

RIVEREAST

# News Bulletin

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**Welcome Home...** Over 200 townspeople turned out July 6 to welcome home the U.S. Navy's Christopher Abbott, left, and Cody Flannery. The two had been deployed to Afghanistan, and recently came back to East Hampton. A large group of family members and friends watched as they cut their yellow ribbons off the tree in the village center. Photo by Kathy Barber.

## Pride on Parade At Old Home Days

by Joshua Anusewicz

Over the last calendar year, East Hampton has had many reasons to come together in a show of solidarity and community. Unfortunately, some of those reasons have been during times of struggle: Tropical Storm Irene, a freak October snowstorm, and the tragic fire that leveled the Bevin Bell factory in May.

But each time the town has been dealt a blow, it has come back stronger than before, with a stronger sense of community spirit and pride.

That community spirit and pride was on full display for all to see last weekend, as the town came together for its annual Old Home Days Glorious Celebration, a three-day summer tradition in the town's Village Center. And from running road races to free bicycles to live music, Old Home Days had a little something for everyone.

"The weekend was spectacular," said Pam Joslyn-Greenwald, president of the Old Home Days Association this week, adding that the great weather over the weekend helped draw an "exceptional" crowd for all of the events over the three days.

Old Home Days kicked off Thursday night and, for the second straight year, the live entertainment was kicked off by a magician - Bjorn the Magician, to be exact. Using a magician in that slot last year was considered a success, and

Joslyn-Greenwald said that Bjorn went over "really great with the kids" again this year. Thursday night also featured local rock group Johnny 5.

Friday also featured two musical acts - Voodoo River Band and The Tim Charron Band - which were both well-received. But the big attraction Friday was the 14th annual Glorious Gallop 5K Road Race, which kicked off just after 7 p.m. Joslyn-Greenwald said over 430 runners participated in this year's race - considerably higher than last year's number of runners, which was affected by a severe storm.

Making his hometown proud, this year's winner was 19-year-old Bill Lonsdale of East Hampton with a time of 16:22. The winner in the female division was Sarah Ports, 23, of Lebanon, with a time of 19:13.

Friday gave way to Saturday, and the Old Home Days Parade, the centerpiece of the three-day celebration. Billed as the largest in Middlesex County, the parade drew marchers and floats from throughout the area, all of which entertained the large crowd which gathered under the morning sun. Crowds along Route 66 were several people deep in some spots, showing just how much Belltown enjoys a good parade.

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## 'Anything Goes' for AHM Youth Theater

by Geeta Schrayter

Walking into the RHAM High School Auditorium Wednesday night, the voice of director Mary Rose Meade is the first thing heard. Kind yet commanding, she tells one group of actors to alter their costumes, tweaks a few positions and tells the performers to watch their footing.

Soon after, the group, dressed in period attire from the 1930s, is back to practicing a scene from *Anything Goes*, this year's production by the AHM Summer Youth Theater program. The musical will be performed next weekend at RHAM High School in Hebron.

The Tony Award-winning *Anything Goes* originally opened on Broadway in 1934, and is currently enjoying a revival on the Great White Way. Originally written by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse, and then revised by Howard Lindsay and Russel Crouse before the play's 1934 debut, the story takes place on a luxury cruise liner as it journeys from New York to England.

On board are a slew of passengers, including Reno Sweeney, a nightclub singer and former evangelist, and her old friend Billy Crocker, who's stowing away to be near Hope Harcourt, the girl he loves. Crocker plans to win Harcourt over, but things are complicated due to the fact that Harcourt is traveling with both her overbearing mother and her fiancé. In addition, Crocker's boss is on the ship as well, along with a gangster disguised as a preacher. The result: a musical filled with "hilarious

twists and turns," as AHM describes it.

The musical also boasts a Cole Porter score featuring several well-known classics, such as "I Get a Kick Out of You," "It's De-Lovely" and "You're the Top," along with quite a few dance numbers. And it's those numbers which Meade said have been both a challenge and a reward.

"Dancing has been a challenge," said Meade, who's in her 20th year with the program. And for the first time in those 20 years, Meade is having the entire cast perform a tap number.

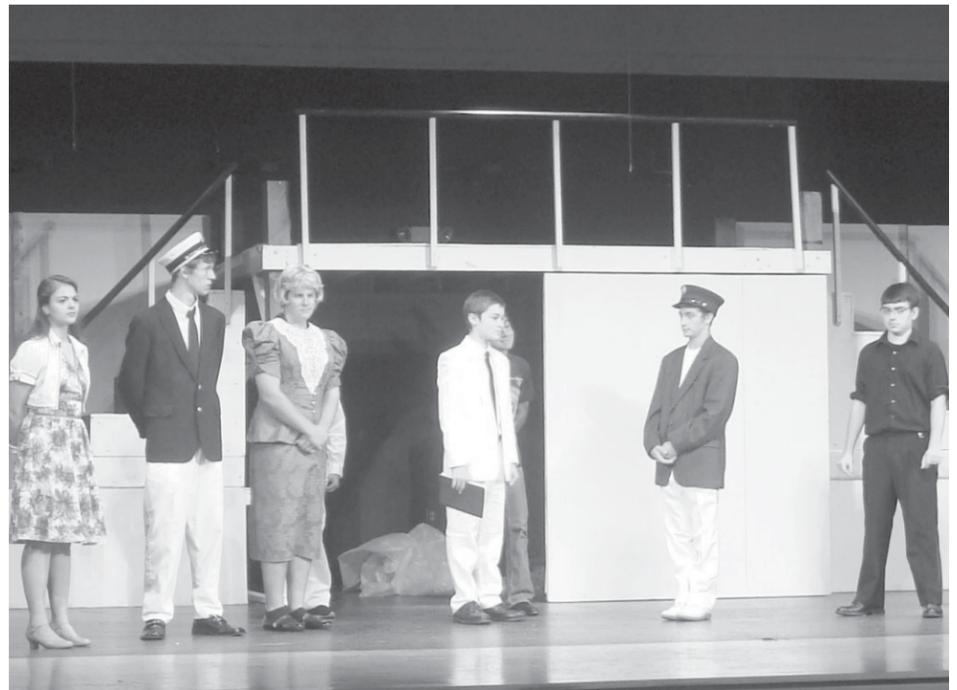
Time was also stacked against them. When rehearsals were originally planned, Meade said the last day of school was expected to be June 13. However, due to weather-related school cancellations, graduation didn't take place until June 20, and rehearsals started shortly after.

"So we've had to have some longer nights," she said. "Time is always a challenge, but this year it was a particular challenge because of all the singing and dancing."

In addition, Meade explained some of this year's performers had never danced before but "they all learned." Everyone worked really hard, she said, and "repeated and repeated" the scenes until they got them right. It's that dedication - and the results they bring - that Meade said she's found most rewarding.

And the aforementioned challenging tap number, when the entire cast of over 50 per-

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The cast of *Anything Goes*, this year's performance by the AHM Summer Youth Theater Program, gathered at RHAM Wednesday to rehearse for next weekend's shows. Pictured from left are Genna Marcin as Hope Harcourt, Nicholas Everlith as the Captain, Peter O'Connell as Mrs. Harcourt, Andrew Hawes as the Purser, Dan Busa as Billy Crocker and Chris Yeterian as Moonface Martin.



This year's Old Home Days ended, as usual, with a grand parade down Route 66. The "Golden Age of Television" was this year's theme; local Boy Scouts contributed a float celebrating the 1960s *Batman* TV show, top left, while the East Hampton High School Class of 1962 showed off an *American Bandstand*-themed display, below right. Parade participants also included local bagpipers, top right, and, at far bottom, Epoch Arts celebrating 20 years' worth of productions (such as *Alice in Wonderland* and *James and the Giant Peach*) and the East Hampton Yellow Ribbon Committee.

**Parade cont. from Front Page**

The parade, which stepped off at 11 a.m., was led by the East Hampton Police Department, and followed by the police color guard, members of the VFW Post 5095 and the Governor's Foot Guard. Appearing in his 22nd Old Home Days parade, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal waved to the crowd and spoke with some of the spectators, marching alongside Lt. Gov. Nancy Wyman and state Attorney Gen. George Jepsen.

Members of the East Hampton Fire Department and Volunteer Ambulance soon followed, leading up to the Town Council, Police Chief Matthew Reimondo and new Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, walking in his first Old Home Days Parade in his first week in office.

Behind the town officials was one of the highlights of the parade: a horse and carriage carrying Matthew Bevin, the owner of the Bevin Bros. Manufacturing Company. Bevin received a warm reception from those in the crowd, as a troop of marchers followed behind the carriage ringing bells around a Bevin Bell factory float.

"I'm glad they participated, because we had hoped they would get involved," Joslyn-Greenwald said. "It was a nice addition."

The theme of this year's parade, "The Golden Age of Television," brought out the creativity of many involved, with programs from the 50s, 60s, and 70s being represented. The East Hampton Class of 1962, celebrating its 50th reunion, danced on an *American Bandstand* float, which serenaded the crowd with oldies music. The local Boy Scouts dedicated their float to the old television version of *Batman*, complete with signs saying "Splat!" and "Kapow!" Podium Players, a local theatre arts group, rode along on a floating tribute to *The Addams Family*, blaring the theme song and snapping along.

Other notable inclusions in the parade were

Citizen of the Year Joann Youngs; the always-popular Shriners in their miniature cars and motorcycles; the Yellow Ribbon Welcome Home Committee, which received a great round of applause from the crowd; and Rocky, the New Britain Rock Cats mascot, who desecrated a parade-goer's New York Yankees cap.

Throughout the parade, the younger spectators were treated to all fashion of free items: candy, freeze pops, T-shirts, and even some plants, courtesy of Paul's and Sandy's Too. Joslyn-Greenwald said seeing all of the smiling faces of the children are what makes the parade so special.

"It's really for the kids," she said. "That's what it's all about."

And that wasn't all the kids had to enjoy. Throughout the weekend, the youngsters were treated to carnival rides, games, and food on the Center School grounds, which include a free bubble tent and hula-hoop corral for those kids out of tickets. Each day of the celebration, 20 lucky children were also selected to receive a free bicycle, courtesy of the annual Bike Give-away.

For those looking to relax and enjoy some music, Saturday offered the largest and most diverse slate of acts; fan-favorite South Philadelphia String Band kicked the festivities off, followed by Caribbean band MOTO, jazz group The Convertibles, party group Mixed Signals, and cover band Big Floppy Disk serenaded the crowd into the night, right until the close of another successful Glorious Celebration.

By the next day, the festivities had ended and all of the fun was being packed away. But with the memories of another great summer weekend and a renewed sense of community, you can expect Old Home Days to be just as glorious next year.



**'Anything Goes' cont. from Front Page**

formers step on stage to perform the title song, "Anything Goes," is Meade's favorite.

"I love when they're all on stage," she said. "I always say the ensemble makes the show. They make it a production rather than just a few people telling a story."

Marlborough resident Genna Marcin, who plays the desired Hope Harcourt, agreed. Marcin said it's been a challenge to learn the music by Cole Porter "and I think what was also a challenge was getting the entire cast to dance."

But, she added, it was rewarding to see how hard everyone was working.

"It's really exciting to see everything coming together and what a great job we've done with it so far," she said.

And an example of just how hard everyone works could be seen in Hebron resident Kelly Whitesell, who plays Reno Sweeney. Along with giving her all as she danced around stage and belted out her songs, during the cast's five-minute break Whitesell could be found looking for input on her lines.

For her, it was the combination of singing, dancing and acting that made the performance challenging.

"Keeping track of the dancing and all my songs and all my lines and memorizing it all at the same time was the most challenging," she said, but added it's the dancing that made the performance special.

"It's the dancing that makes it so special because there's so much tapping and then there's singing and acting," said Whitesell. "It's more than the usual just singing and acting show. There's big dance numbers and more 'wow!' Broadway moments."

Yet even though it was apparent everyone took their part in, and preparation for, the performance seriously, the rehearsal was not without its humor. Considering there are two interesting castings – a female was cast to play the part of a male passenger, and the role of Mrs. Harcourt is played by Marlborough resident

Peter O'Connell – laughter seemed inevitable.

All throughout rehearsal, the actions and mannerisms of O'Connell sent his fellow actors and crew members in the audience into a fit of laughter.

In one particular scene, as O'Connell informs the ship's captain Crocker was discovered dressed up as a girl, everyone erupted into laughter, and Meade rightfully exclaimed, as she looked at O'Connell in his matronly blue dress, "that's really ironic."

And for O'Connell, it's the laughter that he's enjoyed the most.

"I like making people laugh," he said, but added playing the part of a female meant "everything" was a challenge – but it has taught him some new things, too.

"Well, I learned how to put on a bra," he laughed.

As a graduated senior, his performance as Mrs. Wadsworth T. Harcourt will be his eighth and final show with AHM Summer Youth Theater.

"I like going out like this because it's fun," he said.

However, in no way will *Anything Goes* be the end of his acting career. As he heads off to college, O'Connell said he plans to continue performing, and it'll come in handy, too, considering his chosen major.

"I'm going for political science, so I need to be an actor," he smiled.

O'Connell and the rest of the cast can be seen acting, singing and tapping across stage in *Anything Goes* on three different nights. The show runs Thursday through Saturday, July 26, 27 and 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron. Tickets cost \$9 for adults and \$6 for senior citizens and children under 12.

For tickets or information, contact AHM Youth Services at 860-228-9488. Tickets are also available at the Hebron town clerk's office, 15 Gilead St., and will be available at the door.



# YPCCA Goes Blonde for Latest Production in East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Having gone with more serious works in recent years, the Young People's Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) will churn out what choreographer Jennifer Friday calls "a real crowd-pleaser" next week, with its production of *Legally Blonde - The Musical*.

And if you think this musical is all about pink outfits, toy dogs and romantic comedy, well...it is. But it's a lot more than that, Friday said.

"It sounds poppy and simple," Friday said of the musical numbers, "but it's just as hard as the more serious musicals. And the kids have loved the challenge."

The musical is based on the Tony-nominated 2007 Broadway musical, which in turn was an adaptation of the 2001 film *Legally Blonde*, a box-office smash starring Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson. The story focuses on the main character, Elle Woods, who is the stereotypical blonde sorority girl from southern California. After her boyfriend, Warner, leaves the college to attend Harvard Law School and tells her their relationship is over, Elle applies and is accepted to the same school in an attempt to win him back. She soon learns lessons – with the help of some new friends – of what's important, and "it's not having blonde hair," said Friday.

The cast consists of 71 members – with an average age of 16 – who are all members of YPCCA's summer camp. Some of the more prominent roles will be played by veterans of the summer program: Elle Woods will be played by Shayla Belanger of East Hampton, in her fourth year; Warner will be played by Mason Passavant of Middletown, also in his fourth year; Emmett, a young attorney who befriends Elle, will be played by Garrett Judson of Durham, who is in his third year; and the role of Vivienne, another law student who is in a relationship with Warner, is played by East Hampton resident Caroline Jackson, in her fifth year.

For Belanger, it will be her first lead role, something that she has embraced with help from her castmates. "It's been awesome," she said. "Everyone has been so supportive and willing

to help."

Belanger also said that although the show's musical numbers are challenging and "high energy," the experience of the cast and the cast's familiarity with the story line of the movie has "worked in our favor." What has taken some getting used to, however, is the blonde hair (a wig), which Belanger called "awesome" – but not permanent.

"Yeah, I don't see that happening," she laughed.

On the other side of the follicle spectrum is Jackson, a blonde who will play a brunette. The character she plays, Vivienne, looks at Elle Woods as a stereotypical blonde and judges her because of it, believing she's unintelligent. Jackson said playing the brunette character has taught her that despite what others might think, it's important to "love yourself before you can love anyone else."

"The message is very hopeful and meaningful," said Jackson, who will be off to her first year of college in the fall.

Despite the feminine appeal of the film version of *Legally Blonde*, the male cast members are certain men will enjoy the production, as well. Passavant admitted he was a little skeptical when he first heard what this summer's musical would be, but said it has actually "been a lot fun" and the entire group has truly bonded.

"That's the great thing about YPCCA, everyone enjoys being here," he said.

Judson, who will reprise the same role he played last year in his high school's rendition of the musical, added that those who might turn their noses up at the musical might be surprised.

"You think it's going to be like the movie, but the show is different," he said, adding that the production is actually quite complex and "a pain in the butt."

That "pain" has been both figurative and literal for the cast, said Friday; not only is there very little speaking and considerable tempo changes in the music, but there is complicated choreography, including a 10-person jump-roping dance number that includes singing while jumping. Friday said the number, which closely



The Young People's Center for Creative Arts (YPCCA) will celebrating its 30th anniversary with a production of *Legally Blonde - The Musical*. The cast is made up of members of YPCCA's summer camp, including Cassidy Phelps, in the split; second row, from left, Anne Linden, Brynn Owen, Allison Luther, Carli Villa, Julia Orosz; third row, Frankie Esposito, left, and Angela Tallberg; and Shayla Belanger at the top, who will star as Elle Woods.

mirrors the Broadway choreography, has taken "considerable practice" from the cast involved and has really challenged them physically, with many sore shins and calves.

All of the hard work and practice will come to a head next weekend, when YPCCA will take to the stage four times: Thursday, July 26, through Saturday, July 28, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, July 29, at 2 p.m. All of the shows will be held at the East Hampton High School auditorium, 15 N. Maple St. Tickets are available at

[ypcca.org](http://ypcca.org) or at the door, \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors.

For those who can't wait until next week to get their performance arts fix, YPCCA will be hosting "The Event" tomorrow, July 21, also at the high school. The hour-long event will include various performances, all marking the 30th anniversary of the organization; Friday said alumni from the past three decades will also be included in the performances.

# Dance Instructor Returning to East Hampton

by Joshua Anusewicz

Starting this fall, local dancers will have a new location for honing their skills right in the heart of East Hampton. And while the studio will be brand new, the owner is someone that many local dancers will be familiar with.

"I can't wait to start!" said an excited Amber McAuliffe, who will be moving her dance instruction back to the area for the first time in three years.

McAuliffe had been a prominent dance instructor in Portland and East Hampton for 20 years before retiring in 2010. Having started her own studio, Encore, at just age 19, McAuliffe bounced her studio to several different locations in the area before settling in Portland Shopping Center on Route 66. (After retiring, McAuliffe sold the dance studio, which is now Bravo Dance Academy.)

"I had burned out," McAuliffe said of her retirement, adding that she was working through personal issues and taking care of her young daughter at the time. "And for me, if I can't do something 150 percent, I'm not going to do it."

After taking some time off from dance, McAuliffe began working at The Lion's Den, a fitness center in Middletown, where she worked her way up to general manager. In that position, she was able to schedule new fitness programs and build up the gym's membership. Having begun to miss teaching dance, McAuliffe came "out of retirement" to teach classes at the gym.

McAuliffe called her time at The Lion's Den "an amazing experience" and said it helped her reconnect with her love and passion for dance. The challenge, she said, was beginning registration in the winter, as most dance seasons coincide with the school year.

With her passion rekindled, the decision to open her own dance studio again happened in a whirlwind, just last week, McAuliffe said. The location, 1 Sinco Place, was actually where Encore had once been housed; not having

"burned any bridges" with the owner of the property, McAuliffe felt like this would be the perfect place to get started again, teaching some of the same children she had been teaching before.

"I'm ready for another 20 years," she said. "I'm ready to take on the world."

Understandably excited to get back into her own studio, McAuliffe said she became even more excited when she found out that many of her old instructors – girls she had taught before – were interested in returning. McAuliffe said that once she secured the location, she texted the group of girls, gauging their interest. Within a minute, each had responded: "I'm in!"

"They've all told me they can't wait to start," she said.

The next step, McAuliffe said, is remodeling the space into a dance studio with her "own flair." Having bounced around to different locations, McAuliffe said designing the studio become old hat for her, this being her fifth studio design. The space is smaller than what she is used to working with, but will include a sizable studio, a waiting room, an office, and a room for one-on-one instruction.

McAuliffe said that because of her history in the town, and the fact that most of her students at The Lion's Den were from East Hampton and Portland, she believes the demand for quality dance instruction will be high.

"I think convenience is one of the deciding factors," she said. "People's lives are very scheduled, and I think it will be easier if I'm closer to the kids."

The kids, she said, are what she has missed most about teaching dance. She hopes that some of the students she taught before will return, drawn to her experience and positive attitude on just what dance means to the young ones.

"It doesn't matter if you want to dance competitive or just recreationally," she said. "It's important that the children have a place to feel good about themselves. Then, they have that confidence and pride that they can carry with



In September, a new dance studio – simply called The Studio – will opening in East Hampton, under the direction of well-known instructor Amber McAuliffe. She will be joined by a group of her former teachers, including Amber Moir, far left with baby, Brittney Tomczak, second to left, Stacey Fuller, center left, and Megan Berritta, far right.

them into school."

The new dance studio – which will simply be called The Studio – will offer the same array of dance options that have been offered in the past, McAuliffe said. Dancers can choose from ballet, tap, jazz, acrobatics, contemporary, or hip-hop, to name a few; McAuliffe said her studio will also feature yoga and Zumba classes, as well as boxing classes, in hopes of appealing to the community as a "family fitness center."

"We'll see what comes of it," McAuliffe said, not ruling out the studio offering more programs in the future. "I'm certainly hoping to build, and to see some familiar faces."

McAuliffe said the target date for opening The Studio is currently Saturday, Sept. 15, giving the students a chance to get back to school before starting dance for the season, she said. The first registration period will be held at The Studio on Thursday, July 26, from 5-8 p.m. Additional registration sessions will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, from 9-11 a.m.; Wednesday, Aug. 8, from 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 18, from 9-11 a.m.; Thursday, Aug. 23, from 5-8 p.m.; and Saturday, Sept. 1, from 9-11 a.m.

To contact McAuliffe for more information or questions, email her at [thestudioc@ymail.com](mailto:thestudioc@ymail.com).

# Loiselle-Goodwin to Retire as Colchester Superintendent

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The Board of Education announced last week that Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin has given notice she will retire this year.

Loiselle-Goodwin presented the board with a formal notice of retirement, last Wednesday, July 11. The retirement is effective Dec. 31. The school board – knowing the superintendent would eventually retire – has already tapped current Bacon Academy Principal Jeffry Mathieu to take over the position.

“Words cannot adequately express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as the educational leader of our exemplary school system for the past seven years,” a letter from Loiselle-Goodwin to the school board read.

But, she added, “The long hours necessary to meet my professional responsibilities have left me with minimal time to spend with family and friends and to pursue my passion for outdoor activities and travel.”

Loiselle became Colchester’s superintendent in 2005. Prior, she was the curriculum director and principal of the Colchester Intermediate School, now known as Jack Jackter Intermediate School.

“Karen has been a stellar superintendent and educational leader in the district,” Board of Education Chairman Ron Goldstein said in a press release. “Of course she will be sorely missed, but her legacy of achievement and expectations for excellence will remain.”

First Selectman Gregg Schuster said Loiselle-Goodwin is leaving “big shoes to fill.”

“It’s a great loss for the town of Colchester,” he said. “Karen has done a phenomenal job for Colchester and she’s going to be missed.”

Mathieu has been Bacon’s principal since 1999 and has worked in the school district since

1992. In the press release, Goldstein said the board is excited to have “such a terrific talent ‘in house’ so that the transition can be seamless.”

Loiselle-Goodwin also had kind words for her successor. “Jeff Mathieu has completed a 20-year performance task in Colchester,” she said. “He has demonstrated exemplary leadership skills, professionalism, integrity and a passion for serving the community’s students.”

Mathieu said the Colchester school system has “an extraordinary team of outstanding administrators, teachers and staff. I am honored to continue to serve them and the entire community.”

In 2006, Mathieu completed his superintendent of schools certification (the 093) – though he didn’t anticipate becoming superintendent of Colchester schools.

“I figured Karen would be there for another lifetime, but it’s a dream come true,” he said.

As an administrator with what he called a “good working knowledge of the Board of Ed.,” the transition to superintendent should be smooth for Mathieu.

“I’ve been in Colchester since ‘92 and...know most of the staff members in the district,” he said. “Already I’ve been involved last week in some hiring of long-term [substitutes]... I’m already involved in a lot of the activities and I’ve already talked with Ron Goldstein [Monday] about the strategic plan to start in the fall.”

Mathieu’s start date is Jan. 1, before the second semester of the school year begins later that month.

First, Mathieu said, the board will have to hire his replacement at Bacon Academy. “That’ll free me up to do more transition time,”

he said.

Director of Pupil Services and Special Education and Colchester Association of School Administrators President Katherine Shaughnessy was grateful for Loiselle-Goodwin’s years of guidance and support and looked forward to continuing with Mathieu.

“Her vision has established the path we follow to improve and enhance the educational opportunities for all of Colchester’s children,” she said in a press release. “We are confident that under Jeff’s leadership, Colchester Public Schools will continue our tradition of high standards expected by the community.”

In her letter to the board, Loiselle-Goodwin said serving as superintendent has been “a labor of love.”

The letter continued that she had not originally aspired to become superintendent of the Colchester school system. “The opportunity to work for and with a Board of Education dedicated to making decisions in the best interest of children proved to be a professional opportunity and challenge, however, that I needed to accept,” she said.

Loiselle-Goodwin also wrote she was confident her successor would continue the school district’s successes.

“My retirement this year will also allow a new superintendent to work with the community to develop the school system’s next strategic plan,” she said. “I can’t wait to read about the future successes our students and staff are most certain to achieve.”

Though last Thursday was the first the board heard of the official retirement date, board members knew Loiselle-Goodwin’s retirement was eminent, Goldstein said.

“She needed to talk to her husband and her



**Karen Loiselle-Goodwin, Colchester’s superintendent of schools, gave notice last week that she will retire at the end of the year. Current Bacon Academy Principal Jeffry Mathieu will begin as superintendent Jan. 1.**

financial people” to determine when she would retire, he said, but Loiselle-Goodwin had started planning who her successor would be a year and a half ago.

The board will meet early next week to discuss the Bacon Academy principal position, Goldstein said, adding the position was posted internally this week, but the board has not yet discussed whether the new principal will be promoted in-house.

# Colchester Children’s Theatre Production Deals With Bullying

by **Katelyn Kelleher**

The young actors in Colchester Community Theatre’s Summer Children’s Theatre Workshop have learned valuable lessons about bullying and how to treat their peers. And, in Saturday’s performance of *Nothing to Hide*, their characters do, too.

The camp’s director, Wallis Johnson, said each year staff at CCT chooses a play for their summer workshop that can both accommodate a large number of children and send home a message.

*Nothing to Hide* is a “play within a play,” Johnson said, that follows a bullying situation in school. A character is bullied so badly, at school and through cyber-bullying, that she eventually doesn’t want to go to school.

“The first half is where kids are not being as kind to each other as they could and then the kid directors come out and they say ‘we need to work on this, we need to teach kids a better way to act.’ Then they redo the play from the beginning with better language and better interactions,” Johnson said. “It’s really a great teaching tool to show kids how to be with their friends at school.”

The 70 performers, some as young as second-graders, will perform a series of vignettes depicting positive and negative ways to interact with their peers.

“[The workshop teaches] what is bullying and looking at how we deal with people, how we look at people and it’s really an opportunity for them to gain that awareness from the smallest little thing that they do to the big picture,” said music director Diane Ozmun.

The topic is a personal one to some of the children in the workshop. “Some of the little ones have even come up to me and told me they have been [bullied],” Johnson said.

The musical tackles real-life situations that

the students can end up in. Skylar Haines plays a character torn between the bullies and her friend.

“I am somebody who’s under pressure to be in the popular group and my friend is [the character being bullied] and I’m ditching her to be in the popular group and making fun of her. I care about her but I’m making fun of her with the other girls to kind of survive and be in their clique,” she said. “At the end I end up standing up for her.”

Haines said she thinks this type of situation happens often in schools. “This [play] is definitely something that’s making people realize what’s going on in school,” she said. “I do think peer pressure happens a lot in school and it’s something we have to work on.”

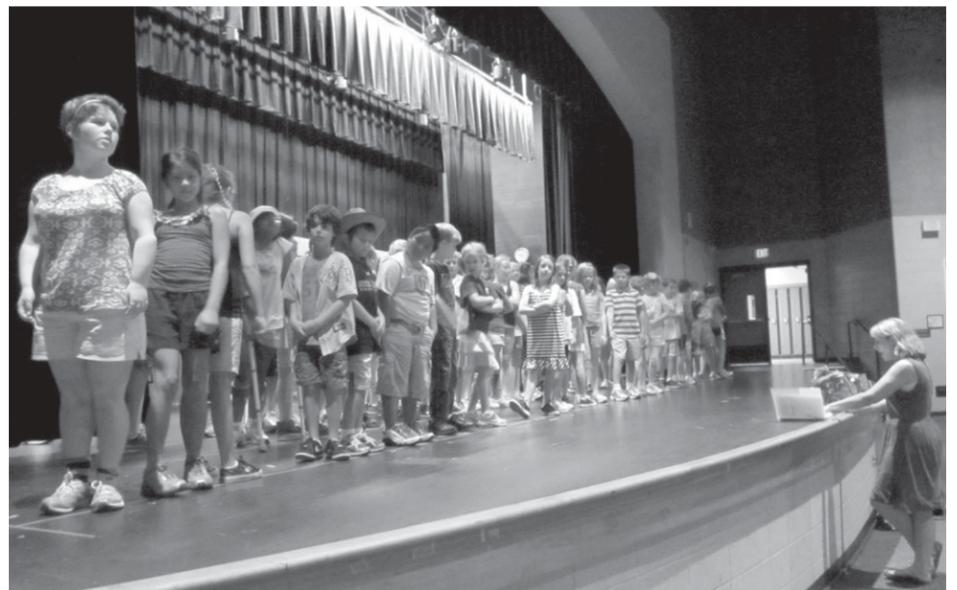
Mallorie Rathbone plays the “queen mean bee” in the production and hopes to use her villainous role to “get out to people that bullying isn’t good.”

Cameron Emmerson, who said he hopes to be an actor when he grows up, plays a bully-turned-nice guy. “The message I think it’s sending is bullying’s wrong and it should be stopped and it affects everyone around you,” he said.

Johnson said a social worker is one of the workshop leaders in the two-week program, who taught the children about “filling their buckets.”

“When you are really kind to someone, you’re filling their bucket and, at the same time, because you feel so good making them feel good you fill your own bucket. But when you say something that’s not nice...to someone you’re actually taking away from the bucket,” she said. “The kids have a big red bucket out in the lobby and every time they have a snack they fill out pieces of paper of how they’re filling peoples’ buckets in their lives.”

Tackling a cast of 70 children to put together



**All 70 children take the stage during rehearsal for Colchester Community Theatre’s summer children’s production of *Nothing to Hide*, an educational musical exploring the social problem of bullying in schools. The play will be performed this Saturday at Bacon Academy.**

a show in two weeks is no easy feat. Parent volunteers help out, but Johnson and Ozum both agreed the children are extremely focused.

“The kids are outstanding. They come in here and they’re just so ready. It’s, ‘what are we doing next? What are we doing next?’” Ozum said.

“Even the set’s all done by the kids. The kids do everything,” Johnson said.

Some of the older children act as role models for the youngsters, too. “The older kids love to be role models for the younger kids and yet they also respect that some of them might not

want help or they want to do things on their own, too,” Ozum said.

Rathbone, who has been participating in the workshop for years, enjoys helping her younger co-stars. “I feel special when they look up to me,” she said. “It really comes together, the show.”

Curtains will open for *Nothing to Hide* tomorrow, July 21, at 2 p.m. at the Bacon Academy auditorium. Tickets will be \$4, sold at the door.



# Hebron Superintendent Gets Extension, Pay Raise

by Geeta Schrayter

The Board of Education last week voted 5-2 – with members Amy Lynch-Gracias and Dominic Marino opposed – to extend Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz’s contract by another year, and to give her a 2.5 percent pay increase.

The raise brings Cruz’ salary to \$141,450, retroactive to July 1.

The school board made the decision after coming out of executive session at its July 12 meeting.

On Tuesday, Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea said Cruz’s contract wasn’t up, nor did the extension mean she had a one-year contract. Shea explained when Cruz was initially hired, she came with a three-year contract. As is the standard for superintendents in the state, Shea said, at the end of each fiscal year, one of those years falls off “and the board usually decides to extend the contract,” so Cruz has always had “a rolling three-year contract.”

As of July 1, Cruz had two years remaining on her contract. Due to the board’s action to extend it by an additional year – bringing it back to three years – Cruz’s contract now runs from July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2015.

In addition to the pay increase, the new contract also features other changes, such as reimbursement pay for mileage. Shea said there had been “a lot of debate and discussion in the community about the mileage.”

Cruz’s prior contract reimbursed her \$400 per month for travel, but the decision was made

to remove that set amount and instead made it so Cruz could file for reimbursement at the rate set by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). For 2012, that rate is 55.5 cents per mile.

“That does exclude commuting to and from work, which we’re not paying for anyways, and isn’t a reimbursable expense under the IRS,” said Shea.

Lastly, the decision was made to issue and pay for a cell phone for Cruz for the 12-month period of the contract. After getting some prices, the cost of the cell phone was listed at \$1,180.

“This way it’ll be a board-issued-and-paid-for cell phone, so all expenses on that will go to the central office and get paid as a monthly bill,” said Shea.

Shea said the majority of the board felt Cruz needed a phone due to how available she made herself. Shea explained Cruz uses the phone while she’s on the road, and if there are problems the district gets in touch with her on nights and weekends. Up until now, Cruz has been using her personal cell phone.

“It doesn’t make any sense for the administrator of an organization to use their own cell phone,” Shea said. “In fact, some of the [board members] have two phones – a personal and a business phone. It’s not anything unusual.

“We’re very pleased with Ellie,” Shea added, “and the thing I want to emphasize is, this evaluation we just completed is for her prior year 2011-12, so it’s based on all she did in the previous year, and we feel that she’s running the

district very well as a majority.”

Shea added Cruz works very hard, is “tenacious,” “firm” and “resolute,” and works together with the board. Shea said the district was “very lucky” to have her.

“She works over and above the call of duty,” Shea said. “I think the best thing of all is she has extremely high standards for the staff in the district, and we want that as a board, because we want the best for our students and the best student achievement – and that’s what we’ve seen overall.”

But Marino felt differently about the extension. He said Thursday he felt Cruz’s programs and decisions “would be better suited for a larger, urban area with a larger tax base.”

“I’m philosophically opposed to a lot of her programs that don’t respect the values of the community and the constituents I represent,” he said. “I would like to see somebody [as superintendent] that would be more likely to take the residents’ and voters’ opinions into consideration when they say they’re against [something that’s been proposed].”

Marino added he “would like to see someone who thinks creatively to design programs that the residents who pay [the superintendent] are in favor of.”

Marino said he didn’t have anything personal against Cruz, and he respected the office of the superintendent, but he didn’t think the town was in a position to offer things like cell phones and mileage. He also said he couldn’t see why a

superintendent would need to be reached at 10 p.m.

“We can’t afford it in this town: the perks that are offered and the high-priced salaries,” he said. “I think \$140,000 is enough money to cover all that.”

Marino also mentioned he proposed Hebron schools moving to a part-time superintendent, which is the case in Marlborough. “I think it’s something we should look at,” he said.

Along with voting against the contract extension and changes, Marino noted he also voted against going into executive session to discuss Cruz’s evaluation and contract.

“I think that’s not the American way,” he said. “I think nothing should be secret and the public should know exactly what we’re doing. They do know afterwards, but it makes me a little uncomfortable.”

Cruz said Tuesday it was an honor to serve with the school board, calling the members “highly professional” and “deeply passionate.” She said she was “extraordinarily lucky” she and the board had such a strong partnership.

“And I think [the contract extension] shows that they support, for the most part, the work of the district and the upward trajectory” the district is seeing, Cruz stated.

She added the decision made a clear statement that the board feels, like she does, “that having stability in school leadership is clearly an indicator of a high-performing district.”

## New Hebron Finance Officer a First for Legion

by Geeta Schrayter

At American Legion Post 95 in Hebron, there’s a new finance officer in town. And according to Ron Winter, who held the position for the past eight years, it’s the first female to hold the title.

“I’m very proud of the fact that as far as I know, she’s the first woman veteran to hold office here,” Winter said of Post 95’s new finance officer, Christina Brault. Winter, who spent six years in the Marines and served in Vietnam, added it was “a reflection of the time and society and I think we’ve got a great person. It’s easy to make the transition [to a new officer] when you know the person coming in can step up and move forward.”

Winter, who gave up the position due to personal reasons as well as the fact that, as he laughed, “eight years is a long time,” explained last fall Brault helped at a fundraiser and he was “very impressed” with her diligence and attention to detail.

Winter explained the finance officer is in control of all the finances at the post and is responsible for collecting and depositing all revenue and making fund disbursements.

The officer has to be on scene for major functions and write a report on each event along with a monthly finance report. They’re also “responsible for making sure all the bills get paid, the books get kept – virtually everything that has to do with finances is your job,” he said.

“You’re not just the top person relative to finances,” he added, “but pretty much the only person. The one who has the authority, but you also have all the responsibility.”

The position, he said, is “quite an investment of time,” but Brault has the capabilities needed.

“She’s obviously very smart and has a good facility for numbers,” he said, and when she helped with the fundraiser, he’d thought to himself “when the time comes to look for a replacement – I think I’m looking at her.”

On Tuesday, Brault, who served in the Air Force for seven years and moved to Hebron with her family in 2006, explained she joined the American Legion to become involved in the community. In addition, she wanted to show her daughters – Britney, 15, Emily, 13, and Abigail, 5 – what it meant to be a part of the military outside of being on base.

Also, being in the American Legion runs in the Brault family.

Brault’s mother-in-law is on the American Auxiliary, while her father-in-law served in Vietnam with the Navy. Brault’s husband Daniel, she continued, was also in the Air Force.

Brault is in her third year of involvement with the Legion, and she added she already enjoys the camaraderie the post provides. As far as stepping up to the position of finance officer, Brault said it made sense because that was one of her military duties.

“That was one of my jobs in the military, so it was no rocket science,” she said. “I felt comfortable with finances.”

Brault said she helped close Norton Air Force Base in California when the base ceased operations in 1994. This involved transferring funds from Norton to another operating base – and Brault explained the amount of money she worked with was significantly higher than what she’s responsible for at the American Legion.

“So thousands of dollars didn’t really scare me,” she said.

Brault officially took over as finance officer

– which is an elected position voted upon by the post’s members – on June 13. Moving forward, Brault said she’s looking to build relationships with local veterans “and actually doing more community events.”

She added while she hasn’t yet come across any challenges, “life in general happens around you, so you’ve got to just juggle [everything] in and be positive.”

As for Winter, the extra time he has may be just what he needs to write his first fiction book.

“I’m a writer by trade,” he said, noting he was a newspaper reporter and editor for nearly 20 years and already had a couple of non-fiction books published.

“Now I believe is the time” to write a fiction story, he said, especially since he’s had an outline completed since 2008.

But Winter added he still plans to be involved with the American Legion in other capacities.

“You don’t really just walk away from it,” he said, adding he was just “very happy to see the younger veterans come in and step up and want to take some responsibility” at the post.

And now Brault is among them.

## New Full-Day Preschool Coming to Gilead Hill

by Geeta Schrayter

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz informed the Board of Education last week of a “tremendous opportunity” to offer full-day preschool to 18 students in town, thanks to funding recently awarded as part of the state’s School Readiness program and education reform Gov. Dannel P. Malloy passed earlier this year.

As part of the reform, 1,000 new spaces were added to the School Readiness Program, a state-funded initiative “designed to provide for, and increase access to, high-quality preschool for children ages three and four,” according to a July 10 release from Malloy.

“Early education provides the foundation for the future success of our children,” Malloy wrote, “and the assignment of the 1,000 new school readiness slots marks yet another im-

portant step toward improving the overall quality of education throughout the State of Connecticut.”

Hebron was awarded \$107,000 to fund the program, and Cruz explained the money will cover the hiring of a preschool teacher, paraprofessionals and supplies. She added there was already classroom space and furniture available at Gilead Hill School.

The grant awards are given annually and guaranteed for a period of five years, but Cruz said it’s her understanding “the program will continue ad infinitum.”

“It’s not a sunset grant,” she said. “It’s a continuation grant. Once you’re approved, you don’t come off.”

Cruz continued to explain the program isn’t governed by the Board of Education, but a

school readiness council that represents the community. The council would be made up of such people as parents, individuals from Town Hall and members of AHM Youth and Family Services. The entire program is governed by this council, which would be required to meet at the end of August to adopt certain policies and guidelines in preparation for the program’s start.

Among these are the application criteria. Cruz explained Thursday information will be released as far as what that criteria will be – especially for low-income families. Those who are interested will then apply for the program and be interviewed by the council.

“There’s no burden on the Board of Education,” said Cruz, emphasizing the fact the program is “totally separate from us” and the Board

of Education will have no authority over the program or school readiness council. The council will have “a whole different set of policies” that governs them.

The program is tuition-based with a sliding scale, and as required by the state, 60 percent – or 11 of the 18 preschool slots – need to be filled by children from low-income families.

“They can be provided full-day preschool on a sliding scale” while “the remaining seven will be filled by regular, full-tuition families,” said Cruz. “It’s a tremendous opportunity.”

“I’m really pleased,” she continued, adding she hoped everything would be in place to start class in the late fall.

“It’s very exciting that we will be able to give the community this opportunity,” she emphasized Tuesday.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Henry Arthur Morin

Henry "Hank" Arthur Morin, 67, of Colchester, and formerly of Bridgeport, passed away on Tuesday, July 10, at his home. Born March 10, 1945, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Arthur and Florence (Chase) Morin.

Hank was a proud veteran of the U.S. Navy and worked as a head mechanic for Sikorsky Aircraft. He retired after 32 years of service. He was an active member of the VFW posts in Willimantic and Stratford. He also was a member of the St. Joseph's Polish Club in Colchester. Hank loved sports and was especially fond of the New Orleans Saints. He enjoyed eating breakfast at Herman's and especially Diane's restaurants in Colchester.

Hank will be sadly missed by his family and friends. He leaves a sister, Darlene and her husband Edward Hathaway of Lebanon; a brother, Robert Chase and his wife Valerie of Coventry; nephews, Stephen Hathaway of Lebanon, John and his wife Melanie Hathaway of Colchester; nieces, Jennifer Shaw and husband George of Tolland, Jillian and Alexis Chase, both of Coventry; great nieces and nephews, Joshua, Matthew and Lily Shaw, Chase and Wilson Hathaway and many friends.

He was predeceased by a sister, Judie Lockwood.

A graveside funeral service will be held Thursday, July 26, at 2 p.m., at the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown, with full military honors.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Disabled American Veterans, P.O. Box 4301, Cincinnati, OH 45250-0301.

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

## Colchester

### Robert R. Seguin

Robert R. Seguin, 85, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, July 14, at his home. Born July 6, 1927, in Lawrence, Mass., he was a son of the late Isadore and Blanche (Tremblay) Seguin. He attended school in Lawrence, Mass., and moved to Colchester in 1959.

Robert was married to the late Elizabeth (McCarthy) in 1954. She predeceased him Nov. 18, 2009.

Mr. Seguin was a proud veteran of the U.S. Army and served during the Korean War. Robert worked as a security officer for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for 36 years and retired in 1978.

He is survived by two sons, Robert and wife Deborah of Tuscon, Ariz., and Thomas and wife Vicina of East Hampton, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Including his wife, he was predeceased by a daughter, Kathleen Seguin; two brothers, C. Joseph Seguin and Richard Seguin; two sisters, Irene Hurst and Claire Demers.

The family would like to extend their heartfelt gratitude to the care givers from Middlesex Hospital Home Care, especially Audrey, Tina and Ruth.

Friends called Thursday, July 19, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. The funeral liturgy will be held today, July 20, at 10:30 a.m., at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial in St. Andrew Cemetery will be private.

Donations in his memory may be made to: Middlesex Hospital Home Care, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department, 54 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

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

## Colchester

### Eleanor Bedell

Eleanor (Goodwin) Bedell, 65, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, July 14, surrounded by her loving family. Eleanor was married to Richard Bedell for 20 years. She was born in Hardwick Vermont to her predeceased parents, Royal and Beverly Goodwin.

Eleanor is survived by her son, James Grady and wife Vicki of Gastonia, N.C. She also leaves behind her six siblings, Jeanne Scroggins and husband Eddie of Killingworth, Linda Goodwin, Marilyn Moroch and husband Joseph, Steven Goodwin and wife Barbara, Mark Goodwin and wife Darlene, Brian Goodwin and fiancée, Sheryl, all of Colchester; uncle, Paul Hediger and wife Marge of Iowa City, Iowa; and many nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Eleanor worked at Travelers Insurance Company for most of her career. She was a simple person and never asked for anything. She was just a pleasure to be around.

Memorial visiting hours were held Wednesday, July 18, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. Donations in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## East Hampton

### Rita Cozzi Becker

Rita Cozzi Becker, 86, of Hog Hill Road, East Hampton, widow of the late Howard Edward Becker Sr., died Tuesday, July 10, 2012, at her home. Born Feb. 11, 1926, in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Achille and Mary Kavanaugh Cozzi.

Rita was a lifelong resident of East Hampton and a communicant of St Patrick Church. She was a 1944 graduate of East Hampton High School, and a 1946 graduate of Bryant College in Providence, R.I.

She is survived by her beloved children, Kathleen Becker Smith and Peter Smith of East Hampton, Sharon Rita Becker and Allan Markham of East Hampton, and Howard Edward Becker Jr. and Hollee Becker of Streetsboro, Ohio.

She will be missed by her adoring grandchildren, David A. Markham, Michael C. Smith, Erik D. Smith, Stephen C. Markham, Sarah H. Burzio, and Andrew H. Becker. She was excitedly awaiting the birth of her Markham great-grandson.

She leaves behind two loving sisters, Catherine Cozzi Konefal and Helen Cozzi Hayes, and was blessed with 10 nieces and nephews and 19 great nieces and nephews.

She will be fondly remembered by her loyal and cherished friends Leonida Burnham and Adelaide Cole. In her final years she also spent numerous joyful times with Dorothy B. Rich and Elsie Becker.

Rita was devoted to her family. She adored the times spent with her extended family and treasured friends. Rita loved her peaceful hours working in her gardens.

## East Hampton

### Sebastian D. Lisitano

Sebastian D. "Mickey" Lisitano, 92, of East Hampton, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family Friday, July 13, just five months after his beloved wife, Louise W. Lisitano, passed.

Mickey was born, one of 12 children, to the late Sebastiana Lombardo and Joseph Lisitano Sr. on Dec. 12, 1919, in Middletown, and was married to Louise McGrath Wallace for 65 years.

Mickey worked as an occupational therapist at Connecticut Valley Hospital in his younger years, and then worked for Color Mart Framing and Middletown Plate Glass, both in Middletown, as an accomplished framer and repairer of frames and porcelain, then working part-time up to just three years ago. He was a talented antique enthusiast and could repair just about anything with skills that he taught to himself. He enjoyed remodeling houses and his many trips to Vermont to attend antique auctions to extend his knowledge.

He loved traveling out west and was especially fond of studying Native American paintings, collectibles, and folklore so he could develop his own amateur painting skills. He loved gardening, producing his own peppers for canning and caring for his numerous flower beds. He was especially proud of his two sons and their families, who learned so much from him and will miss him dearly.

He is survived by two sons and daughter-in-laws, Michael and Elaine Lisitano of Waterford, and Ronald and Linda Wallace, of Cobalt. He had three granddaughters: Kim Wallace Anderson (Phil), Heather Lisitano Warner (John) and Carrie Lisitano Rose (Ryan) and one grandson, Randy Wallace (Kendra); and he had five great-grandchildren whom he adored: Braden and Callen Wallace, Jordan Rose, and Margaret and Ryan Warner. He leaves three brothers, Andrew Lisitano of Newington, Fred "Smitty" Lisitano (Betty) of Portland, and Joseph Lisitano Jr. of Middletown and one sister, Anna Bongiorno (Angelo) of Middletown. He also leaves behind many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brothers, Frank Lisitano (Anna), Salvatore Lisitano, John Lisitano, and Gino Lisitano (Phyllis) all of Middletown, and three sisters: Constance Lynch of Florida, Lucy Peterson and Victoria Kalinowski, both of Middletown and his long-time friend, Frank Dumond of East Hampton.

There will be no calling hours. A private family memorial service will be held at Rose Hill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit, Leukemia Research Foundation or the American Cancer Society in his memory.

The family wishes to thank all the nurses and staff at Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit and "Stay @ Home, LLC" and Benjamin of Manchester for their wonderful care of Mickey. They made him feel comfortable and safe and he felt at home.

## Amston

### Farrie M. Clark

Farrie M. "Rie" Clark passed away in Altoona, Fla., on Sunday, July 15, after a long illness. She was 82 years old, born in East Hartford.

She leaves her loving husband of 61 years, Everett Clark. They lived in East Hartford then in Amston. They retired to Summerfield, Fla., in 1994.

They raised six devoted daughters, Linda (predeceased), Shelley Grendzinski of East Hampton, Denise O'Neill and her husband Thomas of Danielson, Laurel Magill of Punxsutawney, Pa., Cathleen Monaco and her husband Peter of Tavares, Fla., and Mary Ellen Lewandoski and her husband Charles of East Hartford. They have 10 grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Rie was predeceased by her mother, Carrie and father, Jesse Mariner, and brothers Jesse and William Mariner.

She was a UConn graduate where she earned her MBA, and a member of the Pi Beta Phi sorority. She taught a class called Adult Living at Montville High School for 22 years. She was also food coordinator for Girl Scouts summer camps in Connecticut for several years. She enjoyed bridge, sewing, reading, traveling and family vacations.

The family plans a private celebration of her life in Altoona. A memorial service in Connecticut will be planned later.

Friends may express their condolences with donations to Cornerstone Hospice, 2445 Lane Park Rd., Tavares FL, 32778 or their local Alzheimer's Association.

Beyers Funeral Home and Crematory of Umatilla, Fla have care of the arrangements.

## Marlborough

### Dorothy M. Eastwood

Dorothy M. Eastwood, 95, of Marlborough, formerly of Wethersfield, beloved wife of the late Lewis Daniel Eastwood, passed away peacefully Saturday, July 14.

Dorothy, daughter to the late Frederick E. & Bertha (Hummell) Miller was born on Oct. 31, 1917, in Philadelphia, Pa. She graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Waterbury. She resided with her family in Wethersfield from 1955 until 2002, and then moved to Marlborough to live with her daughter and son-in-law.

Dorothy began her working career as a clerk for the Waterbury Savings Bank and later became a senior clerk in the Department of Transportation for the State of Connecticut. During this time, Dorothy worked along side her husband at their printing company, Lewis Printing, in Wethersfield. She was a communicant of Church of the Incarnation in Wethersfield for 39 years.

Dorothy will be forever missed by her cherished family: son, Lewis F. Eastwood and his wife, Ellen M., of Wethersfield; daughter, Ellen K. Eastwood and her husband, Richard Chrusciel of Marlborough; two grandchildren, Ryan and Sarah Eastwood, both of Wethersfield; a great grandson, Daniel Eastwood, along with his mother, Catherine Henry.

Dorothy will be remembered for her sweet and loving ways, strong religious faith and her devotion to family and friends.

Dorothy's family received relatives and friends Wednesday, July 18, at the Farley-Sullivan Funeral Home, 34 Beaver Road, Wethersfield. Funeral procession from Farley-Sullivan commenced Thursday, July 19, with a Mass of Christian Burial that morning, in the Church of the Incarnation, 544 Prospect St., Wethersfield. Interment will follow in the family plot in St. Joseph Cemetery, 48 Hamilton Ave., Waterbury.

Memorial donations may be made in Dorothy's name to the Middlesex Hospital Home Care, 770 Saybrook Rd., Middletown, CT 06457.

## East Hampton

### Ellen Carlson

Ellen Carlson, 77, of East Hampton, wife of the late Donald S. Carlson Sr., died at Chestelm Healthcare in Moodus on Tuesday, July 17, after a long battle with Alzheimer's. She was born in New Brunswick, N.J. on Nov. 22, 1934, to the late Roy Sickles and Elizabeth Bruck.

She worked as a secretary at Memorial School in East Hampton for many years. In her retirement she enjoyed golf and genealogy.

She is survived by her son Donald Carlson Jr. and his wife Rita of Tampa, Fla., her daughter Linda Reid and her husband Bill of Colchester; three grandchildren, Trevor Reid and his wife Becky of Colchester, Nick Reid of Colchester and Megan Carlson of Florida.

The family would like to thank the staff of Chestelm Healthcare for their love and excellent care.

A graveside service will be held Sunday, July 22, at 1:30 p.m., in the Swedish Cemetery, William Street, Portland. There will be no calling hours.

Memorial contributions in Ellen's memory may be made to Godfrey Library, 134 Newfield St., Middletown, CT 06457.

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

## East Hampton

### Sheila Sapp

Sheila Sapp, 70, of East Hampton, died Monday, July 16, at Middlesex Hospital. Born May 4, 1942, in Hartford she was the daughter of the late Henry and Helen (Thompson) Hall.

She had graduated from Suffield High School and had lived in Portland before moving to East Hampton in 1989. She had worked for the Department of Motor Vehicles and then the State Police Troop H in Hartford and most recently at Troop K in Colchester before her retirement.

She is survived by her son, David Sapp and his wife Sara of Cromwell; her daughter, Natalie Sapp of East Hampton; three brothers, Henry Hall of Bloomfield, Vernon Hall of Bloomfield, Anthony Hall of Andover; two sisters, Marsha Mays of Georgia, Veronica Tate of East Hampton; three grandchildren, Taylor, Kaitlyn, Kristian; and two step-grandchildren, Dazia and Jon; also many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Services will be private at the convenience of the family.

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

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

## Portland

### Holly Stevens

Holly Anne (Paulson) Stevens, 56, of Portland, beloved wife of Paul E. Stevens, passed away peacefully Thursday, July 12, surrounded by her family, at the Hospital of Central Connecticut. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of June (Lundberg) Paulson of Portland and the late Everett L. Paulson.

Holly lived all her life in Portland and was a member of Christ Lutheran Church. She was a graduate of Portland High School, a graduate of Hartford School of Accounting and was employed at Wesleyan University in the chemistry department for 33 years. Holly enjoyed traveling, especially her trips to Maine with her husband, and loved being around family.

Along with her mother and husband, she is survived by her sister, Heidi P. Abbott and her husband Al of Portland; her nephew, Joshua L. Abbott, who put a twinkle in her eye and held a special place in her heart; aunt and uncle, Robert and Elizabeth Paulson of Rockfall; aunt, Elinore Paulson of New Jersey; five cousins, Deborah A. Kulpik of Middlefield, Christopher W. Paulson of Rockfall, Eloise Ebbighausen of Massachusetts, Jon Paulson of New Jersey and Paul Paulson of New Jersey; her mother-in-law, Cecilia Stevens of Bloomfield; and two sisters-in-law, Lori Dutko of Meriden and Carol Fisher of Hartford.

Besides her father, she was predeceased by her cousin, Kathleen E. Paulson and her beloved dog, Cassie.

Funeral services were held Monday, July 16, at Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Washington St., Middletown. Burial followed in Pine Grove Cemetery.

Friends called Sunday, July 15, at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown, and in lieu of flowers, may make donations in Holly's memory to the Hospital for Special Care, 2160 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053.

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



*From the Editor's Desk*

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

When the Hebron school budget – and its inclusion of all-day kindergarten – eventually passed with voters last month, I was pleased. The time really did seem right to expand the all-day initiative; as the Board of Education had noted, it was able to offer it without increasing the budget accordingly. True, it might not be mandated by the state yet, but I'm of the opinion it will be, probably sooner than later, so why not do it now, when it wouldn't be an added expense?

While I was in favor of it, I'm guessing New Hampshire state Rep. Bob Kingsbury would have been opposed. In fact, he curiously seems against public kindergarten of any length. And wait until you hear his reason.

At a Bellknap County convention held June 25, Kingsbury, a Republican, told his fellow lawmakers he's worked on a theory since 1996, when he studied area crime rates and compared them to a list of communities that offered public kindergarten. The result? The places that offered kindergarten had higher rates of crime.

Yep, he was serious; public kindergarten leads to more criminals on the streets. Who knew?

Kingsbury, 86, said his hometown of Laconia offered kindergarten and had the highest rates of crime. But surrounding towns, some of which didn't offer kindergarten, has lower rates.

"We're taking children away from their mothers too soon," Kingsbury concluded, according to the *Laconia Daily Sun*.

Kingsbury wrote to all of his then state representatives, informing them of his research – but the state wound up eventually joining the other 49 states in the country and mandated public kindergarten.

"And we have more crime today," he said, according to the *Daily Sun*.

Kingsbury expanded on his thoughts the next week to *The Huffington Post*, telling them he doesn't believe day care or preschool programs have the same effect on crime, because they're voluntary.

"Children go to kindergarten at the point of a gun," Kingsbury told *HuffPo*. "Children go to day care and it's not the same; there is no point of a gun."

However, Kingsbury said he doesn't think the rise in crime is the fault of teachers. Instead he blamed attorneys and the courts for what he said was a lack of discipline and rules in schools, and for prohibiting teachers from disciplining students as in previous decades.

Oh, and that's not all. According to the *Daily Sun*, Kingsbury also linked the rise of crime to the decline of gun ownership – and to boxing no longer being taught in school or offered as a sport.

Sometimes, there are no words.

Kingbury is in his first term in the Republican-controlled New Hampshire House of Representatives, and is seeking re-election this fall.

\* \* \*

A note attached to a news release sent to the paper this week said it hopes I'm enjoying the sticky weather; the note's author said she, for one, was looking forward to it breaking.

Well, actually, I am enjoying the heat. As I've said in past summers, this is Connecti-

cut. It may get hot, but it doesn't stay hot for all that long. A friend of mine recently came back from living in North Carolina for a few years. Last year, he said, there were more than 90 days of temperatures 90 degrees or higher. Now, that's a lot of heat – but the heat here doesn't last nearly as long. So why not enjoy it? The 90-degree weather is relatively short-lived, and soon enough 80s and even 70s will be the norm. Simply put, I love the summer, and every year I find myself wishing it lasted longer than it does.

I will admit, though, I do appreciate air conditioners, for those times when things just get unbearable. And imagine my surprise when I learned that just this week – this past Tuesday, in fact – marked the 110th anniversary of the invention of the air conditioner.

On July 17, 1902, New York was in the midst of a real scorching heat wave, according to *The New York Times*. The week before, seven heat-related deaths had been reported. The city's public baths were jammed with people desperately trying to cool down.

And at a printing plant in Brooklyn, a junior engineer by the name of Willis Carrier was trying to solve a problem.

The plant, located on Metropolitan Avenue in the East Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, had just been completed, and was printing *Judge*, a humor magazine that, according to the *Times*, carried "fanciful illustrations." The printing company, Sackett & Williams, had to run each page of the magazine through the press once for each color on the page. Sometimes one color was printed one day, and another color the next.

However, the air that week was so sticky paper would absorb moisture and actually expand – granted, by a fraction of an inch, but it was enough so that the colors would not line up properly. Worse still, the air was so moist the ink just could not dry fast enough.

But – a truth anyone in newspapers knows very well – deadlines are deadlines, and humidity is no excuse. Simply put, the printing company couldn't wait; there was a schedule, and *Judge* subscribers who expected the next issue to land in their mailboxes, regardless of the heat.

So, Carrier devised a solution involving fans, ducts, heaters and perforated pipes. The equipment, installed later that summer, controlled the humidity on the second floor of a short building at Metropolitan and Morgan avenues. That building backed up to a taller building that Sackett & Wilhelms also used. Carrier's plan called for forcing air across pipes filled with cool water from a well between the two buildings. The next year, he added a refrigerating machine, in order to cool the pipes faster.

The rest, as they say, is history. Oh, and if the name "Carrier" sounds familiar, it should. In 1905, Carrier went on to head the engineering division at the Buffalo Forge Company in Buffalo, N.Y., and just two years later, that company moved to create a wholly-owned subsidiary, the Carrier Air Conditioning Company of America. The company soon began installing air conditioning units for businesses across the country and, eventually, the world.

And it all began on a sticky July day in Brooklyn.

\* \* \*

See you next week.

## Colchester Lodge Fire Determined to be Arson

by Katelyn Kelleher

Investigation is continuing on a structure fire identified as arson at the Lincoln Lake Lodge property Thursday, July 5.

The Colchester-Hayward Fire Department responded to a fire on the floor of a one-story building at the rear of the Lincoln Lake Lodge property at 5 Levy Road at 3:48 p.m. July 5, police said. The fire was extinguished within 10 minutes and caused "very minor" damage, according to Fire Marshal Reed Gustafson.

No injuries were reported.

The cause of the fire was determined to be arson based on evidence found at the scene, Gustafson said. Floor samples from the building were sent for testing to determine what type of liquid accelerant was used to start the fire, but the results are not back yet, he said.

Colchester Police said the case remains under investigation.

## East Hampton Police News

7/1: Patrick Burbank, 21, of 4 Wangonk Trail, was involved in a one-car motor vehicle accident, East Hampton Police said. Burbank was arrested for DUI, evading responsibility, misuse of a marker plate and operating an uninsured motor vehicle, police said.

7/1: Ernest Cordeiro, 78, of 10 Quiet Woods Road, and Barbara Fay of 6 Cobalt Road were involved in a two-car motor vehicle accident in the parking lot of Food Bag on East High Street, police said. Cordeiro was issued a summons for evading responsibility, police added.

7/6: Blaire Ocelik, 30, of 81 Middletown Ave., was arrested for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

7/9: Raymond Stebbins Jr., 21, was issued a summons for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license, police said.

7/12: Jon R. Allen, 20, of 61 Roberts Road, Marlborough, was arrested for violating probation, police said.

## Portland Police News

7/4: Matthew Pierni, 31, of 36 Airline Ave., was charged with breach of peace and four counts of second-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.