, was on hand to discuss the transfer, which totaled \$47,500. Susco said that this helps fund the town's two water systems – Royal Oaks and Village Center – which have an operating budget of \$112,910.

The problem arose when Susco stated that the revenue generated from the water system totals roughly \$89,000, which was caught by Hintz. Hintz stated, after doing calculations based on the rates, the town was accounting for more than half of the total cost for operating the water systems, while rates were staying relatively low.

Finance Director and Acting Interim Town

Manager Jeff Jylkka jumped in to explain that the amount requested to transfer was an estimate that was set in January for "things that pop up" in the course of the fiscal year. He cited that, right now, the town was looking into improvements at the Company No. 1 Fire Station, which could be funded using that additional money requested.

The council, however, was surprised to see that the amount requested was roughly double the \$23,532 needed to close the gap between the revenues of the two water systems and their operating budgets.

"The line items need to reflect what we need for tax purposes," said Weintraub. "This money could be used for other things, and we're over-inflating the budget for things we don't need. That's unacceptable."

Councilor Derek Johnson said he understood that it was an estimate, but this showed that the numbers were just wrong. "If we have facts that contradict the estimates, that's a completely different issue," he said.

"I don't want taxpayers to keep paying into the general fund," councilor George Pfaffenbach said. "They should have to do what everyone else has to do."

What everyone else has to do, Jylkka said, is request an appropriation from the town to fund unforeseen issues, which would usually come from the contingency fund.

With the council in agreement that amount requested was not necessary, the councilors voted unanimously to reduce the transfer by \$23,968, down to \$23,532. Susco said that because water rates do not go into effect until July 15, the council could table approving the transfer until it looked over it further.

The transfer also lowers the overall budget by \$23,968, bringing it down slightly to \$38.35 million, a \$581,471, or 1.54 percent, increase from the current fiscal year. It also brings the mill rate to 25.97 mills, an increase of .29 mills, or 1.13 percent, over the current rate.

The budget will now move to a town meeting Tuesday, May 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall, then on to a second referendum Tuesday, June 5, from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at East Hampton High School.

\* \* \*

The next regular meeting of the Town Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 12, at 6:30 p.m. at East Hampton High School, 15 N. Maple St.

# Colchester Selectmen Discuss What to Do with Donations

by Katelyn Kelleher

At its meeting last Thursday, May 17, the Board of Selectmen discussed updating the town's donation policy to allow a portion of donations to be used for overhead and administrative costs.

The talk came the day after the Board of Finance opted not to cut \$5,921 from Youth and Social Services for food bank and social services coordinator positions.

Youth and Social Services Director Valerie Geato said the town should establish a policy to direct the use of donations.

The department of Youth and Social Services has four accounts: social services, the food bank, the fuel bank and a general account. She said members of the department discussed whether donated money could be used for other expenses when the balance is running low "and the answer is no."

"People write out a check specifically to the Colchester Food Bank and specify on the donation form how they want their money spent and we have to use it for that," she said, adding the department would like to go forward having a separate general discretionary account for families in need.

Geato said she didn't know much of the department's history before 2009, as data wasn't kept well, but in the past donations weren't expended at the level they are now.

"My general sense is that it was between 15 and 30 families [who utilized the department] and now it's between 115 and 200," she said. "We expended about 40 percent before and now about 80 percent of what is coming in."

She pointed out that some organizations have large percentages of the money coming in going toward overhead and administrative costs, but people donating to the food bank "don't

expect their money...to go to anything other than food."

Resident Pam Scheibelein said donations should not be used for anything other than their intended purpose.

"People are very specific with what they want the money used for," she said. "I have always been amazed at what the people in this town do financially even in these hard times. If the people of this town can donate for people in need I don't see why the town can't fund for a position permanently."

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said Colchester is rare in that it operates its own food bank. "Most towns have food banks [but] they're just run by charitable organizations," he said.

Geato said she believed only three towns in New London County have a municipal food bank.

Selectman Greg Cordova said the public might not react favorably to the idea of using donations for salaries and doing so runs the risk of not funding a position.

"Some charities have abused that type of funding," he said. "I'm not saying that it's a bad thing. I wouldn't mind if this works out, but we can't lose the funds to support that position."

Selectman Stan Soby said any changes would need to be explained clearly to the public.

"I think people, when they make a donation, they assume that because the town is paying for [the department], the people who work there are already being paid for by tax dollars," he said. "One hundred percent of the donation should go toward its purpose, so if there's going to be a change we would certainly need to go through an educational process about why

we're making the change, that it may be different from what we've done, but it isn't terribly out of line and that charitable organizations do have administrative overhead costs that need to be covered."

Selectman James Ford said he would rather see the positions funded by tax dollars.

Schuster said he will research and the board will address the item at a later date.

"Of all the problems that we deal with, figuring out how to handle an excess of funds is really not a bad one," he said. "I really want to point out that the reason we're able to have this discussion is because of the complete and total generosity of this town...I think the town should definitely be commended for that level of generosity."

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, the selectmen authorized Schuster to sign necessary documents for a color digital orthophotography contract with WSP Sells.

Information Technology Coordinator Marc Tate explained four bidders, all of which fit the criteria for aerial Geographic Information System (GIS) photography, exceeded the budget for the project. WSP Sells was the lowest bidder at \$7,157 over the \$50,000 budget. The board voted to transfer that amount from the street sign/catch basin capital account to the GIS aerial flight capital account.

According to a memo from Tate, the project "will greatly increase the accuracy of [Colchester's] mapping for assessment, planning, code enforcement, public works and emergency management."

The selectmen also discussed benefits for employees who work at least 20 hours per week. Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove said

there are only "one, maybe two" non-union town employees the policy change would apply to. She said the Board of Education has no such policy, but its employees belong to unions and have individualized contracts.

Schuster said he was "hesitant, with the budget, to increase costs," and although they would not increase by much, he would like to "try to keep costs down" and would be "very hesitant to make this policy change in the situation we are in."

The selectmen transferred excess funds from workers compensation insurance, unemployment compensation and snow removal overtime accounts to the health insurance account as a result of the Board of Education "trending negatively and concern the fund may be depleted by the end of the fiscal year," Schuster said.

Schuster notified the board that a 1982 town ordinance permits the sale of alcohol from noon to 9 p.m. and, because the state now allows for the sale of alcohol on Sundays, it will be permitted in Colchester from noon to 5 p.m.

"We do plan on bringing this back to the Board of Selectmen to have a bigger discussion to see if this is an ordinance we want to keep or modify," Schuster said.

Cordova expressed concern with people not knowing stores will not be able to sell until noon, while the state permits the sale of alcohol from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The selectmen also voted to send the 2012-13 \$50.36 million overall proposed budget to a town meeting, to be held next Thursday, May 31, at 7:15 p.m., at Town Hall.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Thursday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.



# Hebron Lions Club Holds Night of Giving

by Geeta Schrayter

On Friday, May 18, laughter, camaraderie, good food and giving summed up the Hebron Lions Club Annual Night of Giving.

The event began as the sun was setting, sending evening rays of light through the giant windows of the Lions Den at the Hebron Fair Grounds. Members of the Lions Club, apparent as always in their royal purple shirts, mingled with guests and each other prior to being welcomed by Lions Club President Adam Miclette and enjoying dinner.

The annual Night of Giving is put together by the Hebron Lions Charities Inc., and as the meal came to an end, Miclette acknowledged its effort.

"Lions Charities has done a wonderful job putting the program together," he said before introducing Lions Charities President Rich Griswold.

"This is a very special evening," said Griswold. "This is the culmination of a year's work ... [and] this is our opportunity to present our awards to various organizations that we've supported over the years."

The Lions Club is the world's largest service club. Members "do whatever is needed to help their local communities," Lions Club International says on its website. Under the motto "We Serve," the Hebron Lions volunteer and raise funds through various activities, including benefit dinners and the Hebron Harvest Fair.

Don David, one of the directors with Hebron Lions Charities Inc., explained Tuesday the club raises most of their money from the fair, "but in addition we have a number of fundraising dinners, fairground events and a pancake breakfast. Our food booth is used during many of the fairground's events as a fundraiser as well," he said. "In addition, the Hebron Lions Charities receive donations from individuals and businesses."

In 2011, nearly \$105,000 was donated by Hebron Lions Charities to over 30 organizations including The Leukemia Foundation, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Camp Hemlocks, Project Graduation and the Connecticut Rivers Council with the Boy Scouts of America.

During the Night of Giving, the fruits of the Lions' labors in 2011 were handed out to a number of local, state and national organizations.

Lion John Soderberg presented a donation

of \$10,000 to AHM Youth and Family Services, and said being able to raise then give money to different causes was why he'd become a Lion.

"This is a reason why I joined the Lions Club – for the good work we do," he said. "It feels good to give away money like we do tonight."

AHM Vice President Peter Yorio and Executive Director Joel Rosenberg were present to accept the donation.

"This is an invitation the [AHM] board and staff never takes for granted," said Rosenberg. "No other organization comes even close in its support for AHM. ... The time put in by the Hebron Lions Club is truly extraordinary."

The Russell Mercier Senior Center received a \$5,000 donation, and Senior Services Coordinator Sharon Gerrard said "the generosity of the Lions never ceases to amaze me."

In addition to her gratitude for the senior center donation, Gerrard said it meant a lot to her that the Lions worked for causes outside of the country as well, and mentioned the \$4,000 donated to the Lions Clubs International Foundation, which will go towards achieving a challenge put forth by the Bill Gates Foundation to eradicate measles.

Gerrard explained she had a niece and nephew who were adopted from Bogotá, Colombia. Her nephew had measles as a child and doctors said he wouldn't survive, she stated with a shaky voice. But now, she continued, he's about to attend his high school prom.

"I'm touched by the generosity of the Lions and their effort to extend assistance beyond the state," she said.

As the presentations continued, recognition of the Lions' hard work and gratitude for all they do was expressed again and again.

A donation in the amount of \$6,000 was presented to Hebron Interfaith and Human Services, while \$4,000 was given to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, and a check for \$1,500 was presented to the Douglas Library.

Lion John Sullivan, who also works at the library, accepted the check and assured those present "the money donated goes to buy books, books on CD and large print books."

Fire Chief Fred Spano said the fire department "appreciates the good work that everybody [in the Lions Club] does" and due to the fact "the town budget is tight, [the department] can't always get the equipment" it needs. But,



Hebron residents Adrian and Murial Caron received a donation from the Hebron Lions as well as the Hebron Leos Club at the Annual Night of Giving on May 18 for the Greg Caron Foundation and the Wounded Warrior Project.

by pulling together money donated by the Lions over the years, the department was able to purchase a second electric stretcher.

Additional presentations included \$2,000 for FIDELCO, a nonprofit public charity that provides German Shepard guide dogs to the blind; \$3,000 for Camp Rising Sun, a free camp for children who have been diagnosed with cancer; and about \$4,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project and the Greg Caron Foundation.

Marine Sgt. Greg Caron was injured while serving overseas last November. His grandparents Adrian and Murial Caron are Hebron residents, and Adrian was one of the founding members of the Hebron Lions Club. After Caron was injured, the Hebron Lions decided to dedicate the proceeds from the pancake breakfast held during this year's Maple Fest to Caron, his two brothers who are also soldiers, and the

Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that assists wounded soldiers as they recover and transition back to civilian life.

In addition to the breakfast, the Hebron Leos Club also sold sunflowers and held a raffle for the Caron's.

"Today is a great day to be a Lion," Miclette said as the event came to a close. "Our work hasn't stopped. ... There are many activities [we hold] that get us into the position where we are, to be able to give away the money that we do."

And it became apparent his words were true, as the Lions were asked to stay after the event for a business meeting. The celebration completed, it's back to work for the Lions so that next year, they can once again hand out checks to a room full of grateful recipients.

"Our work doesn't stop," said Miclette. "But that's why we're Lions and we're proud of it."

## RHAM Budget Passes on Second Try

by Geeta Schrayter

The results of round two are in, and the RHAM budget has come out on top – although narrowly.

The \$25.06 million budget for fiscal year 2012-13 passed Tuesday by a combined vote in the three RHAM towns of 1,192-1,064.

The budget was initially sent to referendum two weeks prior; however, the budget was \$96,300 heftier, and failed by a vote of 1,031-823.

As was the case at the May 8 referendum, Hebron residents voted against the RHAM budget, by a 930-796 tally. But this time around, Hebron's 'no' wasn't enough to offset the 113-74 'yes' vote in Andover and an overwhelming 'yes' vote – 283-60 – in Marlborough.

Following the May 8 referendum defeat, funding for an additional groundskeeper was eliminated, reducing the budget by \$23,814 plus an additional \$12,186 in employee benefits. But \$7,152 was left in for overtime for the existing groundskeeper, to help maintain the athletic fields.

Another \$20,000 was also cut from legal fees, due to the fact that the Board of Education will not be heading to arbitration with non-certified employees as was previously thought. Instructional supplies were cut by \$15,000 while meetings and conferences were reduced by \$10,000. Property and casualty insurance was also reduced by \$8,000 to \$113,313, due to an unexpected dividend from the insurance company.

Reductions were also made to heating and utilities to the tune of \$2,000 in each account, bringing the items to \$263,329 and \$691,229, respectively. Pre-purchasing an autoclave for the science department caused another \$2,800 reduction.

The cuts brought the budget to a 1.94 per-

cent increase, or \$150,360, over current year spending.

Voter opinions at the polls on Tuesday were decidedly mixed.

"I think it's important to have a good school system," said Andover resident Kevin Kanaitis, "and in order to do that schools need money."

"There were things that were already cut out in this budget that I think we need," Kanaitis, who voted in favor of the initial budget as well, added. "I think [the schools are] going to end up ultimately suffering because of that."

Fellow Andover resident Jessica Calhoun felt similarly.

"I have four young children, so I'm all about the town doing everything they can [for education] because they're our future," she said. "I get concerned because I have friends in other towns where things are being cut back, and when we chose to move to Andover we believed in the town. So we're doing our part to hold up that belief system and we hope everyone else does as well."

In Hebron, Matt Stewart, who graduated from RHAM, supported the budget and said, "I don't want them to cut any sports programs."

However, Kim Sementa was not in favor of the spending package. She said she didn't want to see sports programs and services for the kids cut either, but said she felt cuts should be made "from the top-heavy administration."

"Cutting lacrosse instead of cutting administration is the wrong thing to do," she said.

Resident Jen Malloy was also against the budget, and said, "I'd love to be able to have all the facilities and give the children the world. I would love to do that, but the reality is we only have so much money. Each person only has so much money."

The approved budget includes several new

initiatives from the current year's spending plan. After being self-funded for the past three years at a cost of \$300 per student, lacrosse will now be fully-funded, for \$40,550. Freshman Academy, a program to help at-risk students transition to high school, will also be implemented at a cost of \$30,278; and a five year lease-to-purchase program for band instruments will be utilized, costing \$5,000 over the next five years.

The largest drivers in the budget are a 17 percent increase in health insurance and fuel oil. Transportation comes in at \$1,227,936 – a \$121,071 increase – while health insurance is increasing \$348,587 to \$2,600,604.

"The major problem with the budget was the 17 percent increase in health insurance," Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said Wednesday, "and that's something that we can't control. We try to put wellness programs in place and that sort of thing, but when somebody's sick they need the care, and they need to be paid for."

School choice is also causing a combined increase of \$62,123 for students attending vocational and magnet schools. Lease/purchases including additional wireless access points in the two schools will increase \$65,494, while prof/tech services, which include additional software, increases \$49,584. Additionally, funds for textbook amount to a \$50,144 increase.

Twelve thousand dollars was also included for an architectural study in order to potentially appeal, or look for alternative solutions to, state findings which said there are changes the school had to make, such as allow for greater handicapped accessibility, to bring the building into compliance with the federal Civil Rights office. An additional \$2,000 for curriculum writing is included as well, due to alterations that will need to be made to meet the changing com-

mon core standards.

Decreases in the budget include negotiations of the electrical rate, saving about \$68,000 and renegotiation of the 2004 bonds issued to pay for the building, amounting to about \$150,000 worth of savings. Due to fewer student outplacements or students who have moved out of district, more than \$252,000 in savings were seen in special education. However, \$62,166 was added to the budget for an additional special education teacher to prevent some students from being outplaced in the future, which would then affect special education costs.

The above decreases also had to be netted against significant revenue losses, such as \$326,880 of Federal Education Jobs money and around \$20,000 due to the technology offset Hebron will no longer be paying RHAM as the town has decided not to use the regional school district's server network.

Contracts had an impact on the budget number as well. Administrators will receive a 1.5 percent increase, or \$9,584, and the non-certified staff contract is still pending. Certified staff took a zero percent increase for the year.

"We're very pleased that [the budget] was passed and I think that it was a lot of work by the staff, by the board, by myself – it was a joint effort to get this thing through, and it was a good budget," said Siminski.

Passing the budget is "really the close of this year and starting to get ready for next year," he added.

Based on the number of students attending the school from each of the RHAM towns, Hebron will pay 54.74 percent of the budget, or \$13.72 million; Marlborough will pay 29.16 percent, or \$7.31 million; and Andover will pay 16.10 percent, or \$4.03 million.



# Young Travelers in Hebron Talk About China Trip

by Geeta Schrayter

Some of the individuals that took part in last month's 10-day trip to visit Hebron's sister school in China talked about their experience at the May 10 Board of Education meeting.

Sixth-grader Patrick Wakefield, who said he went on the trip because he has a sister who was adopted from China and has always loved the culture, mentioned the various places the group saw and said "we had a very fun, fun time."

"The best time was staying with the host family," he said, adding the family "was very kind to me."

While describing his time at a Chinese school, Patrick explained the students sat up much straighter than students in America.

"You could put a ruler along the back" of all the students, he said, and they'd all be even. But posture aside, "they all had different personalities and likes," he said, adding "I really like them and hope to go back."

Melissa Geagan, who ventured to China with her daughter Phoebe, described the trip as "unbelievable" and "more than I ever imagined it could have been."

Phoebe, who spent a few nights with a Chinese family as well, said she had "a very good time."

"It couldn't be any more different than any of the trips I'd taken" before, Melissa Geagan said. "I highly recommend anyone who gets the opportunity to take this kind of trip."

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said she was "deeply grateful to how courageous" the group was to be the first bunch of students, teachers and community members from the district to venture on such a trip. She said she received notification from the sister school "that they would like to bring students and teachers here in the fall."

State Sen. Edith Prague, who was present at the meeting, remarked, "How impressive it is to know that these folks went over there and left such a positive feeling – how good for our country to have things like this happen."

Prague attended the meeting to offer an update on some of the new state laws that passed as a result of the legislative session – the biggest of which was Senate Bill 24. The bill was signed into effect on Tuesday.

"As a Board of Education bill, I think we're all quite interested in what it means," said

school board chairwoman Kathy Shea.

Prague stressed the importance of educating teachers on the changes and suggested the board provide copies of a bill summary to them, especially since "there has been so much in the press about the problems negotiating this bill."

Prague said "teachers have not been happy, but if they have all the info on the final analysis" they might have a different view.

"I'm happy with the final bill and I hope the teachers will be," said Prague, who then turned the presentation over to Emanuel Merisotis, senior policy analyst with the House Democrats.

Over the last three months, the senate spent "literally every day working on what [Gov. Dannel P. Malloy] presented at the beginning of the session," said Merisotis.

"The original bill was 160 pages of fairly-complicated issues which we had to sort through," he continued. "The biggest issues in the bill came down to those effecting teachers and what to do about lowest achieving schools."

In regards to the effects of the bill on Hebron, Merisotis explained there was a new set of guidelines to determine teacher tenure including yearly evaluations (principals and administrators are required to be evaluated as well).

Currently, non-tenured teachers in Hebron are evaluated three to four times a year, Cruz explained Wednesday, with some of the evaluations formal and some informal.

"It's a very prescribed process with a lot of support built in for new teachers," she said.

Then, once a teacher has received tenure, they start in a four-year cycle. Every four years, the teacher is given a formal evaluation and during the off-years, they work on a Professional Growth Plan, which requires them to meet with the principal to discuss short and long-term objectives that can be worked on individually or in small teams.

Now that the legislation has changed to yearly formal evaluations, Cruz said one of the concerns was the additional burden on administration. She said district administrators will be required "to focus a lot of time on staff evaluations" and added, "We're going to need qualified administrators to implement this new evaluation system which is now law.

"It's going to be extremely time-consuming," she continued, adding, "The time frame for us

to be able to accomplish this and do it well is short, but we're up for the challenge."

Although the change may cause some inconvenience, Prague said "it is a good thing, because the goal is to improve teacher performance, and a classroom is only as good as its teacher."

"My experience in talking with teachers is they are eager to accept the responsibility because they want to improve," she added. "It may be more work for administrators but it's worth it in the end."

Cruz said she "wholeheartedly" supports professional development, but said, "the challenge becomes being able to do that and in the context of the day. Students are there to be learning."

She said the school district would "figure it out and manage," but, she continued, "I just want people to appreciate what this [bill] is going to do."

Another issue of concern as a result of the change is cost. Merisotis stated that an individual evaluation can cost up to \$500. He noted there was money in the budget to cover the evaluation costs for eight to 10 piloting schools, and Cruz added the district had applied to be one of them, although they had not yet heard if they'd been selected.

Merisotis said an additional aspect of the bill that will affect Hebron is an altered dismissal process for teachers. A summary of the bill from the state website explained the bill "streamlines and shortens teacher termination notice and hearing requirements" and "explicitly allows districts to terminate a teacher on the grounds of ineffectiveness as well as for inefficiency or incompetence."

A portion Merisotis explained they're "most proud of" is the establishment of 20 family resource or health centers and funding for 1,000 new spaces in school readiness programs.

The bill summary explains resource centers as a place that provides services like childcare and school readiness for children three and up who aren't otherwise enrolled in school, and services for the parents of newborns.

"There's a lot to the bill," he said, noting it would be effective July 1 but different aspects would come into full effect at different times.

For example, the new evaluation system will be piloted for a year before it will "roll out fully

a year from the fall," and the tenure changes don't come into effect until 2014 "so evaluations can come up to speed."

Later on in the meeting, the funding for the new spaces in school readiness programs was discussed by Special Education Director Judy Richard.

Of the 1,000 new spots – 600 of which are set aside for the lowest performing schools in the state – Hebron has access to 18.

"We're going to offer 18 preschool spaces," said Richard. "It's for families that can't afford the high quality pre-k[indergarten] programs," and will be funded by the state.

The program will be all-day, and Richard explained "the biggest component is we have to get [National Association for the Education of Young Children] accreditation in two years."

So Hebron, Richard said, is going to have "an all-day pre-K program that's credited."

"It's funding that doesn't come from taxpayers," said Cruz. "What a rich and wonderful experience we can afford to families that would have limited options; we're very fortunate."

Richard said she thought the grant for the program will be received in the fall, and everything will be in place to have students in the program by December.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, Cruz explained Emma Chepya had been hired as speech pathologist to replace a retiring teacher. Cruz said the school was pleasantly surprised to receive upwards of 20 applications. Five were interviewed, and Cruz said she'd "never really seen a transcript quite like [Chepya's]."

Chepya earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Connecticut and received her master's from Southern Connecticut State University this month. Her clinical experience was completed at Ansonia Public Schools from January-May 2012 and Cruz stated Chepya is currently interning at Haskins Laboratories at Yale. Chepya also has her sixth-year degree in speech language pathology. She is scheduled to begin her work in the district in August with a salary of \$49,904.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, at 7 p.m., in the Gilead Hill School music room.

# Changes Coming to Route 66 Speed Limit in Hebron

by Geeta Schrayter

With the help of the state, the town will soon make some safety changes to areas of Route 66, it was announced at the Board of Selectmen's meeting last Thursday, May 17

Over the past few months, various residents – particularly those living in the 55-and-over community The Village at Loveland Hills – have expressed concerns relating to the safety of the route as it travels through town.

In January, resident Milton Porter submitted a petition with 150 signatures asking the selectmen to look into the addition of turning lanes on the road. Since then, that idea, along with the possibility of changing speed limit signs and adding a blinking yellow light, had been worked on by Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney.

In February, Tierney informed the board the state Department of Transportation had verbally committed to a 90-day timeframe to investigate the recommended changes. The results were reported by Tierney at the April 19 meeting. Tierney told the board the DOT had proposed not changing the speed limit after the results of their study showed a low number of accidents.

The state recommended that no change be made to the 35 m.p.h. speed limit for both di-

rections of travel on Route 66 from Grist Mill Road east to Wellwood Road, a distance of 1.09 miles.

The study reported that "no changes are warranted" to the road.

However, Tierney said the study shows 85 percent of traffic currently exceeds the posted speed limit by five miles per hour, and he recommended the selectmen formally disagree with the DOT findings.

The board agreed, and as a result, Tierney, along with Town Planner Mike O'Leary and consulting engineer Tom Fenton, attended a meeting with the State Traffic Commission on May 15.

"I went to the DOT and presented an aerial overview of the entire center and showed them, quite frankly, that it was a minor adjustment," Tierney explained Wednesday.

Tierney said he wanted to see the speed limit of 35 m.p.h. be carried through the center "a little more westerly" before increasing to 45 m.p.h.

"After visually understanding [what the town wanted] they reversed their recommendation

and approved the request," said Tierney.

Tierney said the DOT amended the state traffic recommendation and approved extending the present 35 m.p.h. speed limit for both directions of travel. The department worked with the town and agreed to extend the new limit an additional 500 feet east of Loveland Road.

"That's great," said Chairman Jeff Watt. "We're making progress."

The extended speed limit "is a tribute to the people of Hebron and [residents of] The Village at Loveland Hills that approached the town with a petition and letter" to ask for the changes, Tierney said, adding the results were "a compliment to [the residents'] elected body."

Tierney said the town has already been notified by the state that a work order has been drafted. The changes should be happening within the month.

"We still have some more work to do, but it's great progress," said Watt.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, the board authorized Watt to sign the notice of grant award, project summary and certification form for the Small

Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant awarded in January to fund the installation of a traffic light at the intersection of Main Street and John Horton Boulevard.

In the proposed resolution it was stated the selectmen endorse the project with the STEAP funds and believe "the installation of the light will help advance the economic development initiatives of the town of Hebron and will allow for better safety for our taxpayers, business owners and visitors."

The motion passed unanimously.

The signed form was sent back to the state Office of Policy and Management for review, after which it will be returned to the town and the installation can begin.

"Optimistically, we're still shooting [to have the light installed] for fall," said Tierney. "Once we get started then it will be an easier time frame to judge. We're excited," he added. "We're looking forward to getting going."

\* \* \*

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be Thursday, June 7, at 7:30 p.m., at Town Hall.



# RHAM School Lunch Prices Going Up

by Geeta Schrayter

At the RHAM Board of Education meeting on May 21, board members decided to raise lunch prices for the following year by 20 cents.

Michael Edgar, district manager with Chartwells, the food service management company servicing the school, explained there were mandatory U.S. Department of Agriculture changes for 2012-13 that resulted in the necessary increase.

These changes include minimums and maximums for calories, grains and meat or meat alternatives in school meals, and the fact that meals must now include half a cup of fruits or vegetables.

Edgar explained in the past, students would have been offered the fruit or vegetable, but it's now mandatory that it be placed on their tray.

The cost of offering more fruits and vegetables to meet the minimums and maximums is \$8,000, while the cost of the half a cup of fruit or vegetable requirement for the students who didn't previously take it is \$3,000.

"There's been no meal price increase in RHAM since 2008," Edgar explained, while the overall increase in food prices for school meals has increased 25.6 percent.

As a result, Chartwells recommended the 20 cent increase, which would raise the price of pasta dishes to \$2.45, nuggets, burritos and hamburgers to \$2.95 and deli sandwiches and gourmet salads to \$3.20.

"With this pricing increase the food

program's financial sustainability will be maintained, and that's a big goal," he said.

Edgar said these prices are still lower than some of the surrounding towns, such as Glastonbury and East Haddam. Due to this, he said Chartwells "feels strongly about our proposed pricing levels."

At the end of the meeting, the board moved to accept the increase. During discussion, Board of Education member Tom Tremont called the program "a socialist system" because the government was essentially telling the students what to eat.

"It's not right," he said.

Members Brenda Milhomme and Amy D'Amaddio expressed concern over the ability of students to pay for meals with the increase.

"I'm worried not about the kids who aren't buying [and are bringing their own lunch] but those for who this may be their only meal," said D'Amaddio.

"I'm with Amy about the concern about kids coming here without food" and being unable to pay, added Milhomme.

But Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski reminded the board income guidelines for free and reduced meals are established by federal guidelines.

The board then voted on the increase and it passed 7 to 1, with Danny Holtsclaw against. Holtsclaw had expressed earlier his intention

to vote against the increase, because "I would have liked to see more initiatives by the government and Chartwells as to why students don't participate" in the school lunch program, he said.

"If we're going to increase 20 cents it would have been helpful to see what they're buying... There may be more kids now who are not going to buy school lunch," he added.

\* \* \*

Also at the meeting, the board voted unanimously to approve applying for an investing and personal finance grant intended "to provide local and regional boards of education with an opportunity to develop an investing and personal finance education course," it was explained in a memo from the meeting.

"Growing evidence suggests that many students who graduate from high school lack basic skills in the management of personal finance affairs. Many students are unable to balance a checkbook and lack insight into the basic principals involved with earning, spending, saving and investing," it continued.

The awarded funds need to be used to develop an education course that will "provide students with financial skills that will enable them to apply effective financial decision making as they transition into postsecondary education and/or the workforce."

\* \* \*

The board also discussed the possibility of approving a solar grant and contract with DBS energy. The \$264,000 grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund would go to DBS Energy and cover approximately 35 percent of the cost to install a solar PV system on the roof of RHAM High School.

DBS Energy invests the balance of the cost to install the system, amounting to about \$500,000.

It was explained in the presentation by DBS Energy that Region Eight would then enter into a 25 year Power Purchase Agreement with the company to purchase the solar electricity. No investment is required, and it was explained the high school would save approximately \$10,000 annually in electricity expenditures and \$250,000 over the life of the system at current electricity prices.

The company also maintains the system during the contract term.

"It's pretty exciting," said D'Amaddio.

Holtsclaw stated he'd prefer to seek legal counsel to review the contract with DBS Energy before any action was taken. The board agreed, and the motion was tabled to the following meeting.

\* \* \*

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, June 18, at 6:30 p.m., in the RHAM High School chorus room.

# Portland World War II Vets to Visit Washington

by Joshua Anusewicz

Ed Cyrulik and Perry Kollias look like military guys. Both are 88 years old, but still cut figures of strong, hearty men who could go a couple rounds with men half their age. They are both still active, still drive and have both been married to their wives for over 60 years. Their minds are still sharp, too, retelling stories from over half a century ago - what it was like before the military, what serving during World War II was like, and, most importantly, what it was like to come home.

"I have no regrets about anything," said Kollias, leaning over his cane. "I'm still alive."

It's not lost on either of them that it's a blessing they are still alive; if it wasn't the war that got them, it's not unimaginable to think old age would have by now. They know there aren't many World War II veterans left, with the youngest of those who served at least in their mid-80s.

It's not lost on those at AmericanWarrior, based in Norwich, that there aren't many left, either. With that in mind, the nonprofit organization has raised funds to bring 100 Connecticut veterans, most from World War II, to Washington, D.C., each year to visit the various monuments that honor those who have served our country proudly over the years.

This year, Cyrulik and Kollias were chosen to be part of the program for their service. They will be joined by Cyrulik's daughter Judith Grippo, who will be making the trip as a volunteer "guardian" for the program.

While both men served at the same time and are the same age, their experience of the war was often different. Cyrulik, who reached the rank of Army Corporal, had an experience out of the film *Saving Private Ryan*, serving in the military with two of his brothers. He had been working in Meriden at a defense plant that manufactured field telephones when he was drafted, trained and shipped out to the Southwest Pacific. He served as an engineer during multiple invasions in the Pacific theatre, where he manned a bulldozer that helped clear land and move machinery from amphibious vehicles that landed on the beach.

Cyrulik was part of a "bastard outfit," as he called it, because his company didn't belong to any regiment in particular. "When anybody wanted us, we were there," he said, proudly, from under a navy blue hat with "WWII Vet" emblazoned on the front.

Also serving during the war were his two brothers, John and Adolph, who survived the war as well. (John will also be making the trip to Washington.) Cyrulik recalled an amazing tale of when the troops were preparing to invade the Philippines; while waiting in the city

of Manila, Cyrulik realized that John was also in Manila and set out to find him. He didn't have to look far, as his brother's camp was set up right next to his.

"I asked one of the guys where he was and he says, 'You must be his brother - you look just like him!'" he said. Cyrulik walked in and woke up his sleeping brother, who he said "almost died" at the sight of him.

"We just cried," he remembered fondly. It was the first time they had seen each other in three years.

Cyrulik also recalled the uncivilized natives on the islands they camped on, who would help the troops find bananas, papayas and coconuts to eat, as the rations just weren't cutting it. He also recalled helping anchor large ships in the deep water of the islands, which gave him and his comrades the opportunity to snag choice cargo - new clean clothes or a couple cases of beer - off the ship.

"We knew what was in each box, they were labeled by color," he said, laughing. "So we'd grab them off and dig a hole and hide them in the sand. Of course, they knew about it, and they'd ask where it was. We'd say, 'I don't know, haven't seen it.' And then they'd leave and we'd dig it up."

Kollias, on the other hand, served in Western Europe during the war, participating "in everything except the [Normandy] invasion." He reached the rank of Army Private 1st Class, serving under Gen. George Patton in France and Germany. He recalled seeing Patton several times, equipped with "pearl-handled pistols," and remembered him as a hands-on leader.

"We had this big gun and we got it all ready and camouflaged," he said. "Patton comes over and says, 'No, like this.' He adjusted everything - the camouflaging, the angle, and all that. And he was absolutely right."

As for day-to-day activities, Kollias remembered the discomfort quite well: sleeping on cold sidewalks, or a warm church pew if they were lucky; rarely showering or using an actual toilet. He also remembered the horrific parts of the war: seeing dead horses strewn in the street; being shot at by 12-year-old boys.

"What are you supposed to do?" he said. "If you don't do something, they're going to kill you." Kollias also mentioned a "souvenir" he didn't get to take home from the war: a piece of shrapnel that was lodged in his body for two months before being removed.

And although they served in different theatres of the war - "I was in a jungle fight, he was in a street fight," Cyrulik likes to say - they both remember where they were when the war ended. Cyrulik's memory was unceremonious: he remembered hearing two bombs go off on a



**Portland residents and World War II veterans Perry Kollias, left, and Ed Cyrulik will be flying to the nation's capital this Memorial Day weekend to visit the various war monuments, including the World War II monument. The two were selected by AmericanWarrior, a nonprofit that funds the trip for over 100 veterans across Connecticut.**

distant island and not thinking much of it. "It sounded like just another bomb," he said.

Kollias recalled being with a large number of troops, on their way to Marseilles, France, to be shipped off to Japan to help the efforts in the Pacific. When they got there, however, they got the word: the war was over.

"Did I mention that Harry Truman is my hero?" he said, smiling.

Months later, the two men were discharged, but not without their "liberty boats" running into natural disasters on the way; Kollias a hurricane and Cyrulik a typhoon. But they made it home safely and started their post-war lives. Cyrulik returned to the defense factory and worked as an apprentice plumber before becoming a mechanical maintenance supervisor at Pratt & Whitney, where he stayed for 35 years. Kollias returned to attend Boston University and received a degree in business administration. He then worked for Sears in Hartford in the credit department for 25 years.

But both agreed their favorite job has been watching their grandchildren grow, most of whom are now high school- or college-aged and well on their way to successful careers. "It was the best job I ever had," Kollias said of raising his two grandchildren.

Now the two who have given so much for their families and their country will be honored in a way that both men are very much looking forward to. "I haven't been able to see the monuments, so it's going to be thrilling," Cyrulik said, smiling.

"I'm going to enjoy it," Kollias added. "It's nice of the people to remember us a little bit."

The men will be leaving from Bradley International Airport in Windsor Locks tomorrow morning, May 26, at 7 a.m. They will then take a chartered plane to Washington for the day to see the various monuments, with the World War II monument being the main attraction. The group will then return Saturday night, with the entire cost of the trip for the veterans covered by AmericanWarrior.

True to AmericanWarrior's mission to "support and honor American veterans and patriotic operations," Cyrulik and Kollias both said they feel honored to be part of the program alongside so many that served their country valiantly. And, surely, those men will be proud to be alongside veterans like Cyrulik and Kollias, true American warriors.

For more information on AmericanWarrior, visit [americanwarrior.us](http://americanwarrior.us).



# Portland Dems Tab Phelps to Face Carpino for 32nd Race

by Joshua Anusewicz

On Tuesday, Board of Education Chairman Christopher Phelps was unanimously selected by Cromwell and Portland Democrats as the Democratic candidate for state representative for the 32nd District. Phelps will change the incumbent candidate, Republican Christie Carpino of Cromwell, who is currently serving her first term in office.

At Tuesday's convention, Phelps listed his accomplishments on the Board of Education, which have included major academic improvements with little to no budget increases.

"I am proud of our success improving student achievement in Portland while keeping tight rein on the growth of our budget," said Phelps. "Over the last four years, we have twice implemented 'no-increase' budgets without layoffs or cuts in programs. At the same time, student test scores have risen

steadily, Brownstone Intermediate School was named a Blue Ribbon School, and Portland High School recently achieved national ranking from U.S. News."

Phelps was supported by First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, who called him a "thoughtful, dedicated, and passionate advocate for our town." Tim Connelly, the chairman of the Cromwell Board of Assessment Appeals, also supported Phelps, calling him a "true leader" and referring to his work on the school board as "nothing short of extraordinary."

Phelps has been on the school board since 2003, and is the longest-serving member of the board. Professionally, he has worked as a legislative advocate and director of consumer and nonprofit advocacy groups in Hartford.

From the Editor's Desk

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Late last week, I was watching one of the various sports cable channels, and on the ticker across the bottom of the screen it said the Diamondbacks activated outfielder Chris Young from the disabled list. Since Hebron's own A.J. Pollock had essentially taken Young's place on the roster when the slugger hit the DL, I feared this likely meant Pollock would head back down to Triple-A.

I quickly hopped online and confirmed my suspicions: Pollock had indeed been sent down.

It wasn't an altogether unexpected move; like I said, Pollock had basically been filling Young's spot, and in baseball, when a guy's big-league call comes after someone else goes on the DL, said guy often goes back down to the minors when the person on the DL is well enough to play again.

A.J. probably didn't hit as well during his brief stint in the majors as he would've liked, but he had been hitting better as of late. He actually got his first big-league homer May 11, a 416-foot bomb off the Giants' Madison Bumgarner, who's no slouch. I watched the replay of the home run on the Internet over the weekend, and it really was a shot, reaching the second deck at Chase Field in Phoenix.

And as is baseball tradition for one's first big-league home run, after rounding the bases, A.J. was briefly given the silent treatment by his teammates upon arriving in the dugout, before they erupted in lots of cheers, laughter and head-slaps. It was very fun to see.

Ultimately, A.J. wound up hitting .229 with that home run, two doubles and four RBI over 20 games. Diamondbacks manager Kirk Gibson told the Associated Press he feels "the time [A.J.] got here will be invaluable."

(When I interviewed A.J. for the May 4 issue of the *Rivereast*, I also chatted briefly with Gibson and asked what he felt about the former RHAM star. And Gibson was very impressed with what he'd seen, saying A.J.'s got an "aggressive, burning desire" and predicted "he's gonna be a great ballplayer.")

Now that he's back with Triple-A Reno, A.J. should return to hitting every day, which isn't

something he'd been doing with Arizona. And it seems he's picking up right where he left off; his first game back in a Reno Aces uniform was this past Sunday, and in his very first at-bat, A.J. slugged a three-run double, and later made a leaping grab of a ball hit to the 420-foot mark at Aces Ballpark.

"He's a five-tool player," Aces manager Brett Butler told the *Reno Gazette-Journal* Sunday. "There's not a lot of players like that – that can hit, hit with power, can run and throw and steal a bag. He has all aspects of the game, and it's fun to watch him play."

While A.J.'s first stint in the majors may have been a brief cup of coffee, I'm sure he'll be back. In fact, I wouldn't be shocked to see him back in Phoenix later this season. He's got too much talent to be contained in Triple-A for long.

\* \* \*

A couple months back I relayed a classic Lou Grant quote from *Mary Tyler Moore*. Keeping in the classic TV vein, here's another brief exchange from a first-season *Cheers* episode, from before Sam and Diane started dating but after they realized – and were trying to deny – they were attracted to one another. I've seen this episode several times but it still makes me laugh out loud, as is the case with most *Cheers* episodes; it's probably my favorite sitcom of all time. Nothing has stood the test of time, and held up to repeated viewings over the years, quite like it – particularly the early-season, Diane episodes. Anyway, here's the exchange (and for those who have never seen *Cheers*, it helps to know Norm is the consummate barfly):

Sam: Would you just admit that you're hung up on me, damn it?

Diane: I am not!

Sam: You are too! (*both get louder*)

Diane: I am not!

Sam: You are too!

Norm: (*from his barstool*) Please, please! Do you think I would behave this way in *your* home?

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Goff Unanimously Nominated for State Rep. Seat

by Joshua Anusewicz

Former Town Council member Christopher Goff was unanimously nominated as the Democratic candidate for the state representative seat in the 34th District at the Democratic convention Tuesday at Nathan Hale-Ray High School in Moodus.

The district, which now serves East Hampton, East Haddam and the Westchester section of Colchester, will have an open representative seat this year, as East Hampton's Gail Hamm has announced she will be retiring from the seat after 14 years. Goff announced two months ago he was seeking to fill the impending vacancy.

Goff, who has also been endorsed by the Democratic town committees of all three towns, said in a statement Wednesday that he "brings enthusiasm and a life-long commitment to the community to his candidacy." He also said Wednesday the theme of his campaign is "posi-

tive and productive."

"We need the three towns to work as one district to move forward," he added.

Goff, who served on the Town Council for eight years and the Board of Education for four years, was strongly supported Tuesday by East Hampton's Red McKinney and East Haddam's John Blaschik, who touted his years of public service. Goff said he has also received letters of support from Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and Congressman Joe Courtney.

With Goff's nomination, the race for Hamm's seat is starting to take shape. Candidate Melissa Ziobron of East Haddam was selected last week at the Republican convention by a close 6-5 vote over East Hampton's Bill Devine. (An article about Ziobron appears elsewhere in this issue.) Devine has announced that he plans to primary.

# Snake Bites Bacon Student

by Katelyn Kelleher

A snake that bit a student at Bacon Academy Monday, May 14 was found to be non-venomous.

School administrators called 9-1-1 at 3:08 p.m. after a freshman on the track team reported he had attempted to remove a snake from the track area, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin said. Medical responders took a photo of the six-inch snake and sent it to poison control. The snake was identified as not poisonous and the student was not transported.

Loiselle-Goodwin said the responders collected the snake and "hopefully will keep it alive."

# East Hampton Police News

5/2: Anthony J. Sanner, 30, of 5 Ola Ave., was involved in motor vehicle collision when he lost control of his vehicle and it collided with a parked vehicle at a Summit Street property, East Hampton Police said. Sanner was arrested for DUI, police said.

5/12: Cody A. Okarmus, 23, who police had no certain address for, was arrested for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), police said.

5/13: Blair J. Binge, 59, of 17 Emerson Rd., was arrested for DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

5/15: Heidi LaFave, 41, who police had no known address for, was arrested for issuing a bad check and sixth-degree larceny stemming from an April 24, 2007, incident, police said.

5/16: Nicole M. Klusek, 21, of 90 Middletown Ave., was arrested for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), police said.

5/17: Nicholas J. Hall, 18, of 22 No. Main St., was arrested for disorderly conduct, threatening and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

# Andover Police News

5/15: A vehicle driven by Glenn Gondyke, 50, of 373 Windham Rd., Hampton, failed to stop in time, hitting the back of a vehicle driven by Nicole Dumas, 38, of 234 Route 66, Columbia, who was slowing down for stopped traffic. The crash pushed Dumas' vehicle into a vehicle driven by Mark Appell, 51, of 2398 E. Camelback Rd., Phoenix, AZ. Dumas was transported by Andover Ambulance to Windham Hospital for possible injury, State Police said.

# Marlborough Police News

5/21: Matthew Lee Carr, 27 of 835 Gilead St., Hebron, was charged with first-degree criminal trespassing, third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

# Colchester Police News

5/16: Scott Olearnick, 20, of 43 Shanaghan Rd., East Haddam, turned himself in on active arrest warrant for reckless driving, second-degree reckless endangerment and operating a motorcycle without a motorcycle license, stemming from an Aug. 26 crash, State Police said.

5/16: A restaurant on South Main Street was broken into through a rear door and money was taken, State Police said.

5/18: Andrew Currier, 19, of 189 Lebanon Ave., Colchester, was arrested on a warrant for violating a protective order and criminal possession of a firearm, State Police said.

5/19: A vehicle left parked and unoccupied at St. Andrews Church at 128 Norwich Ave.

# Hebron Police News

5/20: William Wade Jr., 37, of 36 Cavanaugh Rd., Chaplin, was charged with criminal violation of a protective order, breach of peace, disorderly conduct and risk of injury to a minor, State Police said.

was struck on the passenger side and the driver responsible evaded the scene. The case is still open, State Police said.

5/20: Nicholas Poppiti, 52, of 198 Lebanon Ave., Lebanon, was transported to Backus Hospital for a minor knee/leg injury after a vehicle driven by Alice Bartha, 52, of 32 Felicia Baber Ln., Colchester, backed into him in the Stop & Shop parking lot on Linwood Avenue, State Police said.

5/20: Patrick Stanulonis, 51, of 191 Westchester Rd., was charged with DUI and failure to maintain a lane after a one-vehicle accident, State Police said.



# Obituaries

## Andover

### Marian Louise Rankl

Marian Louise Rankl, 92, of Andover and formerly of Marlborough, passed away at home Thursday afternoon, May 17, with her beloved family by her side. Born in Hebron March 24, 1920, she was a daughter of the late Arthur and Helen (White) Keefe.

She married Max Rankl on Nov. 23, 1941. He survives her. Marian retired several years ago after having worked in the cafeteria at RHAM High School. She was an avid reader and she loved tending to her garden, camping and fishing up North. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family as a devoted and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

In addition to her husband of 70 years, survivors include three daughters, Valerie and her husband Edward Jurovaty, Jr. with whom she resided, in Andover, Phyllis and her husband William Garrison of Campbell Creek, NC, Linda and her husband John O'Neill of Cedar, MI; a sister, Margaret Ely of Hebron; six grandchildren and their spouses, William Garrison and his wife Kristin, Daniel Garrison and his wife Katy, Todd Jurovaty and his wife Charlene, Edward Jurovaty and his wife Melissa, Ryan Jurovaty, Erin O'Neill and her husband Jeremiah Sequoia; seven great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren and numerous extended family members and friends.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to special friends and caretakers, Bert and Boo Reaviel of Coventry, who helped them during this difficult time.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by a son, Steven Rankl and three brothers, Sherwood, Stanley and Gordon Keefe.

A graveside funeral service was held Saturday, May 19, at 1 p.m., at Gilead Cemetery, Gilead Street, Hebron.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Andover Volunteer Fire Dept. 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, visit [auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com](http://auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com).

## Amston

### Raymond Crossland Kroll

Raymond Crossland Kroll, 78, of Amston, passed away Monday, May 14, in Glastonbury.

Husband of the late Gloria Huminski Kroll, he is survived by daughter Elizabeth K. Gorski and her husband Andrew of Glastonbury; son William R. Kroll and his wife Teresa of Pataskala, OH; brother Malcolm S. Kroll and his wife Judith of Branford; and six grandchildren: Karl, Katrina and Kristine Kroll and Simone, Lukas and Kazimir Gorski.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a brother, Kenneth C. Kroll.

A son of the late Lester B. and Lillian Crossland Kroll, Raymond was born in West Haven on Sept. 26, 1933. He was an Air Force fighter pilot during the Korean War and graduated from the University of Connecticut with a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He was a data processing manager for 16 years and was past treasurer and president of DPMA. He was also a Sho-Dan of Blue Dragon Judo Club and was a self-employed contractor for Salmonbrook Home Improvement.

Friends visited with the family Monday, May 21, at Beecher & Bennett Taylor Funeral Home, 410 Campbell Ave., West Haven. A graveside service with military honors followed in Oak Grove Cemetery, West Haven.

## East Hampton

### Cynthia Jones

Cynthia "CeCe" Jones, 46, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully Thursday, May 17. Born March 17, 1966, in Middletown, she was a daughter of the late Lealmond and Thena (Doyle) Jones.

Cynthia was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and worked as an administrative assistant at Aetna. She was also an honorary member of the Farmington Valley Chorus.

Cynthia is survived by two sisters and brothers-in-law, Gail and Jeff Hansen of Moodus and Cathy and Rick Saunders of Marlborough; a brother-in-law, Robert Cronin of Moodus; several nieces and nephews, Michael and Kelly Cioe, Brenna Doyle, Tammy and Ben Noble, Shawn Cronin and Eliza, Evan and Owen LoPresti; and many cousins and friends.

She was predeceased by her sister, Brenda Cronin.

A memorial service was held Wednesday, May 23, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in Lakeview Cemetery. Calling hours were Tuesday, May 22, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22718, Oklahoma City, OK 73123-1718.

Family and friends may leave a condolence message by visiting [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Lucien C. Mrowka

Lucien C. Mrowka, 70, beloved husband of Dorothy Ploszaj Mrowka of Colchester, passed away Thursday, May 17, at Middlesex Hospital, with his family by his side. He was born March 3, 1942, in Norwich, son of Lucien and Helen Wotjkiewicz Mrowka.

Lucien was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in Germany, attaining the rank of SP5. He was employed as an engineer for United Tech and was past president of St. Joseph's Polish Club, served on the board of directors and was a member of Our Children Dance Group, served on the Town of Colchester Recreation Commission and was manager of the former Hub Ford baseball team, started instructional Little league of Colchester, helped build the John McCarthy field that belonged to the Knights of Columbus and was a member of St. Andrew's Catholic Church, where he was head collector of the 9:30 Mass.

Besides his loving wife Dorothy, he leaves his mother and father-in-law, Joseph and Stella Ploszaj; his daughter Tammy and her husband Rick Keller; a son Jeffrey Watson; two brothers, Peter and wife Kathy Mrowka, Charles and wife Debbie Mrowka; a sister, Mary Ann and her husband Tom Tangari; granddaughter, Taylor Elizabeth Watson; grandson, Tyler Keller; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his son, David Watson. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, May 21, directly at St. Andrew's Church, Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial followed with full military honors at St. Joseph Cemetery. Visitation was Sunday, May 20, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester.

Memorial donations may be made to Middlesex Hospice c/o Middlesex Hospital, Middletown, or to the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department.

## Portland

### David Frederick Post

David Frederick Post of Middletown, beloved husband of Constance (Connie) St. Onge Post, died Saturday, May 19, after a long and courageous battle with prostate cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

David was born July 17, 1953, in Meriden, to the late Frederick J. Post and Doris A. (Melmer) Post. He grew up in Middletown and Portland, graduating from Portland High School in 1971. He received a bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College in 1975. David was employed as a research analyst with the Connecticut Department of Labor in Wethersfield for 30 years; it was there that he met Connie, whom he married Nov. 30, 1985.

In addition to Connie, he is survived by his sons, John David Post and Andrew William Post, both of Middletown; and his brother, Stephen Robert Post of Aberdeen, MD. In addition, he is survived by his brother-in-law and his wife, William H. and Jane St. Onge of Putnam; his sisters-in-law, Mary R. St. Onge and her husband Peter Garrison of Woodstock; Suzanne A. St. Onge and Anne E. St. Onge, both of Thompson.

He is also survived by his nephew, William W. St. Onge of Putnam, and his nieces, Caroline McLaughlin of Boston, MA; Sarah and Travis Sumner of Newburyport, MA; Suzanne and Neel Smith of Slate Hill, NY and Grace Garrison and Matt Coogan of Newburyport, MA.

In addition to his parents, his aunt Mary F. Post and his uncle, Robert C. Melmer predeceased David.

His funeral services were held Tuesday, May 22, from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Pius X Church, where David was a lector, 310 Westfield St., Middletown at 10 a.m. Burial was in Indian Hill Cemetery, Middletown. Calling hours were Monday, May 21, at Biega Funeral Home.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club, c/o Lisa Burns, 24 Sandy Neck Rd, East Sandwich, MA 02537 or St. Pius X Church, 310 Westfield St., Middletown. CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Antone Costa

Antone "Tony" Costa died Saturday, April 7, at his home in Jupiter, FL. He was a longtime resident of Colchester. He was born Sept. 24, 1921, in Attleboro, MA.

He was predeceased by his wife of 51 years, Valentine; a half-brother, Frank; and a daughter, Genine, who died in infancy.

He is survived by his five children, Janice Loomis, Tony Costa (spouse Suzanne), Margaret Gayda (spouse Michael), Ernest Costa (spouse Sue), Barrie Cunard (spouse Sam). He also leaves behind his second wife, 13 grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and six siblings.

Friends and family are invited to a celebration of his life Sunday, June 3, at 3 p.m., at St. Joseph's Polish Club, 395 South Main St., Colchester.

Donations may be sent in his memory to Hospice of Palm Beach County Foundation, 5300 East Ave., West Palm Beach, FL 33407.

## Colchester

### Anna Zieziulewicz

Anna (Topaz) Larson Zieziulewicz, 101, of Salem, passed away Sunday, May 13, in Colchester. She was born July 11, 1910, in Yonkers, NY, daughter of Peter and Mary (Homiak) Topaz.

She was first married to Harold Larson, then to Michael Zieziulewicz. They ran Michael's IGA Store in Waterford.

Both husbands predeceased her, along with a son, Michael J. Zieziulewicz; two sisters, Ida and Bertha; and a brother, Steven.

She enjoyed her flowers and her garden, loved bowling and playing cards. She was an auxiliary member of the Goshen Fire Department.

Surviving are her son, Robert and his wife, Eleanor Larson; three daughters, Sophia and her husband, Marty Martinson, Mary Anne O'Keefe, and Carol and her husband, Jim Robinson; daughter-in-law, Delia Zieziulewicz; a sister, Helen Fogarty; a sister-in-law, Evelyn Larson Quist; special nephew, James Fogarty; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Thursday, May 17, at the Belmont/Sabrowski Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by a Service of Devine Liturgy at St. Mary's Ukrainian Church, Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Burial will follow in St. John Cemetery, Chesterfield.

Donations may be made to her church or the Connecticut Humane Society, 169 Old Colchester Rd., Quaker Hill, CT 06375, in her memory.

## Haddam Neck

### Ronald R. Perron

Ronald R. Perron, 70, of Haddam Neck, husband of Helen (Sheltra) Perron, passed away Sunday, May 20, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Sept. 6, 1941, in Barton, VT, he was the son of Almy (Shatney) and the late Rene Perron.

Ronald lived in Haddam Neck for 50 years. He worked for the state of Connecticut as a highway engineer for many years. He was an original member of the Haddam Neck Volunteer Fire Department and a former deacon at the Haddam Neck Congregational Church.

Besides his wife, Ronald leaves his mother, Almy (Shatney) Perron; a son, Neal Perron of Cromwell; a daughter-in-law, Tammy Perron of Cromwell; five sisters and brothers-in-law, Linda and Michael Bradford of Orange, Marlene and Bill Dennen of Colchester, Donna and Rick Godbout of Southport, NC, Diane and Eddy Blodgett of Barre, VT, and Bonnie and Don Morin of Richmond, VT; two grandchildren, Dharma and Sophie Perron; and several nieces and nephews.

The funeral service was held Thursday, May 24, at Haddam Neck Congregational Church, 408 Quarry Hill Rd., Haddam Neck, at 11 am. Burial followed in Rock Landing Cemetery. Calling hours were Wednesday, May 23, at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Liberty Bank Memorial Fund for Ronald Perron, c/o Tammy Perron, 315 Main St., Middletown, CT 06457, or to Haddam Neck Congregational Church, c/o Sue Olsen, 11 Injun Hollow Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

Family and friends may leave a condolence message by visiting [spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Lois Julia Whalen

Lois Julia (Douville) Whalen, 72, of Cromwell, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Sunday, May 20, at the Masonic Home in Wallingford. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Julia (Steiner) Douville.

Lois lived most of her life in Middletown, was a catechism teacher, Eucharistic minister and was very active at St. Pius X Church. She also lived in Cromwell since 2004, moving from East Hampton, and was employed at Stone Container for several years and at Apria Health Care retiring in 2004. Lois was a member of the PTA, an avid bowler, and a diehard Red Sox fan but was happiest surrounded by friends, family and her grandchildren, whom she adored.

She is survived two sons, Craig T. Whalen of Middletown and Daniel F. Whalen and his partner, Robin, of Tolland; a brother, Phillip Douville of Middletown; five grandchildren, Alexis, Danielle, Destin, Megan and Nathaniel; and several nieces, including Tina Eaton and her husband, Richard, of Nashua, NH, Suzanne Church and her husband, Dave, of Middletown and Gabrielle Douville of Middletown.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Thursday, May 24, at St. Pius X Church, 310 Westfield St., Middletown. Interment will be at the convenience of the family in St. Mary's Cemetery in East Hartford. Friends called Wednesday, May 23, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Lois' memory to St. Pius X Church, 310 Westfield St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## Portland

### John A. Zalewski

John A. Zalewski, 74, of Middletown, beloved husband of 35 years to Frederica (LaPut) Zalewski, died Monday, May 14 at Hartford Hospital after a long and courageous battle following open heart surgery.

He was born in Portland, son of the late Joseph M. and Wanda (Suchocki) Zalewski. Prior to his retirement, John was a machinist at Pratt & Whitney for 40 years and most recently was a crossing guard for the city of Middletown. He was once an active member of the Elks and Polish Falcons. He enjoyed camping, trips to Florida and rooting for the Red Sox. Every day of his life he showed us what it meant to be a good husband, dad and grandfather. He told it like it was, but always with a good heart. He loved his family and he loved life.

In addition to his wife, John is survived by two daughters, Jacqueline Zalewski, of Middletown, Michele Pallotti and her husband, Stephen, of Suffield; two sisters, Mary Curtiss, of Massachusetts, Elizabeth Zich, of Middletown; three grandchildren, Dillon Chapman, Alexa and Jacob Pallotti; also several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by four brothers, Henry, Peter, Paul and Raymond, and a sister, Frances Zalewski.

Funeral services were held Thursday, May 16, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home Thursday before the service. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Those who wish may send memorial contributions to a charity of the donor's choice.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit [biegafuneralhome.com](http://biegafuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Celina M. Lucier

Celina M. Lucier, 61, of 59 Harrington Ct., formerly of Bozrah, died Tuesday afternoon, May 24, at Harrington Court. She was born in Norwich Aug. 17, 1950, the daughter of the late Jeanette Lucier. Celina was employed for a number of years as an office clerk at Seaside Regional Center in Waterford.

She is survived by her uncle, George Lucier of Jewett City, her companion and friend Lisa Ruffo of Norwich and her guardian Roger Stefon of Baltic and cousins.

A special thank you to all her friends and family at Harrington Court.

Donations may be made in her memory to the Harrington Court Recreation Fund, 59 Harrington Court, Colchester, CT 06415.

A graveside service will be held today, May 25, at 2 p.m., at St. Mary's Cemetery in Baltic. There are no calling hours.

Guillot Funeral Home, 75 South B. St., Taftville, is in charge of arrangements.

## More Obituaries on Next Page



## Colchester

### George W. Brooks

George W. Brooks, 89, formerly of East Hartford and Manchester, died Friday, May 18, at Apple Rehab in Colchester. George was born in Greenfield, MA, the son of Fred and Viola (Dupre) Brooks.

He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II and had retired as the head of security at One Constitution Plaza. George was an avid golfer and was a very giving donator to numerous charities.

He was predeceased by his first wife, Irene (Roy) Brooks, and is survived by his daughters, Carol Gambrel and her husband Ken of St. Petersburg, FL, and Gay St. Louis and her husband Al of Colchester; his grandchildren, Wayne Besaw Jr., Irene Renè Lambert, Jason St. Louis and Jessica Kelton; and his great-grandchildren, Victoria Besaw, Simon Lambert, Sydney Lambert, Grace Kelton and Zoey Kelton.

George was also predeceased by his second wife Mary (DellaRoca) Brooks and is survived by his step- daughter Gloria Mackey. Other survivors include his sister Arlene Aniello of Old Lyme and his sister-in-law Joanne Prutz.

George was also predeceased by his siblings, Beatrice Wilson, Arthur Brooks, Donald Prutz and Shirley Macri.

Family and friends called at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester, Tuesday, May 22, followed by a funeral service at the funeral home. Burial followed, with military honors, at the Connecticut State Veterans' Cemetery, Middletown.

Those wishing may make memorial donations to a charity that supports the veterans who served in the U.S. military.

For online condolences, visit [tierneyfuneralhome.com](http://tierneyfuneralhome.com).

## Portland

### Olga Pashok Rizza

Olga Pashok Rizza, 90, of Portland, passed away Saturday, May 12, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Bloomfield, she was the daughter of the late Michael and Katherine (Shework) Pashok.

Olga lived most of her life in Rocky Hill, moving to Portland 20 years ago after retiring from Rocky Hill Veterans' Hospital. She loved to garden. She adored her grandchildren and was a very devoted mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Olga is survived by her son, Anthony Rizza and his wife, Deborah of Rocky Hill; three daughters, Elizabeth Devlin and her husband, Bradford Sr. of Glastonbury, Katherine Taylor and her husband, Robert of Portland, and Marjorie Regan of Charlestown, NH; seven grandchildren, Hollie Rostosky, Kelly Robbins and her husband, Matthew, Bradford Devlin Jr. and his wife Kirsten, Allison Taylor Kulesher and her husband Thomas, Robert Taylor, Nicholas Rizza and Danielle Rizza; one great-grandchild, William Devlin Robbins; two nieces and a nephew.

Along with her parents, she was predeceased by her sister, Anna Waldie.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to all of the compassionate and devoted people who helped Olga reach age 90, to watch her beautiful granddaughter, Allison, marry and to hold her handsome great-grandson, William. Thank you, Dr. Aaron Shafer, Lakisha Mobley, the Infusion Center at the Helen & Harry Gray Center, especially Jen, Rhea and Deidre. Thanks to Dr. Gates of Portland Family Practice, Middlesex Hospital ER staff, Hospice Unit, and the Portland Fire Department.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 15, at the Cromwell Funeral Home, 506 Main St., Cromwell. Interment followed in Rocky Hill Center Cemetery.

Friends may make donations in Olga's memory to Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

Messages of condolence may be sent to the family at [doolittlefuneralservice.com](http://doolittlefuneralservice.com).

## Hebron

### Paul Allan Taylor

Paul Allan Taylor, 78, of Dunedin, FL passed away Thursday, March 22. He was born April 3, 1933 in Burlington, VT, grew up in Glastonbury, and resided in East Hartford, Hebron and Mansfield during his adult life.

Paul was a devoted husband and loving father. He was a Korean War veteran in the USAF. Paul was a member of Columbia Lodge No. 25 AF&AM, Good Intent Chapter No. 17 OES, Scottish & York Rites and Sphinx Shrine (Highland bagpipe unit) in CT. He worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft as a manufacturing engineer, and United Technologies Corp. retiring from their Fuel Cell Division in 1992. He enjoyed golf, traveling and riding his Harley Davidson during the golden years in Dunedin, FL.

Paul was predeceased by his first wife Janet (Keller) in 1985, and his second wife Jacqueline (Smith) in 2008.

He is survived by his five children: Deborah (Ronald) Savaria, Richard (Andrea) Taylor, Susan Taylor, Stephen (Donna) Taylor, Jennifer O'Connor, and stepson Jeffrey (Tronia) Smith; eight grandchildren: Jessica (Robert) Lemus, Lauren Thomas, Andrew and Taylor O'Connor, Carl and Allison Taylor, Sarah and Christopher Smith; and two great-grandsons, Joshua and Kevin O'Connor-Rivera.

Interment of ashes will be at the convenience of the family at Old Church Cemetery, South Glastonbury.

Memorial contributions may be made in Paul's name to the Church of the Good Shepherd, 639 Edgewater Dr., Dunedin, FL 34698 or to Shriners' Hospitals for Children. ([shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org))

## Marlborough

### Fernande "Fern" Daigle

Fernande "Fern" Daigle, 75, of Vernon, died peacefully Tuesday, (May 22, 2012), after a long struggle with cancer. Born on July 1, 1936 in Fort Kent, ME, daughter of the late Emile and Leona (Marquis) Daigle; she had lived in Marlborough for many years before moving to Vernon.

Fern worked a number of years as a paraprofessional at Hartford High School and sold Avon products for over 20 years and left because of failing illness. She crocheted hundreds of baby hats for neonatal babies for a number of years for local hospitals.

Fern is survived by a son, Michael Daigle in Rhode Island, a daughter, Gayle Tracey; and the love of her life, granddaughters, Alyssa, Kaitlyn and Krista Tracey, all of South Windsor. She is survived by three sisters and five brothers, Pauline Hallee of Arlington, MA, Doris Taylor of Hebron, Ann Wicks of Mystic, Joseph Roland of Huntingtown, MD, J. Paul of Manchester, Raoul of Westbrookville, NY, J. Evon of Ocala, FL and Richard of Long Island, NY.

Her oldest brother, Hermal "Shorty" Daigle, predeceased her.

To celebrate her life, Fern has requested that everyone wear colorful clothes at her funeral and burial.

Family and friends may gather Tuesday, May 29, at 10:15 a.m., at the Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, 419 Buckland Rd., South Windsor, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. at St. Francis of Assisi Church, 673 Ellington Road, South Windsor. Burial will follow at Holy Cross Cemetery, Hebron Avenue, Glastonbury. Her family will receive friends Monday, May 28, from 4-7 p.m., at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to the Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut, Hospice Program, 8 Keynote Dr., Vernon, CT 06066.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit [carmonfuneralhome.com](http://carmonfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Philip F. Arremony

Philip F. Arremony, 84, passed away Friday, May 18, at Harrington Court in Colchester, surrounded by his loving family. Phil was born May 14, 1928, in Jewett City. He was the son of the late Nicholas Arremony and Stella (Connelli) Arremony.

He was married to Comeans "Kitty" (Hyman) Arremony, who predeceased him Feb. 14, 2006.

Phil was a loyal husband, a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather, a generous friend, and an honest businessman to everyone who knew him. He was a gracious gentleman who will be missed by all. Phil served in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict and married Miss Kitty on Jan. 21, 1955 in Aiken, SC.

He founded Arremony's Quality Bakery in Jewett City in 1960. Through talent, hard work, honesty, and integrity, he built his business into the regional landmark it is today. Whether coming through the front door of Arremony's Bakery to purchase his delicious creations or stopping in Phil's kitchen to share a laugh, receive counsel or hear one of his famous stories, everyone felt welcomed and left a little happier.

Phil loved to socialize and share time with family and friends, but he also loved the beauty and serenity of nature. Though eternally humble, he took great pride in the beautiful flora he planted and nurtured at his beloved home. He was a fearless man who hated to see injustice. He would do anything he could to see wrongs righted and would provide a chance to those who never had one. He was a good and honorable man.

Besides his wife, Philip was predeceased by his sister, Jane Fournier and brothers, Edmund and Ernest.

Phil is survived by his daughter, Suzanne Brochu and spouse, Paul, of Sturbridge, MA; son Philip and spouse, Karen of Lisbon; son Darrin and spouse, Beatriz, of New York, NY; brother, Donald of Scottsdale, AZ; sister, Gloria Arremony Hopkes of Norwich; grandchildren, Ian Arremony, Melissa Parsons, Christin Jagielo, Carin Christen, and Matthew Brochu; great-grandchildren, Joseph Jagielo and Anna Sophia Jagielo; dear friends Harry and Mae Barr of St. Petersburg, FL, and Joseph Lockwood of Plainfield and Arthur Plante of Thompson whom he loved as his own.

The Arremony family would like to extend their thanks and appreciation to the staff of William W. Backus Hospital and Harrington Court for their outstanding care, compassion and support to Phil and his family, during this difficult time.

A memorial Mass will be held Tuesday, May 29, at 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Church, Jewett City. Interment will be private for family only.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Phil's memory to St. Jude Hospital at 501 St. Jude Pl., Memphis, TN 38105 or [stjude.org](http://stjude.org).

Leffler Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements. For online memorial and guestbook, visit [lefflerfuneralhome.com](http://lefflerfuneralhome.com).