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Graduate Erica Moody proudly raises her diploma in the air after walking the stage at Bacon Academy's graduation commencement for the Class of 2012.

Bacon Academy Graduates 243

by Katelyn Kelleher

The 243 seniors waiting to receive their diplomas Monday night on the field behind Bacon Academy were reminded that life isn't about receiving, but about giving, to others and themselves.

On a clear evening on the Bacon football field, Gilbert Lamb essayist Alissa Maffuid told her classmates of an experience that caused her to appreciate what she has been given. "If there's one thing we inherit in life, it's family. And they will always appreciate you," she said.

Maffuid spoke of a community activism trip that changed her. While volunteering in a New York City soup kitchen, she and her classmates played board games and cards with the homeless men. Maffuid and several others sat down at a table with a man named Anthony. "I knew that the homeless would appreciate us, but did not think we would appreciate them," she said.

She told Anthony's story of drug addiction and the resulting loss of his family. He was a street cleaner and a bus driver, and "did his job with pleasure and joy.

"He made me realize that the path you envision for yourself may not always be the one you end up taking, and that's okay," she said.

Maffuid admitted that after speaking with Anthony, her view of not only him, but of all the men at the soup kitchen had changed.

"I couldn't help but feel ashamed that I had placed myself on a higher pedestal than the men we met that weekend," she said. "Just because I had a home and Anthony didn't did not give me any reason to think that I would be giving and he would be receiving. The experience was exactly the opposite."

Maffuid urged her fellow graduates to stay open-minded to those around them. "The next time you're sitting at a red light at Stop & Shop...and spot what seems to be a homeless man asking for money, don't pity him," she said. "He might have something to offer you that far exceeds the dollar you toss out the window at him."

Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein and Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin combined efforts to praise the graduates, and the town as a whole, for the ways in which they give back.

"Giving back is Colchester," Loiselle-Goodwin said. "Every day we see evidence of the strong desire to give back...These remarkable graduates have indeed grown up in a community in which giving back is an expectation. It's just what Colchester citizens do, for no other reason than to help others who need it."

She mentioned a recent meeting with Bacon Academy alumna Natalia Svirshchevsky, who was looking for ways to give back to the school system while on a college break. "She realized something was missing in her new academic environment. She shared with me that although she was meeting new and interesting people, she found that many of them were self-centered," Loiselle-Goodwin said. "They were not giving back, a character trait she had never recognized in her high school classmates."

Goldstein listed some of the Class of 2012's many acts of giving and volunteerism, including unified sports, senior members of the football team participating in an annual spring

See Bacon Academy Page 3

Belldown Grads Urged to 'Dream Big'

by Joshua Anusewicz

Not even the brutal heat on the first official day of summer could dampen the celebratory attitude Wednesday night, as the 158 members of the Class of 2012 smiled their way through the 74th graduation of East Hampton High School.

"You've reached an important milestone in an incredible journey," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden to the graduates, girls clad in white and boys clad in blue. The commencement marked the end of a memorable four years of high school and, for many, over a decade in East Hampton schools, but also the beginning of greater things for the talented class.

The evening kicked off with a speech from class president Jeffrey Fidler, who told his classmates to "follow your dreams" and accept the change that lies ahead. To do so, he referred to the dictionary to define change: "to make different; to convert; to alter."

"As far as I am concerned, different only means different," Fidler said. "There doesn't have to be anything bad about it."

Fidler's speech was followed by class essayist and third-ranked student Allison Dainiak, who related to her classmates that there are

some members of the graduating class they would never see again, most ancillary characters in your high school life – someone you borrowed a pen from, someone you used to sit with on the bus, someone you didn't accept as a friend on Facebook.

She urged her classmates to "tie up loose ends" by getting to know these people, as their lives were soon to change as they left East Hampton for bigger things. "It's going to be weird, but that's how people form relationships," Dainiak said. She continued, "Relationships like this will be a whole new experience – not bad, not good, just new...and a little weird."

The next student to speak was class salutatorian Caleb Gates, who kept his words brief and to the point. He referred to graduation as "the least important event in our high school careers; it is the end." He added that the memories of the graduation itself will fade over time, but the memories of the class' 12 years together will not.

"The friendships we've formed, relationships we've tested, the events, the experiences," he said. "The laughter and crying, and the fellowship we share, as athletes, musicians, students

See Belldown Grads Page 4



A row of students from the East Hampton High School Class of 2012 prepare to take the stage and receive their diplomas at the school's 74th commencement ceremony on Wednesday, which saw 158 seniors graduate.



Left, graduating seniors sing the Bacon Academy alma mater, “Baconia We Hail Thee,” at the Class of 2012’s commencement Monday. At right, graduates toss their hats in celebration of receiving their diplomas. More graduation photos are available at gleitiz.en.com.

Bacon Academy cont. from Front Page

cleanup, the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life, food drives, soup kitchens, one student “volunteering to be a dream prom date for a junior boy with special needs who otherwise might not have gone to the prom at all,” and two seniors who traveled with a local orthodontist to Haiti to provide care.

Valedictorian Christine Rehr told the members of her graduating class to give themselves something to strive for. Finding a letter she had written to herself freshman year, she said the goals she had set for herself had “resounding effects” on her.

“While reading the letter, I was reminded that my goal as a freshman was to get accepted to Harvard, Yale or another prestigious university,” she said. “I didn’t get into any Ivy League schools, but my efforts have gotten me this valedictorian title.

“Whatever your goals in life may be... always set goals that are a challenge to reach, because trying to reach these goals will yield many unimagined results,” she said.

Rehr said the education received at Bacon Academy has given the graduates a solid foundation on which to accomplish their goals.

Graduating senior Cassandra Morency was happy to be done with high school so she could begin doing just that. Morency is headed to Lincoln Culinary Institute to train in baking and pastry techniques.

Morency’s mother, Valleri Dankiw, was there to support her. “We’re really proud she made it,” she said. “Now I have two more girls to get through.”

Graduating was bittersweet for Makaila Kowalsky, who will take what she learned during her four years in Bacon Academy’s Project Oceanology to the University of Maine, where

she plans to study marine biology. “I was really close to the class, but I’m ready for something new,” she said.

Salutatorian JohnMichael Stanavage shared the same notion. Bacon Academy faculty members “have prepared us to take our first steps in pursuing our interests and goals and for kindling the fires of our passions and dreams for our futures,” he said.

“In the words of Dante Alighieri, ‘Remember tonight, for it is the beginning of always,’” he said.

Members of the Bacon Academy Class of 2012 are:

Kevin Lake Alvarez*, Christopher S. Ashley, Jillian Grace Barrack, Brandon V. Bassett, Kelly Lynn Beaulieu, Lauren Elisabeth Beckstein*, Daniel J. Belch-Emory, Devonte Malik Bellamy, Grace Esther Bennett, Courtney Ann Benoit, Justin Reynold Bingham, Omar A. Bishir, Levi Gunner Black, Keighley Elisabeth Blackman, Danielle Megan Blaise, Alexandra J. Boornazian, Victoria Sheily Boyden, Jesse J. Bradstreet, Daniel L. Brainard, Rachael Brunner, Shawn Brzostowski, Jeline Marie Buchwald, Chantelle E. Buckley, Vanessa Nicole Burton*, Kaeley Naz Burzycki, Matthew Alexander Caples, Sean M. Carey, Paige T. Carlson, William M. Carrier, Christopher Catarino, Allison M. Cercone, Jessica Chasse, Abrianna Marie Clark, Kelsey Lynn Clark, Richard P. Clark, Richard Dylan Cobb, Jonathan Chapman Cocomo, Kayla M. Cohen*, Anthony Cole, Kira E. Coloccio, Erin E. Connolly, Brian Contois, Alexander James Couture, Thomas A. Cretella, Nicholas Cugno, Andrew Currier, Marie Rose Czech;

Zachary D’Elia, Omyia Ashley Damaj*, Danielle Elizabeth Damato, Alex Davenport, Danielle Lynne Dean, Tessa Adrienne DeLaria, Dennis Delgadillo, April Catherine DeLuca*, Emily Grace DeLuca*, Rachel Mary DeLuca*, Rylie Dexter, Stephanie Jean

Dickson, Andrew Blythe DiCostanzo, Spencer James Dimock*, Dale John Dion, Terence Patrick Dominick, Jr., Tyler Michael Dufour, Thomas Alexander Dunbar, Shannon Ashley Dunn, Justin Thomas Duperry, Michael Patrick Edgar, Philip Ellis, Devon Brittany Elmore, Brett Emerick, Zachary A. Engel, Maria Elizabeth Enrique, Omeed Eslami, Paul Joseph Esteve*, Nicole M. Evans, Brooke Jane Fanion, Thomas Jay Fearon, Rebecca Lisa Fox*, Faith Rebekah Frappier, Jacob R. Gagnon, Elizabeth Paige Galan, Bailey Myla Gardner, Daniel John Goldberg, Jared Alexander Gordon, Marilyn Grace Gosselin, Samantha Paige Govoni, Sarah Marie Granata, Zachary Blake Guarino;

Jessica Haefs, Coy Hall IV, Caitlin Hanrahan*, Joshua Harlacher, Shannon Harris, Kelsey Noel Heck, Mikayla Heckathorn, Daniel Patrick Hickey, Daniel Holt, Cory Huband, Katelyn Hughes, Sarah N. Ignazio, Samantha Jennes, Brice Johnson, Kamila Karolak, Olivia Kvasnik*, Erin Lindsey Kaye, Sarah E. Kelley, Matthew Kelly, Jacob M. Kennedy, Siarna E. Kinney, Makaila Kowalsky*, Lydia Rose Krause*, Andrew J. Krockomberger, Kyle David Kurtz, Joshua John Kvasnik*, Tyler Jerome LaBarbera, Carissa Labonte, Amanda Lynn Lacerte, Andrew Albert Laflamme*, Rachelle Mae LaFlamme, Araya Landry, Brittany Marion Landry, Emma E. Lawton, Marissa Laura LeBlanc*, Rachael Anne Leikowski*, Tess Johanna Leone, Mackenzie Lynn LeVasseur*, Maxwell John Levesque, Meghan Blair Lewis, Anastasia L. Lillpoppp, Andrew Taylor Lukaszewski;

Alissa Marie Maffuid*, Katherine Elaine Maguire, Gottam Mahey, Randie Raye Marino, Ashley Elizabeth Martin, Anastasia Marie Masse, Gregory Mathieu, Alexa Lee Maxwell, Kristen McAdams, Kelsey May McCarthy, Samuel McGrath, Emma Rose McGuinness, John Malcolm McLellan, Joshua McMahan, Theresa Ann Menhart*, Shannon Rae Meuwissen, Zachary Taylor Miazga, Kala Jocelynn Arlena Mickens, Stephanie Marissa Mikan, Nicholas John Milardo,

Isaiah Roland Mims, Erica Elaine Moody, Dylan Morabito, Cassandra Ann Morency, Ashley Marie Morgan, Connor Elizabeth Morron, Alexis Orissa Musinski, Jaclyn Kelly Nann, Erik Vekoslav Nardone, Andrew James Nordgren, Cynthia G. Ortega, Kaitlyn V. Palmer, Helen Violet Marie Parker, Jared G. Peay, Daniel Edward Pekoske, David J. Phillips, Adam Christopher Pianta, Jacob Pinard, Lindsey Marie Porter, Lindsay Marie Poulos, Samantha Christine Psanis, Michael Putty, Henry Quinones, Brooke Elizabeth Rafala, Kyle E. Reed, Christine Anne Rehr, Taylor Rioux, Taylor Marie Roberts, Katherine Anne Pe Rosiene, Kaylei Roux*, Joseph Ryan;

Laura C. Salvatore, Matthew James Sanchez, Daniel Einar Scheibelein, Katherine Rachel Schnitman, Ellen Marie Schroeder, Sierra Marie Sciremammano, Evan Wesley Scott*, Thomas Howard Scott, Brandon Scott Scutnik, Zachary Taylor Scutnik, Jessica Seitz, Casey Sarah Seymour*, Kayli Ann Shaheen, Andrea H. Shaker, Kevin E. Sidisin, Brandon Evan Sierra, Michele E. Silva, Matthew G. Sinkewicz, Kyle J. Sirois, Matthew J. Slivinski, Ashley Nikay Smith, Morgan Alexis Smith*, Ryan A. Smith, Briana Soares, Erica Kathleen Soboleski, Marissa Marie Sousa, Yvonne Monique Sousa, JohnMichael Stanavage, Alexa Lynn Standish, Alexa Stanton, Samantha Lee Staubach, Jacob Golden Steele, Haley Hope Stickel, Deshaun Dewaine Stonick, Daniel Walter Streppa*, Marissa Dianne Sullivan, Molly E. Sullivan, Damian Switzer, Garrett A. Tardif, Joel S. Tasker, Samantha Tasker, AbbeyRose Tedford*, Mckayla Patricia Marie Thompson, Meghan Anne Thompson, Andrea Tuck, Zachary Hale Turek, Brian Christian Valdini, Joshua L. VanHeest*, Taylor Alexa Venditto, Anthony M. Verian, Allison Nichole Vitale, Trevor William Warbin, Alicia White, Kyle Whitty, Kathleen G. Wilcox*, Timothy Matthew Willauer, Taylor C. Wink, Kaleigh Nicole Wood, Sarah Elizabeth Woronecki*, Marcel Seguro Wright and Rebecca Chandler Yankowitz.

*Member of the National Honor Society

Belltown Grads cont. from Front Page

and friends... When you leave here tonight, remember to appreciate those little things in life. If you do, you'll never cease to be amused."

The final speech was given by the class valedictorian – and Caleb's twin brother – Rosse Gates, who told his fellow graduates to follow their dreams and fulfill their potential, in hopes of making the world a better place.

"What may seem a daunting task is one of the greatest gifts our country has to offer: freedom," he said. "To choose from an infinite number of opportunities. To pursue our aspirations, follow our dreams, and share our journey with the ones we love."

Golden then stepped to the podium, in what was her final graduation in East Hampton before she retires later this year. After 42 years in education, Golden shared with the graduates "perspective" on how things change – how she started without computers and fax machines, and now couldn't imagine being without them.

She added that those changes only come by someone thinking big and making that change happen. "If you dream big, big things will happen," Golden said.

The speeches continued with Joanne Barmasse, acting chair of the Board of Education, and Principal John Fidler, who both spoke similarly about the importance of community service and involvement. Barmasse related that not only is volunteering gratifying, but it connects you to your community.

"One person, acting for the good of others, can make a difference," she added.

Fidler discussed how much the senior class volunteered and gave back, citing examples of the Interact Club and the French and Spanish clubs donating valuable time and effort for worthwhile causes. He said that he was always "amazed" by how many students stepped forward to help in the efforts, "no matter what the cause."

But by the end of the speeches, it was clear the graduates were more anxious to receive – their diplomas, that is – than to give. Despite a request to hold applause until the end of the ceremony, students were serenaded with jubilant cheers, air horns and even a cowbell or two as they walked across the stage. The graduates'

smiles radiated as they proudly showed off their diplomas to their family and friends, who just as happily snapped photos of their scholars.

At the end of the ceremony, there was a touching moment as an honorary diploma was given to the parents of Kelly Coughlin, who passed away suddenly at the age of five and would have graduated with the Class of 2012. Everyone in attendance stood and clapped as the Coughlins walked to the stage to receive the diploma, emotionally embracing the administrators and waving to the graduates in thanks. As they proceeded off the stage, they removed the cap of a container holding a multitude of butterflies, which propelled into the warm air and over the crowd.

Blue and white caps and silly string soon joined the butterflies in the air, as the Class of 2012 celebrated the end of four memorable years at East Hampton High School.

The members of the East Hampton High School Class of 2012 are:

Kyle Nelson Adams, Mark Robert Adams, Curtis Edward Akerley, Cody Michael Anderson, Mary Elizabeth Anderson, +Lisa Marie Antalik, Sarah Elizabeth Argens, Jacob Earl Beebe, Megan Chace Beebe, Jason Christopher Belair, Meagan Liane Bergeron, Molly Marie Bibisi, Kiana Alexis Bonsu, Austin Daniel Bouchard, Alexander Brewer, Jenna-Mae Brewer, Laurel Jane Burke, Samantha L. Burns, +Taylor Jayne Casey, +Ashley Marie Chasse, +Matthew Ga-Yan Chiu, Amanda Rose Cirillo, +Emily Lauren Claffey;

Sarah Lynn Cole, Courtney Joyce Costen, Nicholas Ryan Coutu, Hannah Elizabeth Cunningham, *+Allyson Marie Dainiak, Spencer Thomas Daly, Steven G. Dean, Benjamin Anthony DeCrescente, Alyssa Danielle DeJesus, Michael Ryan DeMore, *+Sarah Elizabeth Denihan, Adam G. Dolce, Peter J. Einsiedel Jr., +Caitlin Elizabeth Emmett, Haley Rose Farkas, *+Jeffrey Primo Fidler, Kyle James Firlik, +Brian Joseph Foberg, Megan Drieu Fortin, Tyler Michael Fox, Rebecca Anne Frazon, Drew F.R. Funk, Thomas Charles Gagliano;

Shelby Lynn Galvin, *+Caleb C. Gates, *+Rosse C. Gates, Ryan Patrick Gillespie, Kacie Jane Goodreau, Keith J. Griswold, Joshua Joseph Gronbach, Thomas R. Grylka, +Rebeca Nicole Gustine, +Adam Michael Guy, Kathleen Mae Hall, Andrew C. Harazim, Michael Paul Higgins, Tyler James Hodge, Mina Hussaini, Jesse T. Hyde, Natalie Aniela Ihnat, Jacob A. Ingraham, Brian M. Ireland, Caroline Arlene Jackson, Alexa Marie Jerjies, James M. Jerjies, Victoria Ann Johnson, Elizabeth Clair



Graduation caps, streamers, and silly string filled the hot, summer air on Wednesday night after the 158 seniors of the Class of 2012 received their diplomas. As is tradition, the graduates took turns ringing a bell after walking through the crowd, officially graduates. [More graduation photos are available at glcitizen.com.](http://glcitizen.com)

Joyce;

Emma Kathryn Judy, +Cieara Brittany Juliano, Jacob Albert Kaeser, +Kassandra Violet Kappock, Morgan Elizabeth Kastel, Monica Anne Kauffman, +Aidan Patrick Kelly, *+Meghan M. Kelly, ~Vera Olivia Krona, *+William Anthony Lambert, Morgan Sinclair Langenfeld, Savannah M. Lanou, Matthew A. Lapico, Dennis Jesse Lavigne, Thomas Roger Law III, Tony Lewis Lee, Daniel Barrett LePage, +Elaina Joy Levenson, Michael Ryan Loffredo, William F. Lonsdale Jr. Christopher William Lorenzetti;

Carly Marie Loura, Emily Louise Lufbery, Lauren E. Lysak, Gerald F. Maccione IV, Matthew R. Mardirosian, Stefan Lawrence Marsiglio, Benjamin Robert Martin, Ryan C. Massie, +Molly Jean Maturo, Alexandria T. Maynard, Craig Fitzsimons McCabe, Zachary Michael McCourt, Ricki Lee McKeller, +Kimberly Ann McLaughlin, Samantha Kay Measimer, Adam Joseph Michaud, Brett Joseph Michnowicz, Gabrielle Moody, +Marissa Lyn Morassini, Chelsea Rose Morsey, Cailyn Danielle Musinski, Tevin Christopher Nanfuto, Hailey Paige Odell, +Coleen Elizabeth Owen;

Dalton Page, Andrew M. Perkins, Conor B. Phillips, Sarah Elizabeth Pickup, Allison Michelle Powders, Jeffrey Charles Pratt, +Taylor Danielle Redner, Bryce Allan Reed, Amanda Taylor Rivers, *+Carly Beth Roy, Daniel Jameson Scarlett, Brandon D. Schuler, Robbie Antonio Sebastiao, Chloe Olivia Seddon, Alyssa Marie Segar, Alexander Terrence Seppa, Addam J. Sevigny, Matthew Benjamin Smith, Natasha Ashley Marie Spagnulo, Jordan Ann Spangler;

Nathaniel Burns Sprague, Joseph A. Stankiewicz Jr., Kendrick Xavier Steer, Brianna Quinn Stewart, Daniel J. Stolarczyk, Steven Tyler Stolfi, *+Jamie Allison Sutcliffe, Alexis Lee Sypek, Blake Edward Szkoda, Andrew Michael Talbot, Trenton J. Thomas, Sean M. Thompson, Nadeyshka Toledo-Silva, George Joseph Tuxbury, Michael Andrew Underwood, Kelsey Hammeal Urban, +Rachael Janet Weir, *+Jacqueline Marie Williams, Robert Caleb Wilson, Casey Elizabeth Wolf, Brandon M. Woodbury, +Amanda Kathleen Wright.

(*Top Ten Students, +Ferrigino-Bell Chapter National Honor Society, ~Foreign Exchange Student from Sweden)

New East Hampton Town Manager Achieves 'Big Career Goal'

by Joshua Anusewicz

Michael Maniscalco has taken a long, interesting path since leaving his hometown of Trumbull several years ago, but his career and personal life has led him back to his home state to step in as the new town manager of East Hampton.

Just 30 years old, Maniscalco has crammed about as much professional experience as possible into those years since graduating from college. The journey began in Trumbull, where he graduated a half a year early from high school. From there, he took four months to travel around the country, not sure where he would go next.

"I came back and my mother told me, 'you need to figure out what you're going to do with your life,'" he recalled this week.

So he looked into what interested him: American Indian studies. Only two schools – the University of Oklahoma and the University of South Dakota – offer these studies as a major, and Maniscalco said he wanted to choose the smaller of the two, South Dakota. After earning a degree in American Indian studies, Maniscalco went on to receive a master's degree in public administration.

In his last year in South Dakota, Maniscalco began applying for jobs, finally landing a spot in Springfield, IL, at the Illinois State Museum. There, he helped develop a new database and website for The White House, which improved

the ability to perform research on history. The project was so successful that it was awarded the Elizabeth B. Mason award for new standards and leadership.

After developing the website, Maniscalco's resume was passed on to the Autism Program of Illinois, where he was named the senior program manager. The \$5 million program received funding from the state, which was then distributed throughout the state to aid autistic children and their families with various resources and programs.

The job was rewarding, but rather middling. "There was no upward movement," he said.

With that, he began to look into the public administration field, landing a job as the executive director of the Lincoln and Logan County Development Partnership (LLCDP) in Illinois. It didn't take long, he said, for his abilities to be put to the test, as just 30 days into the job, one of the regions largest employers announced it was closing its doors and taking 357 jobs with it.

But through a lot of work, the LLCDP was able to help keep the company running, avoiding the possible loss of roughly \$78 million. "We were fortunate to save it, because it would have been devastating if we hadn't," he admitted.

In the short time he spent directing LLCDP, Maniscalco also implemented a county-wide

economic development "master plan" that was unanimously endorsed by local officials, as well as spearheading an effort to pool residential and small business utilities that has lowered the cost of these services to the lowest in the state.

So with all that success, why and how did he end up in East Hampton? Two reasons: his career and his family.

"In public administration, the big job is being a city or town manager," Maniscalco said. "It's a big career goal."

Having family close by, he added, also influenced the decision. He had even been to East Hampton before, he recalled when he recently visited the town, having spent some time at Nelson Family Campground in his childhood.

Maniscalco also sees a lot of potential in East Hampton. "There are tons of opportunities in this town, and we really have the opportunity to show what a well-run city government can do," he said, mentioning "efficiency" and "transparency" along the way. "It's very exciting."

It's not lost on Maniscalco, either, that the position he will be taking has been in constant flux over the past two years, a fact that doesn't really faze him. He admitted that the past two positions he has held were vacated by his predecessors in controversial ways, so he has no issue with taking over a difficult situation.

"These positions tend to find me often," he laughed. "I've done it before, even though this is a different situation." He continued, "The position has certainly been missing some stability, and I hope to provide some of that."

Maniscalco also mentioned his first impression of the Town Council, which he called "very impressive."

"You become very aware quickly that they care very much about their community," he said. "If they have that going for them, we're half-way there."

Family was also an important factor in his decision to move to East Hampton, as him and his wife, Sabohat, are expecting their first child in October.

"I wanted to give our child the same opportunities I had as a child, and I think this is a great location," he said. On his last trip, he said that he and Sabohat had a chance to explore the Air Line Trail and Lake Pocotopaug, taking in the natural beauty of the community.

For now, Maniscalco said he is working with the moving company to prepare for the big move – "my wife is in charge; I'm just the muscle," he joked – to Belltown. And when his first day, July 9, comes around, there seems to be little doubt he will fit right into the community, ready to lead as East Hampton's newest town manager.

Hebron Gymnastics Event Honors Fallen Soldiers

by Geeta Schrayter

At Patti Dunne's School of Gymnastics in Hebron, a group of students and coaches chose to honor fallen military members with a bit more than a parade this past Memorial Day. The four coaches and 22 students took part in an intense workout known as "Murph."

The event – "Memorial Day Murph" – is a yearly fundraiser that takes place in honor of fallen Navy Lt. Michael P. Murphy who was killed in Afghanistan in 2005. In addition, the event is in honor of "all those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect our way of life," it reads on the event website.

At Dunne's, coach Kaitlyn Hogan said other military members were recognized as well: James White, a former gymnast who serves in the U.S. Navy and Kelly Ksiazkowski, a 25-year Army veteran – both of whom were present during the May 25 event.

"Their presence provided extra motivation for athletes as well as staff," said Hogan.

And that extra motivation was much-appreciated, considering the event was no walk in the park. Participating individuals had to work through a challenging CrossFit workout.

"CrossFit is a strength and conditioning program that is constantly varied, [and includes] high intensity movements," explained Hogan.

The workout participants completed during the event was a favorite of Murphy's, who used it to prepare for his deployments, often wearing a 20 pound vest. After he died, that particular workout was renamed "Murph."

The group from Dunne's attempted the same challenge – although only one of the coaches wore a weighted vest – which starts with a mile run, followed by 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups and 300 squats, then finishes with another run.

"The athletes register and the money goes to charities supporting military causes," said Hogan.

Although the gymnasts didn't need to do anything extra to prepare since they partake in strength training all year to improve their skills and routines, the coaches completed the CrossFit Workout of the Day (WOD) for about three months.

Hogan finished the event in 46 minutes along with another coach, Hannah Sobieski, while coach Brad Duke completed the challenge in 36 minutes.

"Coach Tony Perrone completed [the workout] in less than an hour wearing a 20-pound vest!" said Hogan, adding the first athlete finished in 40 minutes.

When the coaches at Dunne's heard about the "Murph" event, they "thought it would be an exciting way to get the kids involved," said Hogan.

"They seemed to have a good time watching us sweat along with them!" she said.

Dunne's raised \$805 from the event, which will go to various military charities such as the Navy Seal Foundation, the Lone Survivor Foundation and the Lt. Michael P. Murphy Memorial Scholarship Foundation.



On May 25, students and coaches from Patti Dunne's School of Gymnastics took part in an intense workout known as "Murph" in honor of fallen soldiers. The school raised \$805 for military charities from the event. From left are students Taryn Formanak, Ali Hughes, Stephanie Mager and Kelsi Levesque.

Hebron Resident Hoping to Represent Town

by Geeta Schrayter

Hebron resident Richard Marzi is looking to do more than live in town – he's hoping to represent it at the state level as well.

Come November, Marzi, who has lived in Hebron since last August, is running as the Democratic candidate for state representative for the 55th District, which includes Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. The seat is currently held by Pam Sawyer, a Republican, who announced last month she'd be seeking her 11th term.

In his relatively short time as a resident, Marzi has served as a volunteer at the Russell Mercier Senior Center and joined American Legion Post 95 Sons of the Legion. In addition, he has also been active with the Democratic Town Committee, and during the May 22 convention, the committee unanimously selected and endorsed Marzi to run for the seat against Sawyer.

Marzi is a graduate of Central Connecticut State University, where he received a Liberal Arts Degree. He is a retiree from the state Department of Transportation and the private sector, where he worked as a sales representative for a Connecticut-based hardware firm. On



Richard Marzi

Tuesday, he said those experiences would help him serve.

"I'll utilize the experiences from my younger years and my years of service to an urban city and will translate these understandings into service on behalf of the residents of the 55th State Assembly District," he said.

Over the years, Marzi has held multiple elected and appointed positions. As a resident of New Britain, he was on the Public Works Commission and the Economic Development Commission. He was also chairman of the North Oak Revitalization which works to improve the quality of life in the North Oak neighborhood of New Britain, on the Board of Directors at Urban Oaks Farm and was elected as a Justice of the Peace in Hebron on May 22.

In addition, he's affiliated with the Farmington River Watershed Association and Friends of Willow Street Park in New Britain.

Marzi, who has two sons in town, said the instinct to seek election originated from his years of service in New Britain.

"And as I have come to understand the needs of the people and families and towns within the 55th Assembly District, I believe I have the tools and ability to represent our communities at the state representative level," he said.

In a news release issued this week, Marzi said he understands the needs of business and industry, and the economic and non-economic standards required by workers and their families.

If elected, Marzi said some of the initial issues he hopes to work on are increased support for economic development within the towns of the 55th, increasing the understanding of the effects unfunded mandates have "and how the state may provide appropriate educational support for our excellent schools and the educators and managers who extend their efforts to provide the best tools for our children," he said.

In addition, Marzi said the environment and open space are "very important issues to maintain," and senior and farm issues "need continued support."

"These are but a few priorities that we need to keep a close [watch] over," he said.

Marzi continued on to say the legislative process is constantly in flux, and the legislature needs to continue to work to address and prioritize changes, "and do so in a timely manner through research and understanding of changes that are and become necessary."

He is referred to as a strong advocate of quality public education, "sensible and clean" economic development, enhancing senior programs and the preservation "of the quality of life" within the 55th District.

Hebron Democratic Town Committee Chairman Bill Rudis said in announcing Marzi's endorsement that he was "proud" to say Marzi understood the "basics" and knows how to engage communities, leaders and members of the town boards and commissions.

Marzi "has selflessly offered his time and energy to serve our families and residents" said Rudis, adding, "he has quickly adapted to and understands what our towns require in these difficult economic times, and has initiated meetings and discussions with each of our town's Democratic Party leaders to better understand what our communities need."

Rudis added he was confident Marzi would use his "unique abilities" at the capitol "for the good of our communities." He said the district needs a representative who will meet with and listen to the voters and town officials.

Rudis said Marzi "will provide leadership by reaching out to our communities, seek and consider all points of view and opinions, and encourage and provide all who want to be heard the opportunity to do so and know their opinions matter when he proposes, supports or develops legislative relief for our towns, and he will understand when proposed bills are not in our best interests and vote correctly."

In his release, Marzi said that, as a state representative, he will "seek the means by which our towns receive the funding and relief necessary and essential to preserve our quality of life."

On Tuesday, Marzi added he was looking forward to serving the families and residents of the 55th District. And when asked if he had any hesitations in running, his reply was simple: "none."



It was a time for celebration last Thursday as the Portland High School Class of 2012 officially graduated at a ceremony on the high school campus. The graduates heard speeches from school officials and several distinguished classmates, including co-salutatorian Rachel DeBarge, left. At the end of the ceremony, the crowd was treated to a rendition of the school's alma mater by members of the school choir, right, led by temporary choral director Danielle Ballinger-Loveless. [More graduation photos at glcitizen.com.](http://www.glcitizen.com)

85 Seniors 'Ready to Leave' Portland High

by Joshua Anusewicz

After presiding over the students for four years, Portland High School Principal Andrea Lavery knew better than anyone that the Class of 2012 – whether nervous, excited or anxious – was prepared to take flight and leave their hometown for bigger and better things.

"They are ready to leave us," Lavery said with a smile.

But before leaving Portland High School for good, the 85 seniors joined as one class for a final time at last Thursday's graduation. The group of Portland's most accomplished scholars was cheered on by a large contingency of well-wishers, which included family, friends, neighbors, faculty and town officials, all of whom made their presence known with cheers for the graduates.

With the warm sun drenching the school campus, the graduates marched across the front of the school side by side - girls in red, boys in black - past a bagpiper outfitted as a highlander. The students then made their way through the crowd, toward the makeshift stage, as the school band serenaded the graduates with "Pomp and Circumstance."

After the introductory words by Lavery, class president Anton Clark kicked off the student speeches, relating to his classmates that three things came to mind when he thought of them: "style, emotion and architecture."

Clark said the "style" represented not only what the students wear on a day-to-day basis, but the caps and gowns the graduates wore and the knowledge it represented; the "emotion" represented the range of feelings the graduates had as their high school careers came to an end; and the "architecture" represented the foundations that had been built over their years of education and the "skyscrapers" they could become.

"Looking at these 80-something kids, I can see future super cities with humungous skyscrapers and marvels that each of our lives represent," he said.

One of the class' two salutatorians, Rachel DeBarge, spoke to her classmates about how

recognition for your achievements "does not define you or your value." DeBarge cited lines from the Mitch Albom book *Tuesdays with Morrie* to explain her thought that working hard to achieve recognition should not dictate the choices you make.

"Do the things that come from the heart," Rachel said, reciting lines from the book. "When you do, you won't be dissatisfied, you won't be envious, you won't be longing for somebody else's things. On the contrary, you'll be overwhelmed with what comes back."

Fellow salutatorian Kevin Paley regaled his fellow graduates with the 10 most important lessons he learned in high school, most stemming from fond memories the class shared. Paley recalled school dances, pep rallies, sports and class trips, while also pointing out particular classes and teachers that shaped his education.

He rounded out his list with the graduation ceremony, which marked the end of the class' time in Portland schools and the beginning of a bright future. "It is time to step out and perform, to show the world all of our talents," he said.

The student speeches wrapped up with valedictorian Caroline Enright, who spoke of pictures that "represent who we are, and who we've been." Enright talked of three pictures, in particular: the picture of the class as preschoolers, the picture of the class as eighth-graders, and the picture of the class as seniors at Portland High School. That final photo of the class was taken on the brownstone rocks in front of the school, Enright said, as "one class, smiling our hearts out."

But it may not be the final picture of the class, Enright added. "My wish is that someday, we can come back here and take one more picture," she said. "We can compare it to the picture of us from 2012 and laugh about how much we still had to learn. I hope that this new picture will come to represent the great people you will all be."

After the speeches, Superintendent of

Schools Dr. Sally Doyen presented the class to the Board of Education, reminding the board members that the graduation requirements at Portland High School not only satisfy the state requirements, but exceed them. The podium was then handed over to Board of Education Chairman Christopher Phelps, who spoke to the students about how many things have changed in the 13 years they've attended school.

"You've grown, you've changed and so has the world around you," Phelps said, joking that when the graduating class started kindergarten, a hybrid car was a vehicle that had a tape deck and a CD player.

Phelps continued on to say that perhaps one of those great advancements could come at the hands of a Portland graduate someday. "Twenty years from now, I hope the Board of Education chairman is pointing to something one of you has done," he said.

Soon, it was time for the distribution of diplomas, with members of the school board happily handing the valuable paper out to the smiling graduates. Parents cheered, whistled, and blew air horns for their respective scholars, who let the momentous occasion wash over them as they strode across the stage.

After several members of the class proudly sang the school's alma mater, the entire class shifted their tassels from one side of their mortarboards to the other, symbolizing that the graduation was complete. Instead of tossing their hats skyward, the graduates filled the air with silly string, the rainbow colors standing out against the clean caps and gowns.

The class then proceeded back up the aisle between the crowd, which was filled with adoring onlookers who cheered the students, now officially graduates of Portland High School.

The members of the Portland High School Class of 2012 are:

Christian Amenta ^, Kevin D. Atkinson * # > ^, Sarah Isabel Bierly # ^, Danielle Lynn Brainard * # ^, Kelly Lyn Brown, Mateusz Burek, Stacy Claire Castelli # ^, Kevin E.

Charbonneau # ^, John Anton Clark, Christa Rae Cooper, Christopher Cote ^, Benjamin Chadwick Crispe, Emanuel Alexio Cruz, Emelia Alexandra Cruz, Bree Ann Currier * # > ^, Sullivan Deane ^, Rachel Elizabeth DeBarge ++ * # ^, Jonathan Eiss ^, Caroline B. Enright + * # ^, Frank J. Fazzino ^, Adam Charles Fontenault, Cynthia Elisabeth France * # ^, Randi Gauvin, Alexis M. Glazewski # > ^, Damon Robert Gray ^, Derrice S. Harvey, Madison E. Heil # >, Nicholas Andrew Hetzel, Matthew Dylan Joseph, William Joseph Judge # > ^, Jacob Michael Jylkka, Sally A. Kelley # >, Johnathan Kennedy, Alex J. Kidd > ^, Kaylee Dawn Lastrina, Jennifer Lozano Lawton * > ^, Joseph LeBlanc, Zane A. Lombardo ^, Allison E. Long, Alysa Jo MacDonald, Taylor A. MacKenzie, Matthew Martinez, Alyssa K. Matterazzo, Avery Isabel May # >, Adam Nicholas Mizener, Meagan Ruth Morris ^, Kamil Niemczyk, Shayde Lee Nofziger ^, Nicole Kamalani Otake > ^, Kevin Jacob Paley ++ * # > ^, Jesse Daniel Petrini, Jonathan Planeta ^, Lisa Lauren Rand, Madison Kathleen Reimondo # ^, Christopher James Robinson, Jr., Meaghan Elizabeth Rodgers # ^, Melissa Ann Rodgers # ^, Margaritta Rodriguez, Tyler G. Rose ^, Nicholas Rowe, Nicole Elaina Russo * # > ^, Jonathan David Sajdak # ^, Timothy S. Salecky ^, Christopher Michael Sbalcio > ^, John M. Scovill # ^, Austin A. Shimchick, Hope Elizabeth Smazer, Andrew W. Smith, Chrestein Smith, Cody Allen Smith, Tyler Stebbins, Heather Anne Stewart > ^, Michael Sullivan, Patrick Michael Tammaro # > ^, Bryant Robert Tobler # ^, Brittney Lyn Tomczak, Michael Timothy Tully > ^, Alyssa Rose Unikewicz # >, Drew Unikewicz ^, Taylor Eileen Unikewicz ^, Jessica Nicole Urbanowicz, Morgan E. Walsh ^, Marshall Whittles-Fox, and Brandon Yon.

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

Marlborough Selectmen Eye Grant for Public Water

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Selectmen discussed Tuesday updates on a grant application to bring public water to the center of town.

The 2013 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant application was received at the end of May and must be completed by Aug. 1. At a previous meeting, the selectmen voted to look into the project that would connect properties in the center of town, from Sadler's restaurant to the village green, to a public water supply. The water system would include the fire department and Marlborough Elementary School.

A public water source would allow for increased development in the center of town, as there would be fewer building restrictions, and would provide a secure water source, providing consistent, clean water.

The \$500,000 grant would be supplemented with \$50,000 from the town, a \$50,000 contribution from Connecticut Water and \$25-50,000 contributions with letters of commitment from property owners in the center of town, according to Town Planner Peter Hughes. Having \$150-200,000 set to contribute to the project would put the town in a good position to receive the grant, Hughes said.

At a Board of Finance meeting last Wednesday, June 13, a motion to hold a public hearing

for the \$50,000 appropriation from the town for the project was defeated, with three 'yes' votes (cast by Evelyn Godbout, Susan Leser and Cliff Denniss), one 'no' (Kenneth Hjulstrom) and one abstention (Doug Knowlton). The board asked for additional details and was due to revisit the item at a special meeting Thursday, after press time, and may or may not reconsider sending the appropriation on to a public hearing.

Tuesday, First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said the lack of details at the Board of Finance meeting presentation was a result of having very little time.

"We've had a busy time just looking at this," she said.

She and Hughes met Tuesday with Connecticut Water, several property owners and Steve Knauf, chief sanitarian of Hebron, to discuss some of the details of the project. Connecticut Water committed to completing the site suitability application for the Department of Public Health for up to three wells and the engineering project management agreement between the town and Connecticut Water.

Gaudinski reiterated that Connecticut Water would be operating the system, not the town, so there wouldn't be unexpected costs to the town associated with the system. Con-

necticut Water would charge property owners hooked up to the system at a rate set at the state level.

The \$50,000 appropriation from the town for the project could come from an undesignated fund balance, Gaudinski said, "but that is a conversation for down the road."

Gaudinski added many of the surrounding towns have public water, and without it "we're not going to be moving forward [with economic development]... This is a direction that the Department of Public Health is looking for."

Resident Amy Traversa voiced her opposition to the project.

"I don't know how you can take and you can enrich a small group of people [property owners in the center of town] with no betterment assessment," she said. "If we're going to fund a portion of it and the state's going to fund the rest, the property's going to be more valuable if it's got water."

Traversa asked why the town wasn't looking into selling water rights, but Gaudinski said water rights were signed over years ago.

Also at the meeting, the selectmen set a public hearing for Monday, July 2, at 6 p.m. to repeal a town ordinance regulating Sunday liquor sales in order to follow state statute.

Boy Scout Philip Moscato presented his smoke detector drive Eagle Scout project to the selectmen. "The goal is to provide smoke detectors to citizens of Marlborough that are without them," he said, adding Social Services and Senior Center Director Violet Schwarzmann have been assembling a list of residents to distribute the smoke detectors to.

Moscato has set two collection dates, July 7 and 14, at the firehouses on Route 66 and West Road, with a goal of collecting 200 smoke detectors.

"We're going to have a couple scouts and adults there collecting, so people can come and drop them off," he said. "A couple weeks after, I'm going to be distributing them with the other scouts in the troop."

Selectman Dick Shea asked Moscato if he planned to install the smoke detectors himself, but Moscato said for liability reasons he could not.

Gaudinski suggested Moscato reach out to the food bank, the Marlborough Business Association and the Marlborough Youth Athletic League to determine individuals in need.

The Board of Selectmen will hold its next regular meeting Tuesday, July 3, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Former Hebron Resident Speaks About Guatemalan Adoption

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

Hebron native Erin Siegal sat in a Guatemala airport with her sister, around Christmastime 2007, surrounded by Guatemalan children with adoptive parents.

As a photojournalist, Siegal was inspired. She headed back to New York with the intention of making a pitch to her photo agency, expecting "just a fluffy story."

Preliminary research revealed Siegal's story would be anything but.

Siegal, a 2000 RHAM High School graduate, spoke at Douglas Library Wednesday about her book *Finding Fernanda: Two Mothers, One Child, and a Cross-Border Search for the Truth*. The book exposes the roles of organized crime, kidnapping, human trafficking and corruption in the international adoption of Guatemalan children.

What started as the topic for her master's project at Columbia University turned into a full book, published in November 2011. It almost didn't happen, however. "It came close to not being published after I turned in my manuscript," Siegal said. "The legal team at Beacon Press thought it was too investigative."

None of the crimes outlined in *Finding Fernanda* have been prosecuted, which worried the publishers, but was what stirred Siegal to write the book in the first place. "It's because of the impunity," she said. "Adoption corruption is not a crime that many people know about."

The book follows two main characters – two women who were stricken with anguish over a missing child named Fernanda.

A divorced, impoverished, poorly-educated and pregnant Guatemalan woman named Mildred Alvarado was approached by a woman, Sabrina Donis, claiming to be a good Christian and offered to help her. Alvarado, in desperate need for help, took her up on the offer.

Donis let Alvarado and her three children, Susana, Mario and Fernanda, move into their home. One day, Donis insisted Alvarado allow a church friend unable to have children care for Fernanda. Although uncomfortable with the idea, Alvarado reluctantly agreed.

"It quickly turned into a kidnapping. When Mildred asked for her daughter back, they refused," Siegal said. "Her unborn daughter was also taken from her forcibly."

In the United States, a woman named Betsy Emanuel and her husband, Leslie, were working through Florida-based adoption agency Celebrate Children International (CCI), directed by Sue Hedberg. The Emanuels had adopted five children already, domestic, Asian and special needs, so they were not novices to the process.

Several months into the process of adopting a 9-year-old Guatemalan girl named Jennifer, whose mother was allegedly a prostitute battling AIDS, the Emanuels were told by CCI Jennifer was taken from the adoption agency at gunpoint, was no longer available and they should pick a new child.

Hedberg showed the Emanuels, who had already invested \$50,000 in the adoption process, a photo of Fernanda and told them her mother had given her up. Two months into the adoption process for Fernanda, the Emanuels got the same phone call, informing them Fernanda had been taken at gunpoint.

Betsy Emanuel was tormented with wondering what had happened to the children, Siegal said.

Siegal, gripped by the women's stories, collected as many files as she could documenting crimes and complaints regarding adoptions between the United States and Guatemala. At one point, Siegal said, one in 100 babies born in Guatemala were adopted out to the U.S. "No one's ever been able to quantify how many are

fraudulent," she said.

A Freedom of Information request for CCI documents yielded over 5,000 documents in complaints and showed the organization had been investigated six different times, but Hedberg has never been prosecuted.

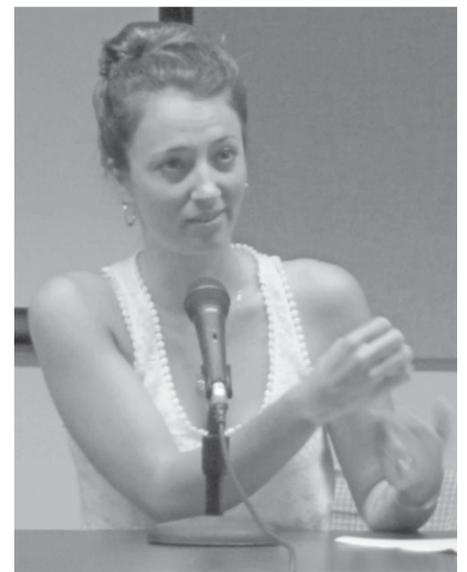
"The Florida administrative code that governs child-placing and adoption agencies hasn't been updated in over 25 years, and nothing on the books said it's illegal to purchase a child in another country," Siegal said. "There's nothing illegal from the U.S. standpoint. Guatemalan agencies said they would love to extradite Sue Hedberg, but adoption crime is pretty low on the list."

Siegal took four month-long trips to Guatemala to speak to government agencies, alleged criminals and investigate the corruptions hands-on. For translation and safety, Associated Press correspondent Juan Carlos Llorca accompanied her for each of the trips. "He ended up being with me literally almost every day of the reporting," she said. "A lot of these organized crime groups were still around and we were knocking on peoples' doors that were alleged kidnappers."

Llorca was also a second opinion to bounce ideas off of. "A lot of times we had conflicting stories," she said. "We could say 'who do you think was lying?' or 'what didn't you trust?'"

Picking apart the lies was just one difficulty. Sources often wanted benefits for talking. Siegal mentioned one source insisted she and Llorca take him, his wife and mother out to the most expensive restaurant in town, which Siegal and Llorca refused.

Finding Fernanda was recognized by the Overseas Press Club with a 2012 Robert Spillers Benjamin Award Citation for Best Reporting on Latin America, by the Society of Professional Journalists with a 2012 James Madison Freedom of Information Award and by the



Journalist and Hebron native Erin Siegal spoke Wednesday about her book *Finding Fernanda*, an investigative exposé of the corrupt Guatemalan adoption industry.

Independent Publishers Book Award with a Gold IPPY Award for Best Book on Current Affairs II.

The Emanuels ended up adopting an infant they thought was Guatemalan, but turned out to be Salvadorian with a fake I.D., Siegal said.

Guatemalan adoptions are currently frozen, Siegal said, as a result of being unable to meet the laws of the Hague Convention, a treaty that set up guidelines for good adoption practices. Hedberg nearly went out of business when Guatemala closed. However, she started her business again out of Ethiopia and, unfortunately, "nothing has changed."

Third Referendum Set for Colchester Town Budget

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Finance last Thursday, June 14, sent a proposed \$50.28 million budget on to a town meeting, followed by another referendum.

The new proposed \$50.28 million 2012-13 fiscal year budget is a \$219,761, or a 0.46 percent, decrease from the current fiscal year. The proposed spending package is also \$83,310 less than the \$50.36 million budget voted down at the last referendum, held June 12.

The budget also calls for a mill rate of 28.80, down from the 29.05 mill rate proposed in the spending plan shot down June 12. The mill rate, however, is still an increase of 2.95 mills from the current year's rate of 25.85.

At last week's Board of Finance meeting, the overall budget was reduced by \$279,938, due to a combination of \$176,628 in Education Cost Sharing funding, \$20,000 in transfer station fee revenue, renegotiating the municipal solid waste contract and reductions from the education and town budgets.

Board of Finance Chairman Robert Tarlov said Thursday position cuts that were up for consideration the night before – the directors of the Senior Center and Youth and Social Services and the Public Works fleet maintenance supervisor – would not be eliminated in this proposed budget.

The budget has been voted down at two ref-

erendums so far. The margin of defeat closed significantly at the second referendum, with the town budget voted down by 195 votes and the education budget by only 101 votes. In the first referendum, held May 8, both budgets were voted down by approximately 600 votes.

The \$12.76 million proposed town operations budget is a \$922,331, or a 6.74 percent, decrease from the current year. It was reduced by \$59,500 and included cutting \$15,500 for a senior center sedan; \$3,000 for Geographic Information System software updates; \$5,000 from human resources consulting services, \$5,300 by delaying the hire for the currently vacant deputy assessor position; \$15,000 in savings from municipal solid waste contract renegotiations at the transfer station; and \$15,700 from the fire department for office supplies, protective clothing, repairs, machinery and capital money for hydraulic tools.

The \$37.52 million proposed Board of Education budget was reduced by an additional \$23,810, making it a 1.91 percent increase over the current fiscal year.

Cuts included \$12,402 in library books, leaving a total of \$4,000, or \$1,000 for each school, to purchase new books; \$5,491 for 0.15 family and consumer science positions at William J. Johnston Middle School, based on recent student elective selections; and \$5,917 in addi-

tional administrators/superintendent contract concessions.

Proposed in the list of cuts were freshman boys' and girls' soccer and basketball at Bacon Academy and junior varsity soccer and basketball at the middle school. Board of Education Chairman Ronald Goldstein explained the Parks and Recreation department would have offered fee-based intramural programs for students if the sports were cut.

These cuts would have brought an additional \$21,183 in savings; however members of the Board of Finance agreed on the importance of keeping students involved in activities after school as a means to deter drug use.

The Board of Education opted to maintain the school resource officer "to support a safe and secure learning environment throughout the district," according to a Board of Education handout presented at the meeting.

The finance board was also presented with additional "tiers" of cuts, if needed, that board members did not discuss at last Thursday's meeting. The second tier included one physical education teacher position and 0.4 positions for the community activism elective at Bacon Academy, totaling \$50,978. The third tier would have cut varsity golf, indoor track and tennis for both boys and girls at Bacon Academy, a second-grade teacher at Colchester Elementary

School and a third grade teacher at Jack Jackter Intermediate School for a total of \$94,529. The final tier of cuts would have included 0.5 enrichment teacher positions at Jack Jackter Intermediate School, the school resource officer, and common core curriculum materials for a total of \$98,063.

Several of these cuts would have required policy revisions, outsourcing services, or caused an increase in class sizes.

At last week's Board of Education meeting, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin explained if a budget is not adopted by July 1, the start of the fiscal year, the school district cannot offer new teacher contracts, even for those replacing retirees. Instead only long-term substitute positions can be offered until the budget passes. Additionally, the district would order supplies to last only until September.

On the town side, First Selectman Gregg Schuster explained a state statute limits the town to following the previous year's budget if a budget is not yet adopted and cannot exceed that spending.

The town voted whether or not to send the new proposed budget on to a referendum at a town meeting Thursday, after press time. If approved, a referendum will be held Thursday, June 28, from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Town Hall.

Bevin Bros., P.S.I. To Receive State Grants

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

When the Bevin Bell factory burned down in a fire over Memorial Day weekend, helping hands from throughout East Hampton reached out to the two companies – Bevin Bros. Manufacturing and P.S.I. Plus Inc. – that were directly affected by the blaze. In the weeks that followed, state officials like Sen. Richard Blumenthal and state Sen. Eileen Daily also promised state aid, most likely in the form of grant funding.

On Wednesday, the state aid came through; according to a release from Gov. Dannel Malloy's office, Bevin Bros. and P.S.I. will receive \$100,000 each in matching grants through the state's Small Business Express program, which is administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD).

"Connecticut has a proud history as the home

of the Bevin Bell factory, and we are putting our economic development tools to work to assist Bevin Brothers and P.S.I. Plus in their effort to rebuild here in Connecticut," Malloy stated in the release. "We are fortunate that these two companies will persevere despite this terrible fire – there is a lot of work ahead, but the state is stepping up so their employees can get back on the job as soon as possible."

The Small Business Express program, or EXP, is a new state initiative that aids small businesses of 50 or fewer employees by providing loans and grants for job creation and economic growth. Five other small businesses throughout the state will be receiving similar funding from the \$100 million that EXP has been provided.

According to the release, Bevin Bros. is expected to use the funding to purchase machinery and equipment, which will be used to continue bell manufacturing at the company's new location on Watrous Street. The company will use 12 full-time employees and three part-time employees, the release adds. P.S.I. will use the funding for new equipment and renovations at the Watrous Street facility; P.S.I. has seven full-time and two part-time employees, the release states.

Bevin Bros. owner Matthew Bevin said Wednesday he was "delighted" to get the news that the application for the funding was approved. "It's one small piece of what will be needed to put the puzzle back together," Bevin said.

Bevin added that the funding does come with

stipulations – such as, jobs must be produced and the company must stay in Connecticut – which he said would be "no problem" for the long-standing company. He added that he is pleased the stipulations are in place.

"There should be [stipulations]," he said. "This money is coming from companies just like ours, through taxes, and we're grateful."

With the funding and the facility coming together (electric and roofing work was being done this week), Bevin said that he expects at least limited production for both companies to begin by this summer; however, it will take "many months" for full production to be up and running again, he said. He added that it's a goal of the company to return its production to the original site of the factory, but admitted that it was "a long way down the road."

Colchester House Fire Kills Two Pets

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

A family of three escaped a house fire last Wednesday, June 13, but two of their pets were killed.

Colchester-Hayward Fire Department responded to a call at 1:20 a.m. for a fire at 93 Chestnut Hill Rd.

The three residents of the home were outside, uninjured, when crews arrived. Deputy Chief Don Lee said mutual aid tankers from Bozrah, Oakdale and Gardner Lake responded to the two-alarm fire, as well as a rapid intervention company, a firefighter search and rescue team that responds to all structure fires.

Flames were coming out of the windows when crews arrived, Lee said.

Firefighters searched and found the family's animals inside of the home, a total of two dogs and 10 cats, Lee said.

"The cats were administered first aid and given oxygen by firefighters until animal control got to the scene," he said. "Several

had suffered severe smoke inhalation."

The town's animal control officer transported the cats to a veterinary clinic in Montville, Lee said, but two of the cats died.

By 1:41 a.m., crews had the fire under control. "The guys did a very aggressive attack and knocked it down very quickly," Lee said.

The American Red Cross was on the scene to aid the residents and help them find temporary housing.

Lee said the fire started in the front bedroom of the single-family home and "pretty much stayed in that bedroom and rolled down the hallway."

Crews left the scene by 3:15 a.m.

The home sustained substantial heat and smoke damage. "The structural damage was very minimal," Lee said. "It kept to that front bedroom area, but there's a lot of work to be done to make it habitable."

East Hampton Police Investigating Power Equipment Theft

by **Joshua Anusewicz**

East Hampton Police are investigating the theft of power equipment that has occurred on three separate instances during May and June.

According to Sgt. Garritt Kelly, the latest theft occurred on Saturday, June 16, just after 8:30 p.m. The incident involved the theft of a red Poulan XT riding lawn mower (Model PXT175G42), Kelly said.

Police have obtained several surveillance photos of the individual believed to be involved in the theft. Kelly said the suspect is a white male between 5-foot-8 and 6 feet in height, has a shaved head and apparent tattoos on his right forearm. At the time of the theft, the individual was wearing a black T-shirt with green and white lettering, jeans and work boots.

The police department is asking anybody with information or questions about the theft to contact Officer Mark Pekar at the station by calling 860-267-9922.



East Hampton Police are looking for information on this man, believed to be involved with the theft of power equipment on Saturday, June 16.



Graduates from the RHAM High School Class of 2012 were all smiles after receiving their diplomas and being covered with confetti and streamers. At right, students walked in during the processional, headed toward the culmination of their high school careers. More photos from the graduation are available at glcitizen.com.

Sizzling Temps and High Spirits at RHAM Graduation

by Geeta Schrayter

Graduation for the RHAM Class of 2012 was bright and sunny – and hot. While friends and relatives waited for the soon-to-be graduates on June 20, programs became fans and umbrellas were used to stop the sun's scorching rays instead of raindrops.

But as the band started to play and the processional began, the temperature seemed forgotten, as cameras were flourished and the excitement and pride of those present – both graduates and guests – took center stage.

Soon, laughter was added to that mix as class president Jacob Grover stepped on stage to roaring applause from his classmates. As he welcomed friends, family and faculty to the ceremony along with “distant relatives with plastic smiles, younger siblings with leaky noses and non-existent attention spans” and informed his classmates the ceremony wasn't really about their completion of high school, but an excuse for their mothers “to get teary-eyed [and] take too many pictures,” laughter rippled through the crowd.

The light mood only continued, as Grover humorously thanked Principal Scott Leslie for being there considering he wasn't around for last year's commencement exercises.

He thought “for some reason, that the graduation of his one biological child was more important than the graduation of his 300 spiritual children here at RHAM,” smiled Grover.

Well-received sarcasm aside, Grover continued on to acknowledge the Class of 2012 for getting from “the awkward phase of middle school life” to high school, then graduation.

He explained the class was very different from others: it was a group of people “looking to get the most out of their high school experience” and create an environment “in which all could share in that journey.” Grover said the class wanted to bring back school spirit, and did so by traveling in droves to cheer at away games, attending every event they could fit into their schedules, bringing back “Mr. RHAM” and starting a dodgeball tournament that lasted all four years.

He called the environment the class created “euphoric,” and said it was “intoxicating” to everyone involved. Grover emphasized the Class of 2012 was a class of friends, brought closer together throughout their four years at RHAM as opposed to drifting apart.

“To be a part of the Class of 2012 was a bigger gift than I think any of us thought possible at the dawn of our stay,” he said, concluding by calling the class one of the best to walk through the halls of RHAM in a very long time – a class who would go on to accomplish great things.

After the cheers settled down at his conclusion, state Rep. Pam Sawyer took to the podium for the keynote address.

On Tuesday, Sawyer said it was the first time in her 20 years as representative for the 55th District, which includes Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough, that she'd been asked to speak at a high school graduation. She said she was very excited about the opportunity and considered it very special. Sawyer added she wanted to give the students “something easy to remember, but powerful.”

During the ceremony, and considering the heat, she laughed that it was “the shortest speech I have ever written.”

Sawyer gave the students five words to remember beginning with “L” – but one to throw

away. The one to toss was “loser,” and Sawyer explained in America today – “today alone, on your graduation day” she said – over 7,000 students drop out of high school.

“And you are sitting here with your class,” she said, “so throw it away.”

The “L's” to keep were to live, learn, love, laugh and lead, and Sawyer told the students to live with pride, dignity and respect.

“Live the life you learned at your family's kitchen table,” she said.

They were told learning is lifelong, and while it's important to learn more in order to procure a job and “support your parents when they're old,” she laughed, it's also important to learn to do something fun, whether it be to create a piece of art, “supe” up a car or skydive.

For love, Sawyer referenced the *Wizard of Oz* quote: “a heart is not measured by how much you love but how much you are loved by others,” while laughter was described as important because “it feeds the soul and replenishes and sometimes refocuses us.”

Finally, Sawyer explained “to lead,” and asked students to remember that word, even if they forgot all the rest.

“You never know where leadership goes,” she said, before congratulating the class and announced to the audience “stepping out onto the world stage [are] the leaders of your future.”

After Sawyer, the class valedictorian and salutatorian had their turn presenting to the class. Each took a different approach, but both speeches came together to compliment and encourage the graduates.

“Life will not be easy,” said salutatorian Connor McBrine. “We've all been taught that things happen for a reason, that life eventually all works out, and that hard work is all it takes to succeed. Sadly, this is not the case in the real world.”

McBrine went on to say he knew the students all realized “the world is not nearly as welcoming as we'd all hoped.”

But while the road ahead promised to be “daunting” McBrine also said he genuinely believed the class would be up for the challenge.

“Just understand that nothing in life comes easily,” he said. “Things rarely happen as planned, and just as often, they don't happen at all. I think that we need to embrace this uncertainty and use what we have learned these past four years, as well as what we have yet to learn, to go forth and do our best in the world.”

As valedictorian Kevin Garcia spoke, some of the accomplishments of the class came forth, adding force to McBrine's confidence in their capabilities.

“We are one of the highest achieving classes to ever go through RHAM,” said Garcia. “Sitting amongst us today are some incredibly motivated, talented individuals.”

Garcia noted there were phenomenal artists and musicians, athletes, aspiring doctors, lawyers and future servicemen and women along with the winner of “a very prestigious watermelon eating contest.”

Garcia said not everyone would end up a president, a millionaire or a rockstar – most would live “exceptionally mediocre lives,” he quipped – but through the uncertainties of the future, the class was prepared for the road ahead.

“Hopefully,” he laughed. “Because that's what high school was for, and if you aren't, it's

way too late for that now. All I can say is, smile, keep your heads up, and if at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you.”

After the speeches concluded, the names had been read and the diplomas distributed, Superintendent Bob Siminski presented the Class of 2012 to the audience: cheers erupted, hats were thrown and confetti and streamers filled the air.

And now that it's done, the community will be waiting to learn just how the graduating Class of 2012 uses their abilities and knowledge garnered through their high school career at RHAM.

The members of the RHAM High School Class of 2012 are:

Brendan Patrick Akers, Melissa Ursula Patricia Alden, *@Audrey Claire Allain, Nikki Lee Allen, Michael Sebastian Amato, Jr., *@Scott Philip Anderson, *@Parker Wells Aubin, Gregory Edward Bader, Victoria M. Baig, *@Aubrey Grace Baker, *@Colin Bancroft, *@Nathaniel D. Baribault, Spencer George Barnett, Casey John Barrett, Catherine Elizabeth Bates, Thomas James Bednar, Gregory Michael Bento, Scott Tyler Bento, *@Steven Christopher Bertelsen, *@Hendrik Cor Bilek, Jeremy Jon Blair, Anthony William Blake, Erik James Blomquist, Aaron James Blow, Samantha Britt Bookstaver, Elena Marcella Boushee, Gregory E. Brodinski, Darcy Allison Browne, *@Rachel Elizabeth Buck, Melissa Ann Buhagiar, *@Molly Mae Bushey, Paul Albert Cadenhead, *@Alissa Rochelle Cafro, Samantha Jean Cahill, Clare Llynda Carrara, Anna Christine Casale, David Robert Cassarino, Emma Catherine Cassata, Christian Samuel Catanzaro, Anthony J. Cavaliere, Aimee Leigh Cavender;

*@Lauren Marie Chapman, Angeliqwe Jeanette Clark, Lindsey Rae Clark, Kristina Grace Coffin, Haley Lynn Cole, Dylan James Colletti, *@Cathleen Ashley Cormier, Lindsay Marie Côté, Morgan Louise Cote, Demoris Logan Coutant, Alyssa Rose Cunningham, *@Kaitlyn Dailey Czapiga, Joshua D'Agata, Cooper Christian D'Ambrosio, Mark Frank D'Anzi, II, *@David Henry D'Auria, *@Patricia Klara Daudish, Colin Robert Davis, Samantha Lynn Day, Katarina Collazo DeFreitas, Charles Daniel DeLeo, *@Cody Allen DePersia, Jaila Mary DeRienzo, Samantha Winona Dienst, Christina DiTomasso, Dakota Kyle Dolan, Conor Patrick Donovan, Michael Donovan, Kendra Walsh Dootson, *@Laura Rose Duquette, Jesse James Edson, Coreen Ellen Einsiedel, *@Heather Michelle Eldridge, Miles L. Eller, Morgan R. Eller, *@Emily Arijia Ezerins, Matthew J. Farnham, Brandon Scott Farrell, Kevin Andre Fecteau, *@Joseph Eugene Felix, Anthony Albert Filippone, *@Kevin Michael Finnegan, *@Alexandra May Foerschner, Timothy Raymond Fogarty, *@Meagan Alexandra Foley, Stephanie Nicole Fontano, *@Hannah Elisabeth Forsyth, Chelsea Annette Fredrickson, Levi Philip French, Morgan Marie French, Trevor Sebastian Frey, *@Carolyn Abigail Friend, *@Kevin Michael Garcia, Bryan Paul Gaudette, Kyle C. Gentile;

*@Melissa Shannon Goulet, Michael Joseph Fraher Francis Granato, Brianna Taylor Grant, Kristina Greco, *@Sean Darmody Greene, *@Emily Margaret Greenwald, Nicholas John Groholski, *@Jacob Pierce Grover, Nicholas Jay Gruner, *@Brendan Lewis Hall, Chelsea Elizabeth Hall, *@Allison Nicole Hallbach, Molly Shay Hallisey, Rebecca Ann Hansen, Joel Jacobi Hara, Emma Elizabeth Hartan, Sydney Marie Hayes, *@Nicole Marissa Hebert, Brandon Trey Henley, *@Connor Warner Henry, Lydia Lauren Hersh, Sawyer A. Hill, Jennifer Lauren Hohman, *@Otto Copernicus Holda, *@Morgan Rachel Holtsclaw, David Hong, Chelsea Jeanne Hopson, Jenna Hadley Hovey, Jack Turner Howat, Kristen Katarina Hoy, *@Kimberly Lynn Hunt, Lindsay Rose Hushin, *@Skylar Jana Ives, *@Kristen Marie Jovanelly, Jessana Lucia Kelly, *@Sydney Clarissa Kern, Karlyn Kerrigan-Jobes, Kelsey Jane Kirkpatrick, Andrew Parker Knapp, Tania Kokidko, *@Sharina Sade Komen, *@Theresa Ann Kowal, *@Timothy Allen Kuper,

*@Alexis Victoria Kurtz, Kelley Boutelle Ladd;

*@Rachael MacMillan Ladd, *@Jesse Nolan Lampugnale, Nicole Catherine LaRose, Joshua Daniel Lawrence, Jessica Lynn Leister, Matthew Alexander Lemire, Tyler John Leser, *@Danielle Nicole Levasseur, Michael Costa Llanos, *@Anthony Gaetano LoBello, Andrew Eccles Lotreck, Brittny Louise Lovett, Alexis Ann-Marie Ludwig, Blade Anthony Maciuba, Brandon Alexander Maciuba, Loren Rachel Madore, Alexis Guillermo Maldonado, Ryan Marceau, *@Kaitlin Marie Martin, Nicholas Alexander Maulucci, *@Jessica Jeanne Mawson, Lori Catrice Mayes, *@Connor Patrick McBrine, *@Connor James McCaffrey, Nathaniel James McCann, *@Tian Jade McCann, *@Catherine Elizabeth McCormack, Seth Paul McCulloch, Jacob McEntire, *@Jade Marie McNulty, Jonathon Christopher Meares, Katrina Giovanna Meli, *@Maile Lynn Melvin, Morgan Meotti, Emily Kate Messerschmidt, *@Julia Michalski, *@Anne K. Michaud, Elliott G. Mitchell, Leah Sarai Molofsky, Andrew Stefano Montalti, Rachel Taylor Morin, Philip Robert Moscato, Connor John Moylan, *@Abigail Elizabeth Mulligan, *@Evelyn Elizabeth Jane Murphy, Samear Mohammad Nahrmasiwal;

Marissa Elizabeth Navin, *@Michael David O'Connell, Peter William O'Connell, Cody MacPherson Oliver, Joshua Orzel, Joel Maxwell Palmer, Brian Charles Parenchuck, Jeffrey James Parker, Michael Joseph Parr, Chintu Patel, Cody Martyn Pelletier, *@Gina Marie Pepe, *@Moriah Alexis Perrett, Nicholas Alexander Peteros, Ryan Edward Petersen, Nathaniel Scott Pilver, Jack Thomas Pintavalle, Jonah Propfe, Joshua Nolan Pruitt, *@Sarah Hale Rand, William A. Reardon II, Riccardo Enzo Regina, Patrick Braeden Rhodes, Paul James Righenzi, *@Jason David Rivard, *@Olivia Sage Rivoso, *@Jennifer Suzanne Roberts, *@Alexandra Isla Rudolph, *@Sarah Michelle Russo, *@Michelle Marie Ruty, *@Simela Melissa Sahnas, Colby Eric Salline, Steven Paul Sanders, *@Jacob Daniel Savage, Jonmichael Morozov Saxton, *@Katelyn Rose Saxton, Katherine Yegorova Saxton, Daniel Joseph Schain, *@Christina Maria Scherban, Kristina Marie Schilling, *@Kathleen Dee Schoolcraft, Ellen Marie Glaser Sena, *@Mark Robert Shaffer, John Bennett Shea, *@Emily Paige Shields, Emily A. Silliman, Michael Paul Slusarczyk, Laura Elizabeth Smolinski, Joshua Wayland Snarski, *@Hayley Ann Snell, Joseph Patrick Spellman, James Brendon Spencer;

*@Kathleen Ashley Sprague, *@Marissa Elizabeth St. Louis, Austin Tracy St. Pierre, *@Nicole Marie Stalega, Alexander Thomas Stratton, Jennifer Marie Stratton, *@Patrick James Stratton, Jacob Francis Surdam, Matthew Anders Sylvia, *@Makenna Ann Szolo-mayer, Zoe Tarca, Matthew Richard Tavani, Scott Timothy Taylor, Kyle C. Thorspecken, Aaron James Tierney, Beau Thomas Tillinghast, Dominique Marie Tomasello, Zachary Robert Trapp, *@Alicia Lucia Tripoli, *@Kara Elizabeth Trippel, *@Trevor Nicholas Troy, Katelyn Elizabeth Tuchay, Lindsay Anne Turner, Andrew Paul Vaillancourt, *@Ashley Marie Villar, Jared Dennis Vincenzo, Holly Ann Warcholik, Jonathan Ware, *@Timothy James Whalen, *@Sydney Mae Wolfson, Matthew Basil Wonsik, Conor William Wynne, Carter Thomas Young, Kelsey Shiloh Young, Tyler Elmer Young, John P. Zabel, Konstantinos Ioannis Zarboutis, Rebecca Rose Zaugg, Ryan Nicholas Autorino Zaugg, Zachary A. Zito.

*@Valedictorian, *@Salutatorian, *@Member of National Honor Society in good standing, *@Green Cord/100 or more hours of community service.

Student Survey Highlights Bullying at RHAM

by Geeta Schrayter

A survey of students transitioning to the next chapters in their lives was presented by RHAM High School Assistant Principal Tom Mueller at Monday's meeting of the RHAM Board of Education meeting.

The survey examined the thoughts of students transitioning from middle to high school, seniors as well as graduates. In addition to asking how prepared RHAM left them for the next step in their educational and career life, homework at both schools and bullying were looked at as well.

It was the bullying results that proved most unsettling to Mueller.

"Bullying does occur," he said, adding 41 percent of respondents reported being bullied, with 45 percent saying it happened once, and 29 percent saying it occurred several times a week.

"It's disturbing to see that 20 percent [of students] say the bullying occurs daily," he said, adding, "the problem I have is only 15 percent reported the bullying" to an adult. "That's a challenge we have to take on."

Related to bullying, the school climate plans for both the middle and high school were also reviewed at the meeting.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie explained the plan was "really focused on the results of the anti-bullying legislation."

He said the required Safe School Climate Committee, which is made up of an administrator (Leslie), a teacher, parent and two students, is scheduled to meet for the first time in August, then monthly as needed.

"Our arching purpose is to review statistics from the school to identify patterns so the committee can recommend potential programs" and "areas to look for solutions," Leslie said.

A number of resources, including surveys, would be used to aid in acquiring said data. Since it was already known many students don't report bullying, Leslie added that was one of the areas the committee would initially exam-

ine.

"There's more to come on this," he said, "and we'll see more as we go through the next school year."

At the middle school, a climate committee has been up and running for about two years, explained assistant principal Carri-Ann Bell. She explained there were already a number of initiatives in place during the 2011-12 school year to address bullying, including a team building day, spirit week, student support groups and advisory programs and activities.

For the upcoming year, Bell said there were numerous goals, including decreasing the number of instances of harassment, through, for example, the use of focus groups to identify key issues; and to increase connections "between and among students."

The other items included on the survey were more upbeat. Mueller explained the results of the freshman survey, which were compiled in November 2011, showed the majority of students rated the transition from eighth to ninth grade as 'good' to 'excellent.' Almost 30 percent considered the transition 'good,' while 35 percent said it was 'very good' and 10 percent rated it as 'excellent.'

The majority also said they were prepared for high school in a number of areas including the amount and difficulty of work, study skills and organization.

Mueller stated the fact that not all of the students felt they were prepared in the different areas "attracts [the administration's] attention," but he noted the responses were "skewed positively."

About 85 percent of students said they were 'somewhat prepared' to 'absolutely prepared' for the overall difficulty of work, while approximately 78 percent felt the same about the quantity. The majority of students felt positively about how prepared they were in regards to study skills, and 40 percent said they were "absolutely" prepared in terms of organization.

Among the different transition activities that take place, the survey showed those that were considered most helpful included visiting the high school during the summer, the summer student orientation program and peer helper tutors during eighth grade.

The 12th grade survey, the results of which were compiled in the beginning of the month, showed "academic and behavioral expectations are high" at RHAM and students have effectively learned in areas such as communication, study skills and test taking.

Mueller said the results were "a good reflection" of the academics at RHAM.

The majority of students, nearly 80 percent, said they had 'somewhat' to 'absolutely' learned to communicate with others and effectively study. The results were more dispersed in regards to test taking, but about 45 percent were 'somewhat' prepared, while around 20 percent reported being more than 'somewhat' and 'absolutely' prepared.

Students also reported feeling responsible for their own learning and said they advocate for themselves, which Mueller called "nice, positive feedback."

In addition, 70 percent of students said they were involved in clubs and sports, and board members and administration "all recognize how important it is for students to be involved in more than just academics," said Mueller.

Based on the survey, 90 percent of graduates from the class of 2012 will be pursuing additional education. In addition – "brace yourself," said Mueller – the majority of seniors said they enjoyed going to school.

Mueller said he knows not all students enjoy school, and added with a laugh, "Some say 'not at all.' I know those students. I know them well."

In regards to input given by recent graduates Mueller explained it was a skewed data pool since the participants were only individuals

who've come back to RHAM to visit.

Even so, the results showed the majority of graduates felt RHAM prepared them for what they're currently doing (all occupations) as well as to succeed in college.

"Again, [the results] are skewed to the right," said Mueller, referring to how well RHAM prepared graduates for research and writing, reading, world language and math.

Mueller added RHAM graduates said they were "better prepared" for college than most other students.

Through the survey, it was also shown freshmen felt they were prepared for the volume of homework received and take personal responsibility for their work. It was also shown most students complete up to three hours of homework each night. In addition, seniors reported the amount of work they receive is manageable.

* * *

The board also went into executive session to discuss Superintendent Bob Siminski's evaluation as well as to review the non-represented employees. On Wednesday, Chairman Michael Turner said the board voted unanimously to approve the 2 percent pay increase for non-represented employees as shown in the budget. Non-represented employees include individuals such as nurses and the secretaries for the superintendent and principals.

In addition, Turner said Siminski's evaluation was "very favorable."

"He's done a great job working with the community, prioritizing the needs of the district – both with things to address programmatically and financially," said Turner.

He added the board will be working on a contract extension for Siminski "probably in July."

* * *

The next RHAM Board of Education meeting will be held Monday, Aug. 20, at 6:30 p.m., in the high school chorus room.

Portland Police News

5/30: Jordan Burke, 30, of 8 Edwards Rd., was charged with criminal attempt to commit fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

6/11: Russ Coughlin, 26, of 75 Glenwood Dr., Plainville, was charged with fourth-degree larceny, police said.

6/16: Nathaniel Homes, 41, of 180 College St., Middletown, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, police said.

6/16: A 16-year-old male was arrested for failure to respond to an infraction, police said.

East Hampton Police News

6/3: Elizabeth Henault, 22, of 37 Terp Rd., East Hampton, and Charles Edenburn, 29, of 211 Pine St., Columbia, were involved in a two-car motor vehicle accident at the intersection of Route 66 and Spice Hill Drive. Henault was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, following too close and failure to maintain insurance, East Hampton Police said.

6/9: A 16-year-old juvenile of Colchester was issued a summons for failure to have illuminated tail lamps, operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, failure to carry a license and failure to carry insurance, police said.

6/10: Jason Blodgett, 47, of 29 Kathleen Drive, Willimantic, was arrested for DUI, failure to drive right, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

6/12: James Jergies, 18, of 3 Curry Lane, was arrested for possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of hallucinogens with intent to sell, possession of drug paraphernalia and for operating a drug factory, police said.

Andover Police News

6/13: Daniel Parreira, 33, of 329 Route 6, Apt. 2, was charged with third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

6/13: John Lazenby, 44, of 12 Deer Run, Oakdale, was charged with failure to renew registration/operating an unregistered motor vehicle/false statement on motor vehicle registration, failing to meet minimum insurance requirements, and operating a motor vehicle with license/registration refused/suspended/revoked, State Police said.

6/16: Peter Ezold, Jr., 28, of 163 Mount Pleasant St., Meriden, turned himself in on active arrest warrant for sixth-degree larceny and second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

6/16: Tyler Ferrari, 21, of Marlborough, was charged with DUI, no license plate light and permitting a minor to possess alcohol, State Police said.

6/18: Hannah Farley, 21, of 415 Round Hill Rd. Salem, was charged with second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

6/19: Aurora Krupke, 50, of 546 Hartford Rd., Salem, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle under suspension, making an improper turn, distracted driving and operation of a motor vehicle while using a handheld device, State Police said.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

When I logged onto the Internet last Friday afternoon, greeting me at the msn.com home page was a headline reading, "Man Calls 911 Over Sandwich." Veteran readers of this column know I have a predilection for weird news. So, of course, I had to click on the link.

Never did I imagine the hilarious phone call occurred practically in my own backyard.

For those of you who haven't heard, here's what happened. Last Wednesday afternoon, a man by the name of Rother McLennon called 911 from the Grateful Deli in East Hartford after staff there declined to make the sandwich precisely the way he wanted them to.

"I specifically asked for little turkey, and little ham, a lot of cheese and a lot of mayonnaise and they are giving me a hard time," McLennon told the dispatcher. (With the request for all that cheese and mayo, perhaps the staff was looking to simply spare him the cholesterol?)

He started to add, "I wonder if you could stop by and just—" when the incredulous dispatcher cut him off.

"You're calling 911 because you don't like the way they're making your sandwich?" she asked. When McLennon replied, "Exactly," she said, "Then don't buy it. Just walk away and don't buy it if they don't want to make it the way you want it."

While McLennon sounded like he'd acquiesce, he still seemed concerned, telling the dispatcher that the Grateful Deli staff "is playing games with me," and again asking for police to stop by.

"I just want it resolved and I want to be able to come back here and get the regular sandwich that I ask for," he said.

Apparently McLennon routinely places his sandwich orders by phone – something he won't be doing in the future, as he's decided to come down and watch the staff make his grinder.

"It seems like they're not listening to me," he added. "They put down anything they want and they expect me to pay for it."

Ultimately, McLennon got what he was looking for; the dispatcher told him she'd send someone down to meet him outside the store. But she also had some final words of advice: "In the future, just don't buy the sandwich."

According to NBC Connecticut, police have not filed charges. Also, the deli's owner, Tila Azinheira, told NBC Connecticut McLennon stopped in the next day to apologize, and said he'd be coming back in the future for more sandwiches.

I love it when a Met is the talk of baseball. And Tuesday, that Met was R.A. Dickey.

As he's been doing with incredible regularity lately, Dickey delivered a gem Monday night against the Baltimore Orioles, pitching a complete-game one-hitter, and striking out a career-best 13. It was Dickey's second straight one-hitter. Just how amazing is that? No pitcher in baseball had thrown consecutive one-hit starts since Dave Stieb in 1988.

And he is the first pitcher *ever* in modern baseball history – i.e., since 1900 – to have back-to-back one-hitters striking out 10 or more.

Yes, Monday marked the fourth time this season Dickey's reached double-digits in strikeouts – the most in the majors this season. Altogether, he has 103 strikeouts – also leading the majors.

His record is an amazing 11-1, with a 2.00 earned run average. (Did I mention he hasn't given up an earned run in his past *five* starts?)

Simply put, Dickey is on a string of dominance I've never seen a Met pitcher be on. Sure, as a Mets fan, you hear a lot about Tom Seaver – the Hall of Famer whom Dickey now joins as the only Met to have thrown three or more one-hitters – and the dominance Dwight Gooden enjoyed in the mid-80s, when every start looked like it could be something special. But I wasn't alive for Seaver, and was too young (and rather uninterested in baseball) to appreciate Gooden. So this is new to me – and it's fantastic.

And oh yeah, one more thing. Dickey's doing it all with his knuckleball. While guys like Seaver and Sandy Koufax, or Gooden and Pedro Martinez, made their names as young men hurling fastballs, here's a 37-year-old man whose bread-and-butter pitch tops out at *maybe* 80 miles per hour.

Dickey's new to the knuckleball; he was just an ordinary pitcher for Texas in the early 2000s, putting up subpar numbers, until the team asked him to reinvent himself as a knuckleballer. Following lackluster stints with the Mariners and Twins, Dickey was signed by the Mets before the 2010 season – and has really blossomed here, to say the least.

In all of the interviews I've seen with him, Dickey seems like a great guy, and a real class act. I'm very glad for him that he's found the success he's currently experiencing.

And that he's found it as a Met...well, that's just icing on the cake.

See you next week.

More Obituaries on Next Page

Obituaries

Colchester

Carmela (Greco) Strano

Carmela (Greco) Strano, 92, of Colchester, widow of Luigi Strano, passed away Wednesday, June 13, one week short of her 93rd birthday. She was born in Siracusa, Sicily, Italy, on June 20, 1919, daughter of the late Luciano and Angela Greco.

She leaves a son, Bernard Strano and wife Frances of East Hartford; two daughters, Maria Veneziano and husband Serafino of East Hartford, Angela Levesque and partner Clyde Post of Colchester, with whom she resided for the last five years, a brother, Sebastian Greco of Largo, Fla.; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren and an 18th on the way.

The Strano family would like to thank Carmen Gomez for the daily compassionate care given to Carmela.

A funeral service was held Saturday, June 16, at 11 a.m. at the Rose Hill Funeral Home, 580 Elm St., Rocky Hill. Burial will follow in Rose Hill Memorial Park, Rocky Hill. There was a calling hour Saturday, just prior to the service.

Colchester

Grace M. Regina

Grace M. Regina, 94, of Colchester and Trumbull, widow of the late Joseph M. Regina, passed away Wednesday, June 13, at the Tidewell Hospice House in Sarasota, Fla. Born Jan. 14, 1918 in Bridgeport, she was a daughter of the late Fred and Jennie (Roberto) Scinto.

On May 4, 1941, she and Joseph were married at Holy Rosary Church in Bridgeport. He predeceased her in 1986 after 43 years of marriage.

Mrs. Regina worked in retail for many years before her retirement. She was a devoted Catholic, attending church in Hebron at Church of the Holy Family, where she also sang in the choir. Grace served and volunteered with several civic groups including the Royal Order of Moose, the Elks and the VFW Auxiliary. Some of her favorite activities included golf, bingo, bridge, singing with the Sunshine Singers Choir, crocheting and dancing with the East Hampton Tappers. Most importantly, she will be remembered by her family as Nana, a loving and devoted mother and grandmother.

She is survived by two children and their spouses, Carol and Joseph Pelletier of Sarasota, Fla., and Louis and Deborah Regina of Cherry Hill, N.J.; five grandsons, Joseph, Christopher and Mathieu Pelletier, Michael and Ryan Regina; 11 great-grandchildren; a brother, Harry Scinto of Bridgeport; a special niece and godchild, Deborah Thomas of Glastonbury; and numerous extended family members.

In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by a sister, Gertrude Thomas, and three brothers, Daniel, Anthony and Alfred Scinto.

Friends called Monday, June 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, June 19, directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Route 85, Hebron. Graveside services followed at St. Michael's Cemetery, 2205 Stratford Ave., Stratford.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Haitian Health Foundation, 97 Sherman St., Norwich, CT 06360.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Sylvia Marie Layne

Sylvia Marie Layne, 75, of Colchester, passed away Sunday, June 17, at Middlesex Hospital. She was a daughter of the late Augustus Disraeli and Inez Beryl (Gray) Layne.

She was born and raised in New York City and she was a graduate of Walton High School. Sylvia worked for many years for General Motors as a computer operator. She loved cryptograms, crocheting, card games and learning Spanish. Over the years she also spent much time in the ministry of Jehovah's Witnesses, helping many to learn Bible truth. This was her true vocation. She will be remembered by those who loved her as a generous and caring person, always eager to help.

She is survived by her daughter, Sherry Layne, and her sisters, Cynthia Layne, Elsie Layne, all of Colchester and Inez Camille Salter of Richmond, Va. She is also survived by 12 nieces and nephews and 15 grandnieces and grandnephews. She was predeceased by her brother, Harold Layne, and her sister, Ellen Wallace.

Services will be held Saturday, June 23, at 3 p.m., at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 297 Westchester Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

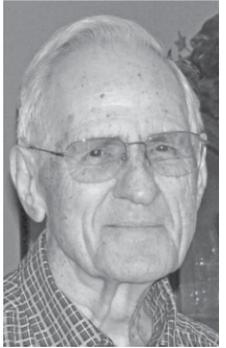
In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Thomas E. Aykroyd

Thomas Elton Aykroyd, 95, of San Diego, Calif., formerly of Avon and Hebron, passed away in Rancho Bernardo, Calif., Thursday, June 14. He was born on March 1, 1917, in Somerville, Mass., to Thomas Aykroyd and Ida May (Hawes) Aykroyd. He grew up with his four sisters in Hyde Park, a suburb of Boston, Mass.



Thomas graduated from Fitchburg State Teachers College in 1941 with a degree in education. His first teaching position was in Enfield, N.H. The following year he accepted a position teaching in Medfield, Mass. During that year, Thomas married the former Miriam E. Staples and joined the Navy at the outbreak of World War II. He was sent to Chicago to attend a Navy Midshipmen school and upon completing that and several other training classes was assigned to a Navy base in Indian Head, Md. Upon his discharge from the Navy as a lieutenant commander in 1946, Thomas resumed his career in education.

He taught industrial arts at Pratt High School in Essex until 1951, when he accepted a position to teach in West Hartford, where he taught industrial arts at Talcott Junior High School. While teaching at Talcott he attended the University of Connecticut and obtained his master's degree in 1951. Later he became an assistant principal at Talcott. He retired from the West Hartford school system in 1976.

Thomas and his wife Miriam lived in Hebron for many years, until Miriam's death in 1991. In 1992, Thomas moved to San Diego, Calif., where he met and married Lois Stroud. Thomas and Lois enjoyed traveling the world and visited many exotic places. Before Lois' death in 2004 they moved to the Remington Club retirement community. At the Remington Club, Thomas made many more friends and enjoyed his final years.

Thomas also spent many summers in the state of Maine, where as a young man, with his parents and sisters, vacationed in their summer home at Georgetown, Maine. Later the family vacationed at Lake Cobbesscontee located in West Gardner, Maine. While sailing with his friend, Jim Baker, along the coast of Maine, he met Miriam and was introduced to the Island of North Haven, Maine and the Staples family. Thomas and Miriam, in their later years spent many happy summers on North Haven.

He is survived by his son, Thomas E. and his wife, Elfriede Aykroyd of Saratoga, Calif., and daughter, Gail A. Aykroyd of Colchester. He leaves a granddaughter, Tammy Walls, and her husband Jason, along with their two sons of Blanchard, Okla. He also leaves several nieces and nephews, in particular, Barbara Farinella of Apple Valley, Calif., and Joanne MacKinnon of Orleans, Mass.

Services in San Diego will be private and burial will be at the convenience of the family.

East Hampton

Sue Lufkin Solomson

Sue Lufkin Solomson, 64, formerly of East Hampton, passed away Sunday, June 17, at her residence in Manchester. She was born to the late Wilfred W. and Thada (Benbrook) Lufkin, Jr., on April 11, 1948, in Montclair, N.J.

Sue grew up in Colebrook and Winsted before settling in East Hampton to raise her family. She graduated from the Gilbert School in Winsted and received an associate's degree from Emory College in Boston. Sue worked various jobs at the state capitol and several law firms before retiring.

She is survived by her two children, Kate Solomson of Forestville and Stephen Solomson of Glastonbury; two sisters, Deborah Lufkin of Torrington and Lucy Stoltze of East Hartford; and six nieces and nephews, Becky LaFrenier, William Fitzgerald, Lea Stoltze, Sarah Windsor, Samuel Stoltze and Anna Mattoon.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made out to Protectors of Animals in East Hartford.

Calling hours were held Thursday, June 21, at the John F. Tierney Funeral Home, 219 West Center St., Manchester.

For online condolences, visit tierneyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Douglas A. Weeks

Douglas A. Weeks, 63, of Marlborough, passed away Monday, June 18. Doug was a husband, father, brother, uncle and friend who we all loved dearly.

Doug was born in Des Moines, Iowa, on Sept. 21, 1948, but spent most of his childhood in Monroe, Mich., where he lived with his sister and parents, Dr. and Mrs. Vernon Weeks, after 1954.

Doug was an athlete who played football at school and baseball on Little League and Babe Ruth teams. He was an avid snow skier. After graduating from Monroe High School he attended Michigan State University, where he played rugby.

Doug went on to enlist in the U.S. Army in 1968 and successfully completed the Infantry Noncommissioned Officer Candidate course, earning the rank of sergeant and recognition as an honor graduate for outstanding grades in academic subjects and leadership. He served his country in Vietnam.

After returning home, he and Mary Kay Yoder of Garrett, Ind., were married and eventually moved to Colorado Springs, Colo. Doug, who had a great interest in classic and foreign sports cars, worked as a manager for a European auto dealership. Always eager to explore new options, he embarked on a career in aviation. Against the odds and the advice of some, he studied for and became a commercial pilot at the “ripe old age” of 36. His career as a pilot spanned more than 20 years, during which time he flew celebrities, dignitaries and corporate executives all over the world.

However, Doug was a homebody at heart, who loved spending time at home in Connecticut with Mary Kay and their son, Brad, who was born in 1986. While home, one would usually find Doug engaged in any number of home improvement projects. The quality of his workmanship would make a professional proud! Doug and his family enjoyed spending time at their second home on Lake Gage near Garrett, Ind. He was an avid reader and a compassionate man who loved animals.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Kay (Yoder) Weeks; their son, Bradley Jon Weeks; his sister, Christine (Weeks) Moliere; brother and sister-in-law Bill and Ethel Yoder; and nieces and nephew.

Memorial donations may be made to the American Cancer Society.

For online condolences, visit dignitymemorial.com.

Marlborough

Pauline J. Colpitts

Pauline J. Colpitts, 96, of Simsbury, wife of the late Lincoln L. Colpitts, died Monday, June 11, at the Governor’s House in Simsbury.

She was born Aug. 22, 1915, in Burlington, N.H., daughter of the late Robert and Janet (Astle) Sturgeon and had lived in Marlborough prior to moving to Simsbury 14 years ago. Mrs. Colpitts was a registered nurse for St. Francis Hospital in Hartford for 20 years prior to her retirement in 1968. Pauline enjoyed gardening, reading and traveling New England.

She is survived by two grandsons, Stephen Colpitts and his wife Charlene of Weatogue and Lincoln Colpitts and his wife Kimberly of Naugatuck; and four great-grandchildren, Trisha, Lincoln, and Kyle Colpitts and Brian Houle; and three great-great-grandchildren.

She predeceased by her son, Lincoln L. Copitts.

A memorial service was celebrated Saturday, June 16, at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Hopmeadow St., Simsbury. The family received friends that day, prior to the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the March of Dimes, 500 Winding Brook Dr., Suite 8, Glastonbury, CT 06033.

Visit Pauline’s “Book of Memories” at vincentfuneralhome.com for online condolences.

Portland

Joel Weiner

Joel Weiner, devoted husband to Alice (Roth) Weiner, formerly of Portland and Tamarac, FL, passed away peacefully surrounded by his beloved family and friends on Saturday, June 16, at 7 p.m. Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., he was the son of Cecil (Polansky) Weiner of Florida and the late Benjamin Weiner.

Joel was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army, who always put his family first. Joel came to Connecticut to manage Wrubel’s Department Store in Middletown. He was an active baseball coach in the Portland community and also enjoyed running the Portland Dukes “Roach Coach” snack truck. Since moving to Florida, he was very active in his community. Joel was a loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather.

Besides Alice, he leaves his children, Jeff Weiner of Boston, Gary Weiner and wife, Judi of West Hartford, and Jill Weiner Marocchini and husband, Jim of Lebanon. Joel was a devoted grandfather to eight adoring grandchildren, Jason, Rachael, Jared, Daniel, Michael, Ali, Joshua and Hannah, who he touched in unique ways and whom will miss him dearly. Joel also leaves behind his sister, Joyce Erickson of Florida, and brother, Richard Weiner of St. Mortiz, Switzerland.

All who were lucky enough to know Joel will remember his unique sense of humor, tender heart and giving ways. He touched so many hearts and made them all just a “little bigger.”

Funeral services were held Wednesday, June 20, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, with Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz officiating. Burial took place later that day in New Montefiore Cemetery in Long Island, NY. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, please make a donation in Joel’s memory to the Jewish Adoptive and Foster Care Organization (JAFCO), c/o Sandy Richman, 9894 S. Belfort Circle, Tamarac, FL 33321.

We will always love you Joel, Dad, Grandpa, Uncle, and Friend. You were one of a kind.

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

Marlborough

Thomas J. Milne

Thomas J. Milne, 64, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Sylvia (St. Jean) Milne, died June 18, 2012 at Hartford Hospital. Tom was born in Hartford on September 16, 1947, son of the late Albert and Helen (Kaczmarczyk) Milne.

Tom was proud to be an ironworker, and was a member of the CARBS Hot Rod Club of Hartford, the Andover Sportsmen’s Club, and Local 15 of the Ironworkers Union. Tom was a loving husband, father and grandfather.

In addition to his wife Sylvia, he is survived by a son, Judd Milne, and Melanie Swartz, of Reston, Va., a daughter, Tracy, and Dan Katzbek of South Windsor; four grandchildren Madison, Erin, Kyle and Caitlin; five brothers; a sister; several nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

The family would like to give a heartfelt thank you to his brother, Steve “Doc” Milne, and the nursing staff of the Wethersfield Infusion Center for their compassion and support.

Calling hours will be today, June 22, from 4-7 p.m., at the Benjamin J. Callahan Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford. Funeral services will begin Saturday, June 23, at 9 a.m. at the funeral home, followed at 10 a.m. by a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Mary Church, 15 Maplewood Rd., East Hartford. Burial will follow in St. Mary Cemetery, East Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Tom’s name to fund esophageal cancer research at The Johns Hopkins University, Weinberg 2242, 401 N. Broadway, Baltimore, MD 21231 Attn: Elizabeth Montgomery, MD, or through contact information provided at the funeral home.

To leave an online condolence, or for more information, visit callahanfuneral.com.