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This year's Old Home Days parade, billed as the largest in Middlesex County, will once again feature the Shriners, fan favorites that wheel around in miniature cars. The parade is scheduled for next Saturday, July 14, at 11 a.m., beginning at East Hampton High School.

Old Home Days Return Next Week

by Joshua Anusewicz

Next week is sure to be a "glorious" one in East Hampton, as the 34th annual Old Home Days Glorious Celebration will kick off next Thursday, July 12, in the Village Center.

The celebration will last until Saturday, July 14, when the event's main attraction – the largest parade in Middlesex County – will be held, stepping off at 11 a.m. According to Pamela Joslyn-Greenwald, the president of the Old Home Days Association, this year's theme is "The Golden Age of Television," as parade participants will pay homage to classic television shows like *I Love Lucy*, *Bewitched*, *Gilligan's Island*, and even some "newer" programs like *The Brady Bunch* and *The Facts of Life*.

This year's theme was chosen from a pool of roughly 40 resident submissions, with the top 10 ideas voted on by members of the community. "The Golden Age of Television" received roughly one-third of the votes, narrowly edging out "Super Heroes" for the victory.

This year's parade will feature the usual suspects from years past, including favorites like the Shriners in their miniature cars and the East Hampton High School band. Also joining this year's parade will be Town Manager Michael Maniscalco, who by that time will have completed his first week in his new position.

But like every year, the weekend will be a lot more than a parade. The three-day celebration will begin at 6 p.m. on Thursday, with \$15 "all-you-can-ride" wristbands that can be pur-

chased at one of the two ticket booths on the Center School grounds. There will also be two entertainment acts kicking off the weekend, as well: Bjorn the Magician will be performing from 6-7 p.m., followed by local rock favorite Johnny 5 who will perform from 7:30-10 p.m.

Festivities will continue Friday at 6 p.m., with rides, games, and food; "all-you-can-ride" wristbands will be \$20. Entertainment will kick off right at 6 p.m. with Connecticut's own Voodoo River Band, followed by The Tim Charron Band, a country music outfit.

Friday will also mark another highlight of the weekend – the 14th annual Glorious Gallop 5K Road Race, which will begin at 7:15 p.m. The race, which begins at Seven Hills Crossing and ends at Center School, will be open for runners to register right up until the race, from 5-6:43 p.m. on Friday at Center School. Cost is \$10 to sign up prior to Friday or \$15 the day of the race; children under 13 are \$8.

Race organizer Sheila Oakes said Tuesday that only 80 had signed up as of this week, but several hundred runners are expected by the time of the race.

Saturday will begin with the parade, followed by the official opening ceremony at 1 p.m. For rides, "all-you-can-ride" wristbands will be \$30, or \$20 tickets per session. (The first session will be from 1-5:59 p.m.; the second session will be from 6-10 p.m.)

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London Calling for Colchester Woman

by Katelyn Kelleher

Laura Stevenson-Flom is headed to London in two weeks, but she won't have time to go touring Big Ben, the London Eye or Westminster Abbey.

Rather, the Colchester resident and licensed massage therapist, who has spent her career helping athletes improve, will spend her time on the Olympic grounds when she heads across the pond as a specialized volunteer at the games.

Stevenson-Flom, owner of In Balance Therapeutic Massage in Colchester and director of the ECHO Cancer Foundation in Norwich, was chosen among over 240,000 applicants to join the 2012 Olympics medical team as a sports massage therapist.

She will spend her nearly month-long trip to London stationed at the Athletes' Village, providing competitors with massage therapy during the games and working with other physical therapists to help the athletes. "It's where the athletes spend their downtime," she said. "I'll be getting them while they're resting and preparing."

The Athletes' Village is one of the more diverse areas for the massage therapists selected as volunteers for the games. As an international therapist, Stevenson-Flom will be working with athletes from many different countries. She is

one of only a handful of international therapists heading to the games.

Additionally, she'll be working on many different kinds of athletes, each straining different parts of their bodies. "I'll be meeting with athletes and their coaches and trainers, with what they see fit, to have parts of their bodies worked on," she said.

Though she hasn't previously worked on any of the athletes heading to these Olympic Games, she is an expert on the needs of Olympic-caliber athletes. She originally had hoped to go to the 2004 Athens Olympics, but with children in high school at the time, she opted to stay with her family. In 2005, when London was declared as the location for the 2012 Olympics, she decided she would try again.

"It was a seven-year dream and a two-year process," she said. "Through a series of emails and telephone interviews I finally received my acceptance."

Stevenson-Flom learned of the opportunity through Games Maker, an organization that recruits volunteers for the games. According to its website, 100,000 people were interviewed at selection centers across the United Kingdom.

Volunteers can be selected for a number of tasks at the games, even raking the sand pit at the volleyball courts. A small, carefully cho-

sen percentage of volunteers are medical specialists, like Stevenson-Flom.

Because everything is on the volunteers' own dollar, they were looking for individuals with a true dedication to their practice. Stevenson-Flom embodied that passion for her work. When she was attending school at the Connecticut Center for Massage Therapy and working on patients, her father was in the hospital with acute leukemia.

While training in school, "every time I went into a patient's room and I put my hands on them, they would relax. And how can they not, when they're hooked up to a million tubes?"

Massage therapy, she said, is "rewarding and it's carrying on my father's memory."

She got through the two-year program, part of which was sports massage. "Being an athlete and an active adult, what I took away from it was a passion to work with healthy people that were really trying to better themselves and athletics," she said. She was inspired to work with the top tier of athletes. "You quickly realize that the top of the profession is the Olympic athlete."

Last month, Stevenson-Flom headed to London for a three-day mandatory training trip, which is where she learned how extremely com-

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Sports massage therapist Laura Stevenson-Flom will head to the Olympic Games in London later this month to work with athletes as a specialized medical volunteer.



The South Philadelphia String Band – also known as “Mummers” – will once again appear at East Hampton’s Old Home Days this year. There will be two chances to see them on Saturday: marching in the parade and performing at the fair immediately after the parade at 1:30 p.m.

Old Home Days cont. from Front Page

sion will be from 6-11 p.m.)

The final day of the celebration will also be chock full of entertainment, beginning with the fan-favorite South Philadelphia String Band, also known as “Mummers,” starting at 1:30 p.m. Mummers will be followed by Caribbean band MOTO at 2 p.m.; Connecticut jazz group The Convertibles at 3:30 p.m.; party group Mixed Signals at 5:30 p.m.; and, at 8 p.m., Big Floppy Disk, a group that was recently voted “Best Cover Band” by *The Hartford Advocate*.

Parking for all of the activities at Center School is at the high school on North Maple Street, as shuttle bus will arrive every 30 minutes to bring you to the fair. The shuttle will begin at 5 p.m. each night, running until 10 p.m. on Thursday and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Another yearly highlight from Old Home Days is the raffle, which will be drawn at 8 p.m. on Saturday night. This year’s prizes include a Husqvarna riding mower, a Weber gas grill, a Kindle Fire, four tickets to a New York

London Calling cont. from Front Page

plicated the London public transportation system is.

During the games, her shifts will range from early morning to late at night, Stevenson-Flom said, so finding a place to stay where she’d able to get around easily was key. “You could never afford to stay at a hotel for a month and I had been looking for accommodations since [receiving the acceptance letter] April 1,” she said. After months of scoping out a place, she finally secured housing Monday, through someone she had met during her three days of training.

She has that worry off her back in the knick of time, since she leaves for London on the 21st

Yankees vs. Texas Rangers game at Yankee Stadium, and various gift cards to Stop & Shop, Verizon Wireless, and Governor’s Tavern, to name a few. Tickets are \$10 and only 1,000 will be sold; they can be purchased at Ace Hardware, the East Hampton Public Library, Fit Trix, Citgo Food Bag, Salon Ferrara and Verizon Wireless.

Each day of the celebration will also feature a bike giveaway, with 20 donated bicycles being handed out at 8 p.m. for children up to age 12. Also free this year will be 34th annual Old Home Days T-shirts, courtesy of Liberty Bank and American Distillers.

With so much planned, Joslyn-Greenwald said it takes a huge group effort from the “dozens, if not hundreds” of volunteers from the Old Home Days Association to get it done, working “all year” for just three days. But like every year, those three “glorious” days are sure to be memorable.

For more information on Old Home Days, visit easthamptonoldhomedays.org.

and will be able to adjust for a few days before the hectic schedule kicks in, even getting to see some of the action.

“I was awarded a ticket for July 23 at the Olympic stadium to watch the rehearsals for the opening ceremony,” she said.

Although she’ll have no better view of the actual competitions than anyone watching on TV, she’ll get to see the opening ceremony before anyone else.

Stevenson-Flom will keep her followers updated on her time spent at the Olympics with her blog, found on her website at inbalanct.com.

Bank of America in Portland Closes Main St. Branch

by Joshua Anusewicz

Portland residents now have one less choice for banking in the downtown area, as the Bank of America branch located at the corner of Main Street and Waverly Avenue was closed last month.

According to Bank of America spokesman T.J. Crawford, the branch officially closed on Friday, June 8. Crawford said that customers received letters in the mail from Bank of America to provide “ample time” for Portland customers to familiarize themselves with the closest branch at 267 Main St. in Middletown, just 1.5 miles away.

When asked why the Portland branch closed, Crawford cited “evolving customer demand,” or basically a decrease in customer traffic.

“Given the proximity of the Middletown banking center, we’re confident that we can

continue to efficiently serve Portland residents,” he stated via email.

Crawford also added that all of the employees from the Portland branch have been transferred to other nearby locations.

As for what will become of the roughly 2,500-square foot building, Crawford said the property is owned by Bank of America and is currently being marketed, though no replacement has been announced. The site of the building has served as a bank for over 100 years, originally as the First National Bank.

For Portland residents that continue to use Bank of America, other nearby locations include the Cromwell branch, 34 Shunpike Rd., 2.6 miles away; an additional Middletown branch, 895 Washington St., 2.8 miles away; and an East Hampton branch, 9 E. High St., 6.9 miles away.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I wrote last week I typically don’t have a huge interest in the Olympics. Nor do I have a huge disinterest, however; in fact, I’m generally enough on the fence about the Olympics that a case can usually be made to get me to watch them.

This year, that case is named Donn Cabral.

For those that haven’t heard, Cabral, a Glastonbury native who graduated in May from Princeton, qualified for the U.S. Olympic team in the 3,000-meter steeplechase last Thursday night at the U.S. Track and Field trials in Eugene, Ore.

Cabral came in second in the race, finishing in 8:19.81. Earlier in June, Cabral won the steeplechase at the NCAA Track and Field championships, becoming the first Princeton student to win an individual NCAA title since 1934.

As many of you know, before editing the *Riverast* I spent three years as a reporter with our sister paper, *The Glastonbury Citizen*. And while I wasn’t the sports reporter for the *Citizen*, the paper is a close enough place, and Glastonbury still a small enough town, that I had a general idea of what was going on in the land of G-bury sports. As such, I knew that Donn Cabral was quite the speedster.

During his time at Glastonbury High School, Cabral was a two-time State Open and New England cross country champion. In 2008, his senior year, he ran the fastest mile of any high school athlete in the country.

Cabral graduated Glastonbury High in 2008, but the accolades continued. In addition to becoming an All-American while at Princeton, Cabral last November returned home to Connecticut for Thanksgiving and finished sixth in the well-known (and I’m not just saying that because I’m from Manchester) Manchester Road Race. Sixth may not seem like much, but when you consider thousands and thousands of people come from across the globe to compete in the race, sixth is no mean feat. In fact, Cabral – who ran the 4.748-mile race in 22 minutes and two seconds – finished higher than any other Connecticut resident. (It wouldn’t be shocking at all to see Cabral one day come in first at the Manchester Road Race, which would really be pretty neat. No Connecticut native has won the race since 1980.)

I remember from the interviews with Cabral during my time at the *Citizen* that he had a good head on his shoulders. And it seems that he still does. The now-national headlines he’s been garnering don’t appear to have gone to his head one bit.

“There aren’t many people who get to be in my shoes right now,” Cabral told *The Hartford Courant* before last week’s Olympic trials. “Life has been nothing but great to me for as long as I can remember, and I’m just really lucky to be where I am.”

Oh, and by the way, did I mention Cabral didn’t even start running the steeplechase until his sophomore year at Princeton? And it wasn’t even his idea to start; his coach suggested it. Cabral initially wasn’t a fan – he told the *Courant* in 2010 he felt the hurdles involved broke up the race too much, and that he “couldn’t get in rhythm” – he eventually came around, and before long was one of the tops in the country.

Now Cabral is headed for London, where

he gets to compete among the tops in the world. I’ll definitely be watching – and cheering.

As a reporter and an editor, I know mistakes happen in the news business. I’ve made my share. And when they happen, they can be seen by thousands. So I could only imagine the embarrassment the folks at CNN must’ve felt last Thursday when they made a mistake that was seen by millions, across the globe, on one of the most-anticipated stories in the country: the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling on the Affordable Health Care Act.

Apparently, when Chief Justice John Roberts began reading his decision in the courtroom, a CNN producer believed he was saying the individual mandate was unconstitutional and would be overturned. So, the producer jumped the gun, relayed the news to a reporter outside the courthouse who told her TV audience, “It appears as if the Supreme Court justices have struck down the individual mandate, the centerpiece.” Then – bam – a big banner headline reading “Mandate struck down” appears on CNN’s website, the news winds up working its way into the crawl across the bottom of the CNN screen and the network even sends out a “breaking news” alert. Oh, if only they had waited....

While CNN was busy making what would turn out to be a colossal blunder, Roberts kept on reading – and told us that the mandate is valid as a tax. It wasn’t unconstitutional. The mandate wasn’t “struck down.” Exactly the opposite, in fact. As a result, CNN needed to quickly backtrack from what it had so confidently reported as truth just moments before.

To put it bluntly, this didn’t need to happen. In journalism – as in most things in life – it’s better to be right than to be first, but in this age of thousands of different media outlets all charging for the same story, sometimes that adage gets lost. And that’s a shame.

I was talking about CNN’s huge gaffe last Thursday night with a friend of mine, who also works in the news business. He knows firsthand how thrilling it is to beat your rival in reporting a story, even if it’s only by seconds. But he also knows how ultimately rather meaningless it is, particularly to those outside the industry. As he put it, among the general public, nobody cares who got the news first. But everybody cares who got it wrong.

And CNN got it wrong, in what was, as I said earlier, a huge story. It was an awful lot of egg on the face of the network that likes to call itself “the most trusted name in news.”

CNN staffers, not surprisingly, are apparently furious and embarrassed at what happened. One anonymous veteran staffer told the website buzzfeed.com it was “f---ing humiliating,” and added, “We had a chance to cover it right. And some people in here don’t get what a big deal getting it wrong is. Morons.”

Hopefully CNN can rebound from this. It was a gaffe I’d expect from Fox News – and sure enough, they initially reported the mandate was struck down too – but not CNN. Hopefully this is a low point for the network, and a wake-up call. As I said before, it’s far more important to be right than to be first.

See you next week.

Hebron Man Arrested on Several Charges

by Katelyn Kelleher

A Hebron resident was arrested on several charges, including being a fugitive from justice, Sunday, June 24.

Police said Ryan Estby, 20, of 10 Caroline Rd., was arrested in Colchester on fugitive from justice charges.

He was also charged with third-degree assault, second-degree strangulation, first-de-

gree unlawful restraint and second-degree breach of peace Tuesday, June 26, State Police said.

Estby was released on \$25,000 bond for the fugitive from justice charge, according to the state judicial website. For the second set of charges, Estby is being held on \$15,000 bond and his next court date is Monday, July 9, at 10 a.m. at Rockville Superior Court.

Marlborough Elementary School Gets New Assistant Principal

by Katelyn Kelleher

Marlborough Elementary School will have some new administration roaming the hallways when the new school year starts, following the appointment of a new assistant principal by the Board of Education at its meeting Thursday, June 28.

Dr. Maureen Ryan will be the school's new assistant principal and special education director. She spent last week getting settled in and officially started in the office Monday.

Ryan is taking the place of Dina DeJulius, Marlborough Elementary's former assistant principal and special education director, who accepted a position as principal of Captain Nathan Hale Middle School in Coventry earlier this year. DeJulius was also set to start her new position Monday.

Ryan comes to Marlborough from Stafford, where she was principal of Staffordville Elementary School, a pre-kindergarten through first grade school. Ryan, a Manchester resident, said she decided to make the change because

Staffordville Elementary is in jeopardy of closing soon.

Prior to that, Ryan was assistant principal of Memorial School in East Hampton and principal of a school for grades four through six in Winchendon, Mass. Though she has experience in special education and as an administrator, this is the first position she has held that will combine the two.

Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz said Ryan was one of 32 applicants for the assistant principal position. "Our school's reputation as Connecticut's School of the Year in 2009 attracted an impressive pool of candidates," he said.

Ryan's credentials impressed those involved in the interview process, including Sklarz, other administrators and staff at the elementary school, two Board of Education members and parents.

She earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Connecticut and

her doctorate from the University of Massachusetts.

Sklarz explained Ryan best fit the needs of the school and administrative team. "Her experience and educational background will compliment the leadership of the school," he said. "Her calm demeanor and sensitivity to the needs of teachers, families and students makes for an ideal match for our school."

Ryan, who has spent only a few days at the school so far, said she can see herself working in Marlborough for the long term, which is what she was looking for in a new position.

"I'm excited. Everybody's so nice," she said. "I'm looking forward to working with everyone."

Sklarz and the staff at Marlborough Elementary are equally enthusiastic about Ryan coming aboard.

"We are excited to welcome her to our staff and I am personally excited to have her as part of our team and the Marlborough educational

family," he said.

In the only other item on the school board's agenda, a total of \$30,965 was transferred to the town from the Board of Education budget due to health insurance savings. Board of Education Chairwoman Betty O'Brien said an agreement was made at the beginning of the 2011-12 fiscal year between the Board of Education and the town to budget a certain amount for health insurance and, if there was a remaining balance, it would be returned at the end of the year.

"[Former first selectman] Bill Black wanted to budget a lower amount for health insurance and the board wanted to budget more," O'Brien said. "We didn't want to be left making up the costs if it went over."

The next Board of Education meeting will be held Thursday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. at Marlborough Elementary School.

Marlborough Selectmen Continue Talk on Water Project

by Katelyn Kelleher

The selectmen continued discussion on a possible grant-funded public water project Monday and deduced the town must work with Connecticut Water on the project, and cannot negotiate with other companies.

The town is in the process of applying for a \$500,000 2013 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant to fund the project that would bring a public water supply to the center of town. The application must be completed by Aug. 1.

The plan includes strengthening the town's application and likelihood of receiving the grant by having town money and property owner contributions ready.

The project would be designed by Connecticut Water, which would also contribute \$50,000 toward construction costs. The Board of Finance held two meetings on whether to schedule a public hearing to appropriate \$50,000, or 10 percent of the total grant, from the town's undesignated fund balance toward the project, contingent on receiving the grant.

In the first meeting, the motion to hold the public hearing was defeated, due to some board members requesting more information before they could support the project. More information was brought to the table at the second meeting. Before ultimately voting in favor of sending the item on to a Monday, July 9, public hear-

ing, board members asked whether the town could negotiate with other water companies.

First Selectwoman Catherine Gaudinski said Monday the answer is 'no.' She said in a meeting Monday with Town Planner Peter Hughes and Connecticut Water Vice President Terry O'Neill, they looked at a report from 2009 to examine why the town is required to deal with Connecticut Water.

"The town didn't sign over the water rights," Gaudinski said. Instead, the reason lies at the state level.

Marlborough is a member of the southeastern area of the state Water Utility Coordinating Committee (WUCC). "Connecticut has never released its water rights. Connecticut owns all its water rights and they're the one to plan and coordinate for it," she said. "Connecticut Water was assigned those exclusive rights [for the southeastern area of the WUCC]."

Gaudinski explained one area of town, the Birchwood Estates Water Association, a total of five wells on five acres providing water to approximately 90 homes, is an Exclusive Service Area (ESA).

"They're owned by a homeowners' association, not regulated by the [State Department of Utility Control]," Gaudinski said. "They could go out and give their rights and negotiate with another company."

However, the town as a whole cannot negotiate with other companies. During the WUCC planning process, Gaudinski said, Marlborough had the option to become its own ESA, similar to East Hampton.

"Marlborough said 'no,' because you're then legally responsible for any improvements, capital or contamination in the water and responsible to provide public water to the town," she said. "From a liability for the town point of view and from legal advice, [the town decided not to pursue that option]."

Gaudinski said the plan for the project is to expand the project as far as the money allows, keeping in mind the project will require the drilling of three wells, possibly two, at a cost of about \$30,000 per well, and one storage tank up to 31 feet tall. The plan is for it to reach from School Drive, South Main Street past Town Hall and then go down past the Village Green area. Gaudinski said it was estimated at about 3,200 feet.

Monday's meeting of the selectmen was preceded by a public hearing, at which there were no public comments, on whether to repeal a town ordinance regulating Sunday liquor sales and instead follow state statute. The ordinance allowed restaurants to sell alcohol between noon and 11 p.m. The state statute, which was

signed by Gov. Dannel Malloy in May, allows liquor to be sold at stores between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Sundays.

Following the hearing, the selectmen unanimously voted to repeal the ordinance. (Though liquor stores will close at 5 p.m., under the revised ordinance, restaurants will be allowed to continue selling alcohol until 11 p.m.) The repeal will go into effect Aug. 5, 30 days from a notice published in today's *Rivereast*.

Also at Monday's meeting, Gaudinski updated the selectmen on the search for a new assistant town clerk at Town Hall. A total of 42 applications have been received and now the interview process is set to begin. The new position was reduced from full-time to part-time, following the retirement last month of assistant town clerk of 26 years, Susan Wallen.

The selectmen also received a resignation from part-time seasonal director of Parks and Recreation Ashley Kitchens, who will be leaving Marlborough's Parks and Recreation department for a full-time position.

The public hearing on the town's public water supply project will be held Monday, July 9, at 7 p.m. at the senior center. The next Board of Selectmen meeting will be held Tuesday, July 17, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.

Colchester Budget Passes on Third Referendum

by Katelyn Kelleher

The third try was a charm for the 2012-13 fiscal year budget, which passed at a third referendum Thursday, June 28.

The overall \$50.28 million adopted budget is a \$219,761, or a 0.44 percent, decrease from the current fiscal year.

The mill rate for 2012-13 with this budget is 28.80. The 2011-12 mill rate was 25.85, but it was not a revaluation year.

The \$12.76 million town budget passed with a margin of over 300, with 1,577 'yes' votes and 1,267 'no' votes. The town budget was a \$922,331, or 6.74 percent, decrease from the current fiscal year.

The \$37.52 million proposed Board of Education budget is a \$702,570, or 1.90 percent, increase over the current fiscal year. It passed by over 400 votes, with 1,637 'yes' and 1,210 'no' votes.

Each passed by a long shot, compared to the two previous referendums. In a May 8 referen-

dum, both budgets were defeated by a nearly 2-1 ratio. The second referendum on June 12 was closer, with both budgets defeated by fewer than 200 votes.

The budget finally passing means the town can finally move on, First Selectman Gregg Schuster said. "It's a relief and I'm glad that we're able to move forward with a new budget," he said.

Though he had confidence the budget would pass, it could have gone either way. "You never know," he said. And comments of voters heading in and out of the polls last Thursday morning indicated the outcome would be a toss-up.

Schuster attributed the swing in votes to residents and town officials doing their best to get information out on the budget. "We had people do a great deal of effort putting out information on the budget," he said. "I think once people learned more about the budget and its impact on our taxes, and the fact that it's lowering many

peoples' taxes," made a difference.

Additional reductions between the second and third budgets may also have changed some residents' votes from 'no' to 'yes.'

Before the third referendum, the Board of Finance settled on an additional \$279,938 reduction to the bottom line of the budget, which was attributed to \$20,000 in revenue from transfer station fees, \$176,628 in Education Cost Sharing funding, renegotiations in the transfer station's municipal solid waste contract and cuts made to the education and town budgets.

Both budgets passed just days before the July 1 start of the 2012-13 fiscal year, allowing both the schools and town to go about the fiscal year as planned. Had they been defeated, the town, in accordance with state statute, would have had to follow the previous year's budget and not exceeded that spending, Schuster said.

Not having a budget passed by the start of the fiscal year would have been a challenge for school administration as well, Superintendent

of Schools Karen Loiselle-Goodwin said previously. If a budget had not been approved by July 1, the Board of Education could not have offered new teacher contracts, even for those replacing retirees, as the district could not guarantee employment for the entire year. Instead, long-term substitute positions would have been offered, running the risk of quality teachers accepting concrete offers in other districts. Loiselle-Goodwin said the district would have ordered supplies for the short-term, only seeking enough to get through to September.

With the 2012-13 budget passed and the new fiscal year already underway, town officials can now focus on next year. Schuster said he's always planning for the next budget, but in the fall is when he'll start making some preliminary decisions for the 2013-14 fiscal year. "The recommended budget is not presented until March," he said. "By the end of the calendar year I have a fairly good idea of what it will be."

East Hampton School Board Makes Budget Reductions

by Joshua Anusewicz

With its budget now passed, the Board of Education met Monday, June 25, to determine where in the school spending plan the previously-mandated \$527,500 in reductions would be made. The board voted 7-2 to approve the changes, with members Josh Piteo and Bill Marshall opposed.

The reductions to the education budget, which now sits at \$26.71 million, include \$182,907 in retirement and extra class savings, \$106,179 in tuition, \$78,700 in classified staff savings, \$65,800 in utilities, equipment, publishing and supplies, \$45,000 in overtime, \$15,000 in insurance, \$13,328 in a 0.5 secretarial position, \$10,786 in transportation, and \$9,800 for athletic participation rates.

Despite the cuts, the budget still represents a \$498,838, or 1.90 percent, increase from the 2011-12 fiscal year. The total budget, which was approved at referendum last month by a 994-812 vote, stands at \$38.35 million, a \$581,471, or 1.54 percent, increase from the last fiscal year.

The education budget total was reached after several months of deliberations; the Board of Education budget was presented by Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden in February, originally coming in at \$27.24 million, which would have represented a \$1.03 million, or 3.92 percent, increase. After review from the Board of Finance and the Town Council, the education budget was reduced by \$300,000 for the first referendum, where the budget failed by a 1,051-777 vote. The Board of Finance then reduced the budget by an additional \$227,500

before it was approved at the second referendum.

But then came the hard part: deciding where the reductions would be made. Golden said Tuesday the original reductions she proposed to the Board of Education included faculty positions – something school board members resoundingly rejected.

“The board said, ‘We are not cutting teachers,’” Golden recalled this week, adding that not cutting teachers or programs for students is the “biggest challenge” to making the reductions.

The biggest reduction comes from six teacher retirements, Golden said, as the teachers who are brought in to replace those vacancies will make considerably less money. Golden said there will also be one teacher taking a leave of absence.

Also being reduced is tuition for special needs students, which Golden admitted the board was taking a gamble on. In past years, the board has funded two spots to pay for any student with special needs to attend a school out of the district, which is required by law. In the upcoming year, the district will only fund one spot without knowing if a special needs student attending school out of district will come along.

Board of Education Chairman Mark Laraia agreed. “We’re taking a chance,” he said Tuesday, “because we’re not sure who’s going to come in.” He added that they took a similar risk with the reduction of insurance, as the board isn’t sure if new employees will opt into the

district’s health insurance plan.

Other notable reductions include the athletic participation rates, where students who participate in school-sponsored sports will see a \$25 increase in the fee to play; utilities, where Golden said the board was able to find “more favorable” rates for electricity and fuel; and a part-time secretarial position at the high school.

The reductions in the education budget come as a relief to many residents in town, who opined that the spending for the town’s schools needed to be reigned in. But Golden, who just finished her final year as superintendent, didn’t parse words when giving her opinion on the considerable reduction to the original proposal.

“I don’t think the community realizes what it costs to educate our children and give them the highest level of opportunities possible,” Golden said, calling the budget a “maintenance” figure with no new technology or programs. “By keeping [the budget] down this low, we’re not giving our students the same opportunities and programs as the other towns around us.”

But when asked if she felt the budget was sufficient for the district, she used a line she’s used before: “On the first day of school, we will have students in the classrooms and teachers ready to teach them.”

And those teachers and students, she said, deserve some credit. “Even if they don’t always have the resources, they always rise to the occasion,” she said.

Laraia added that although the board “never likes to make cuts,” he’s confident that the budget that was presented and approved is “respon-

sible” and right for the community.

“We’re going to do the best we can with what we have,” Laraia said, reiterating Golden’s feelings that the district has a “great staff” to educate the students.

Marshall, who voted against the reductions, said Thursday that despite a “great job” by Golden to not eliminate faculty positions, getting through the year with this budget would be a challenge.

“The areas that have been cut are going to make this a very tight year,” Marshall said, specifically targeting the tuition reduction. He said that by “keeping our fingers crossed” that no special needs students enter the district next year, the board could be playing with fire.

“If we get hit with one or two students who need special education, we’ve got a real problem,” he said.

Marshall also looked ahead to next year’s budget process, which he said he felt might be an even bigger challenge for the board.

“If we’re in this same position next spring [to make significant reductions], it’s either instructional services or things like busses or the cafeteria,” Marshall said. “There’s not much to look at.”

With the budget approved at the June referendum and the reductions made to the school budget, the 2012-13 fiscal year spending package officially went into effect on Sunday, July 1. The mill rate stands at 25.97, an increase of .29 mills, up 1.13 percent from last year’s mill rate.

Hebron School Staff Members Voice Contract Concerns

by Geeta Schrayter

Concerns over the contract negotiations for non-certified staff were voiced at last week’s meeting of the local Board of Education.

During the public comment portion of the June 28 meeting, paraprofessional Annette Morrison told the board she felt non-certified staff members weren’t being valued.

“I’m just kind of upset to see that the non-certified staff are kind of being treated as though we’re not as important as other people who are employed” in the school system, she said. “We are kind of told we’re important but then when push comes to shove we’re told ‘no you’re not really that important.’”

Morrison, who attended last Thursday’s meeting with 10 of her co-workers, added she and her fellow non-certified employees were currently in contract negotiations, and they “just want a fair deal.”

“We see what the administrators are getting and we’re not even getting half of that,” Morrison said, adding the paraprofessionals worked directly with the students to help them succeed and prepare them for things like the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs). When talking about improved test scores, Morrison said people mentioned different reasons for the students’ improvements, but no one mentioned the fact that the CMTs were now taken in March as opposed to September.

“We have that time to work with them,” Morrison said, adding, “We’re just asking as a union that works directly [with] and has personal connections [with the students] and want to see them succeed, to just get a fair deal. That’s all we’re asking.”

In a press release sent Friday, Morrison’s union, CSEA/SEIU Local 2001, said the employees had been in negotiations with the school board for three months with little progress “despite proposals that mirror a contract recently negotiated by the district’s administrators,” which includes a 3 percent wage increase and 19 percent towards the cost of health insurance.

The union represents 34 employees of the Hebron school system, including paraprofessionals, custodians, cafeteria workers and sec-

retaries.

On Thursday, Board of Education Chairwoman Kathy Shea said she couldn’t comment on the issue due to its sensitivity, but she explained Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz had been directed to contact the head of the union.

Cruz said Thursday she “did contact the union leaders and offer the opportunity to meet, but the difficulty is you can’t have the appearance of negotiation outside of negotiations.” She added a one-on-one meeting with the union president “is not going to happen.”

Also at the meeting, the board voted unanimously to approve a performance contract with CCM Energy/Seimens, contingent upon its approval by the Board of Finance. The contract was approved by the Board of Selectmen at its June 21 meeting.

Under the 20-year contract, Seimens would replace various items throughout town to make them more energy-efficient. These items include replacing the boilers in both elementary schools, as well as various lighting improvements and the installation of vending machine controls and an energy management system, and would be paid for overtime from the realized energy savings, explained Seimens representative Jerry Drummond.

Drummond explained no additional money would need to be budgeted for the construction. Rather, everything is paid for from an escrow account.

“You pay back the lender, in this case Seimens Financial, from money in the budget” that’s already set aside for energy purposes, Drummond explained, adding if there’s a shortfall, “Seimens pays for it.”

“If you decide to do the program, you’re going to budget the same amount you would if you decide not to,” he said. “There’s no budget impact.”

After looking at various lenders, Seimens Financial was selected for having the lowest interest rate. The night of the meeting, the rate was 3.3 percent. However, it was noted interest

rates are constantly fluctuating, so the sooner a rate could be locked in the better. Additionally, it was explained there was no better time to finance than right now, with interest rates so low.

Drummond said “3.3 percent is one of the lowest interest rates I’ve seen in years.”

He added the hope was to have some of the recommended changes in place before the start of the next school year, and said the school would begin to see savings as soon as next year.

“Your energy bills are going to begin to drop,” he said, adding everything was guaranteed and once the term was up, the cost will go away and the school and town will reap any additional energy savings.

“We’re looking at \$1.4 million for the whole community” in recommended changes, said Drummond. “The school gets 70 percent of that.”

After Drummond finished his presentation, Board of Education member Dominic Marino asked, “What could possibly go wrong – because it really sounds great?”

Drummond said technology was constantly changing, so some of the measures that are installed may not be the most beneficial 20 years down the road. However, he continued, throughout the term new technologies are constantly monitored, and if it makes sense to go in and reexamine and make further changes, that’s something that can happen. Drummond mentioned lighting as an example, and said while it doesn’t make financial sense to install LED lights today; it looked as though that’s what would happen in the future.

“But this is what will not change,” he added. “You’ll still need lights [and] you’ll still need heat.”

Drummond said the company built in every contingency it possibly could.

Interim Town Manager Andy Tierney was present at the meeting, and explained that two years ago, a question was put on a budget exit poll about the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget. Residents came back and said it was too low – but, he added, “we all know what happened this year.”

This year, after the town budget failed at referendum, CIP spending was cut in half, Tierney continued. As a result, he said, the town didn’t have the money to work on the projects that need to be addressed.

“This is a no-brainer,” he said of the contract. “We’re going to pay for these improvements with the original budgets we have approved now. With what happened to the CIP budget I don’t see how we could do it otherwise. It’s a great time to go out and do this.”

Tierney added it would also free up what money is left in CIP to use for some other projects. He said entering into a 20-year contract made him nervous, “but what doesn’t make me nervous is their guarantee.” He explained he’d spoken with other towns, such as Naugatuck and Cromwell, who had similar contracts and what Drummond was telling the board “is factual stuff. I don’t see how this town can’t go forward with this project.”

“I’m on board with this project solely because there are projects in town that for many years have been neglected,” said board member Amy Lynch-Gracias. She added the next task is to ensure the town “allows this kind of decay to not occur again.”

The expected savings over the 20-year period is \$2.4 million with an annual savings of \$81,718. The total project cost was shown at \$1.4 million with a total payback, at a 4 percent interest rate, of \$2.3 million. Drummond explained at the meeting 4 percent was used as an example due to the aforementioned fact interest rates fluctuate.

Also at the meeting, the board unanimously approved to give the surplus it had from the just-wrapped 2011-12 fiscal year back to the town. Board members said at the meeting the expected surplus was \$2,364. The money is expected to go into the town’s general fund.

The next Board of Education meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 12, at 7 p.m. in the Gilead Hill School music room.

Palazzi Stepping Down as Andover Municipal Agent for Elderly

by Geeta Schrayter

After 10 years as municipal agent for the elderly, Cathy Palazzi will resign from the position, effective July 12. But during her time, Palazzi's dedication has helped the services available for Andover's seniors go from lackluster to lots of fun – changes that will certainly be remembered.

Before Palazzi became municipal agent, elderly services were minimal. For the most part, they included helping with information on insurance.

"Basically, insurance was the whole kit and caboodle," Palazzi said Tuesday.

But in the decade she's held the position, Palazzi's changed all that. When she first started, Palazzi said, she conducted a survey to find out what the needs and wants were of the seniors.

"The consensus was the majority of people wanted a luncheon," she explained. That was simple enough – but then came the issue of funding.

In order to raise the money to start up the event, Palazzi said she had the idea to hold a tea as a fundraiser. Local women were invited to her home, where they were able to socialize, enjoy homemade fare and purchase baked goods. The tea raised \$1,000, allowing her to start the senior luncheons. The tea was such a success, in fact, that Palazzi continued to hold it the next two years – each time raising \$1,000 for senior services.

After starting up the monthly luncheons, Palazzi, by charging \$3 per person and holding a 50/50 raffle at each one – which she said was the suggestion of state Rep. Pam Sawyer – the fund for the event has continued to replenish itself.

"I'm always conscious of money," said Palazzi, explaining now, the senior budget was "self-sufficient." As of Tuesday, "there's \$314.04" in the budget, said Palazzi, highlighting just how mindful of the money she was.

Palazzi said when she's asked to do a job, she gives it 150 percent, and that became apparent as she continued to share the different things she implemented for the seniors. In addition to the luncheons, Palazzi said seniors wanted more opportunities to exercise, more entertainment, and assistance with things like

getting to medical appointments – so she took care of those as well.

Palazzi secured a grant from the state to purchase exercise equipment, and the seniors now have a Nintendo Wii to utilize and yoga, tai chi and line dancing classes they can take advantage of.

To keep them from getting cabin fever, seniors have the opportunity to take day trips, too. The town has two senior vans, which carts them to places such as the Clock Museum in Waterbury and the Carousel Museum in Bristol for a low fee which covers the cost of gas. Once they're out and about, they then have the opportunity to stop and enjoy lunch, at their own expense.

"We try to keep everything as low [a cost] as possible," said Palazzi, adding trips have been made to the Goodspeed Opera House in East Haddam, too.

In addition to the above, Palazzi has also brought the Foodshare van to Andover, whereas previously the closest it came was to Hebron. The van visits Andover every other week, offering fruits, vegetables and bread for individuals and families in need. There is also a medical day, when the senior vans will bring individuals to their doctor's appointments.

Palazzi said the seniors asked for improvements to the senior center like installing a new awning and air conditioning as well, and she was able to make some of those things happen with the help of First Selectman Bob Burbank. Burbank, she said, was instrumental in making those desires a reality; the awning was replaced, the center received central air, new stairs were constructed and a new stove was purchased as well – "Yay Bob!" Palazzi said.

"I never saw a man get these great bargains online before," she added with a laugh.

But Palazzi said the one thing she didn't get for the seniors she wished she had been able to was an entirely new center. The seniors continue to use the Old Firehouse on Center Street.

"I wish I could have built them a new senior center," she said, adding she hoped they'd get one in the near future.

"And if there's a petition for one," she added, "I'll be the first to sign it."

But even without a new center, Palazzi's impact has been significant. On Thursday, se-



After 10 years, Cathy Palazzi is resigning from her position as the town's municipal agent for the elderly. She will continue to serve as the Republican registrar of voters, however.

lectman Jay Linddy said he can't say enough about her. She's done things for the seniors "that somebody being paid \$50,000 a year wouldn't even do," he said. (Up until this past year, Palazzi wasn't paid for her duties. Linddy explained she now receives \$3,000 which includes a \$2,000 salary and money for expenses such as conferences, mileage and supplies.)

Her reward, he added, "is her own happiness doing it."

And Palazzi agreed.

"What I enjoyed most was seeing the look on someone's face" after they were helped, she said. "The gratitude and thankfulness – there's no words for that. I got pleasure making seniors' lives better than what they were the day I met them."

While Palazzi is leaving her municipal agent role, she'll by no means be a stranger. She will continue on as the Republican registrar of vot-

ers for the town, and use some of her freed-up time to focus on learning some new systems and preparing for the August primaries. She also said she hopes resigning as municipal agent will allow her more time to spend with her new grandson, too – who she fondly noted was named after her husband Michael.

"He's so darn cute," she said, adding she'd only had time to make a single quilt for the newborn, while her older grandson had gotten more than a few.

And while Palazzi spends her newfound time coddling her grandson and creating quilts, the town will be looking for a new municipal agent for the elderly. But, as Linddy said, there'll never be another one quite like Palazzi.

"They always say 'everybody is replaceable' but in this case, I doubt it," he said. The list of things she's done for the seniors in town, "it just goes on and on and on."

East Hampton Man Drowns in Connecticut River

by Joshua Anusewicz

State police recovered the body of an East Hampton man Tuesday who they say drowned while swimming in the Connecticut River near Chester over the weekend.

According to state police, Dariusz Czarnota, 37, of 64 Saffron Ln., was last seen on Sunday afternoon while swimming at the Pattaconk Yacht Club in Chester with his family. Czarnota is reported to have jumped off a dock and was swimming to his brother's boat when he disappeared underwater.

State Police Lt. J. Paul Vance, public in-

formation officer, said Tuesday that state police are unsure how Czarnota drowned, but it's believed that a strong current in that area of the river caused him to be pulled under.

State police crews began the search for Czarnota on Sunday evening and continued until Monday afternoon, when the search was suspended. The body was recovered on Tuesday morning after a local boater spotted it in the water near Deep River, Vance said, and state police were able to positively identify him.

Colchester Police News

6/26: Mary Ellen Fries, 46, of 1 Beverly Ln., Marlborough, was charged with second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

6/28: Mariel Hautman, 21, of 80 Hillside Ave., Middletown, was charged with fourth-degree larceny and illegal use of a credit card, State Police said.

6/29: John Coloccio, 41, of 80 Pinebrook Rd., was charged with second-degree breach of peace and interfering with an emergency call after a 911 hang up as a result of a domestic dispute, State Police said.

6/30: Dale Martin, 47, of 54 Old Hartford Rd., and Jacob Richard, 33, of 676 Middletown Rd., were both charged with sale, use and possession of fireworks. Police found multiple boxes of fireworks and firing devices at a large party on Old Hartford Road. The State Police

Fire Marshal seized multiple boxes of fireworks, State Police said.

7/1: Daniel Winslow, 37, of 9 Elaine Dr., East Haddam, was charged with third-degree criminal trespassing and fourth-degree larceny State Police said.

7/1: Matthew Faski, 25, of 28 Skyview Dr., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

7/2: Joshua Deeter, 21, of 102 Wellswood Rd., Amston, was charged with DUI, possession of narcotics, driving without a license, driving with an obstructed rear plate and failure to drive right, State Police said.

7/3: Richard Parker, 20, of 688 Middletown Rd., was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

6/27: Naasson Cruz-Sanitago, 56, of 36 Abby Dr., was charged with fourth-degree sexual assault, State Police said.

7/2: Ryan Urciuoli, 20, of 40 Deer Meadow Ln., turned himself in on an outstanding warrant for an April 8 charge of sale of liquor to minors or intoxicated persons, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

6/29: Carlos Pagan, 35, of 70 Montrose St., Hartford, was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, illegal possession of a hallucinogenic substance, possession of a controlled substance other than a narcotic and reckless driving, State Police said.

7/2: Justin Warren, 22, of 137 Main St., was charged with second-degree failure to appear in court, State Police said.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Max G. Rankl

Max G. Rankl, 92, of Marlborough, widower of the late Marian (Keefe) Rankl, passed away Saturday, June 30, at Windham Hospital, surrounded by the love of his family. Born in East Hampton March 27, 1920, he was a son of the late Joseph and Barbara Rankl, Sr.

He and Marian were married on Nov. 23, 1941, and shared 70 years together before she predeceased him on May 17, 2012.

Max retired from the Department of Transportation – Marlborough Garage in April of 1980. He was an avid outdoorsman and loved tending to his garden, camping and fishing and hunting up north. Most importantly, he will be remembered by his family as a devoted and loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Survivors include three daughters, Valerie and her husband, Edward Jurovaty, Jr. of Andover, Phyllis and her husband, William Garrison of Campbell Creek, N.C., and Linda and her husband, John O'Neill of Cedar, Mich.; six grandchildren and their spouses, William Garrison and his wife, Kristin, Daniel Garrison and his wife, Katy, Todd Jurovaty and his wife, Charlene, Edward Jurovaty and his wife, Melissa, Ryan Jurovaty and Erin O'Neill and her husband, Jeremiah Sequoia; eight great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; a brother, Richard of Lebanon; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A loving sincere thank you to Bert and Boo Reavie of Coventry for their superb care of our father for the past two years; he thought of them as family and felt loved and secure in their home. Also, a heartfelt thanks to the compassionate staff of the fourth floor Shea unit at Windham Hospital for caring for Max.

In addition to his wife and parents, he was predeceased by a son, Steven Rankl; and five siblings, Mary Flemke, Betty Roberts and Joseph Jr., John and Charles Rankl.

A graveside funeral service was held Monday, July 2, at Gilead Cemetery, Gilead Street (Route 85), Hebron.

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

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

Amston

Brianna Marie Jagielo

Brianna Marie Jagielo, cherished infant daughter of Neil and Marlana (Goodnight) Jagielo of Amston, born June 16, went to the safe keeping and loving arms of the Lord Saturday, June 30.

In addition to her loving parents, she leaves her big sister, Madelyn; grandparents, Stanley and Ellen Jagielo of Amston, Mark and Jackie Goodnight of Reston, Va. and Joann and Bill Alfonso of Manchester; great-grandparents Sandra and John Lezak of East Stroudsburg, Pa., Betty Fetko of Vernon and Peggy and Ed Kinard of Browns Summit, N.C.; and numerous extended family members.

Family and friends called Thursday, July 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A vigil service was observed that evening.

The family would like to extend their most heartfelt thanks to the staff of the NICU at Yale-New Haven Hospital for their care and compassion. Donations in her memory may be sent to the Office of Development, YNH, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven 06508-9979.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Andover

Lauren Alaina Hopkins

Lauren Alaina Hopkins, 23, of Manchester, passed away Sunday, July 1, at Manchester Memorial Hospital, succumbing to her severe asthma. Lauren was born April 22, 1989, and lived most of her life in Andover.

She leaves behind her large, loving family and many friends who will never forget her beautiful smile. All her life Lauren was a devoted animal lover who rescued many animals and now leaves behind "her children," three lovely cats and a disabled puppy.

She was beautiful and strong, a gymnast for 12 years, a member of the National Honors Society who attended her beloved Stetson University in Florida on scholarship. Lauren was also a talented artist. Many family and friends were honored with her handmade jewelry. A "Homecoming Queen" at RHAM High School, she was a most compassionate person with a heart of gold and a special drive to help the underdog.

Lauren is survived by her beloved mother, Susan (Hopkins) Kennedy and her father, Matthew Hopkins, and her devoted sister Dana Kate Hopkins. She leaves so many others who she loved and who loved her in return, including her step-sister Chelsea Graham, Jon Ryan Delaney and Sean Gregory Delaney, her dear cousins who were like brothers to Lauren; stepfather John T. Kennedy; stepmother Audra Hopkins; maternal grandparents Clifford and Carol Slicer; paternal grandmother Helen Hopkins; and many wonderful aunts, uncles, cousins, extended family members, the entire Andover family; her boyfriend Angelo Vazquez; her dear little cousins Morgan and Madison; her step-cousins Daniel and Brendon Kennedy; and all of her lifelong friends from the Andover Lake area.

Lauren challenged herself and many others to dare to dream. She touched our lives with her unyielding spirit, courage and fathomless compassion. Forever in our hearts you will be sorely missed.

Friends and family will gather at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, July 6, from 5-9 p.m. A funeral service will be held Saturday, July 7, at 11 a.m., in Spencer Funeral Home. Burial will follow in Townsend Cemetery on Townsend Road in Andover.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ASPCA, Alley Cat Allies, Sidewalk Angels or any other no-kill animal rescue of the donor's choice.

The family would like to thank Manchester Memorial Hospital Emergency staff, the Manchester EMS, Police, Fire Department and also Dr. Ralph LaGuardia for all their support over the years.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Carl Smith

Carl Smith, 75, of Woodcrest Drive in Colchester, passed away Tuesday, June 26, at Lawrence & Memorial Hospital.

Carl was married to the former Lucille C. Soto in 1960, and had spent his working career as a culinary chef and procurement specialist, mostly for the military while in the Coast Guard.

Graveside services were held Tuesday, July 3, at the Connecticut Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown.

Byles Memorial Home, 99 Huntington St., New London is assisting his family with the arrangements.



East Hampton

Katie L. Valvo

It is with great sadness that we announce the unexpected passing of our daughter Katie L. Valvo, 29, on Wednesday, June 20. Katie was born at Saint Francis Hospital on Dec. 6, 1982, to Frank Valvo of Middletown and Pamela Thompson-Kelly of East Hampton (formerly of Lebanon).

Katie was a kind and gentle person who saw only the good in each person she met. She graduated from East Hampton High School with honors and was a very gifted artist.

Besides her loving parents, she leaves her siblings to mourn her passing: Michael Stanger-Valvo, Bridget Valvo-Kaldy (Justin), Paul A. Valvo (Karissa), Frank Valvo Jr., and Matthew W. Kelly; grandparents: Alfred and Dorothy Klinzmann of East Hampton; aunt Nancy Thompson-Manzara (Bruce), aunt Roseanne Hunniford (Luke), uncle Paul Valvo (Debby); three cousins; stepfather James F. Kenyon; nieces and nephews; and other extended family members.

She was predeceased by her brother, Billy Stanger-Valvo; uncle, Chip Thompson; grandparents, Sebastian and Lucy A. Valvo, and Harold A. Thompson, all of Middletown/Portland area.

The funeral arrangements are private. A memorial service will take place Sunday, July 29, at 1 p.m., at United Churches of Durham, 236 Main St.

An online guest book is available at Abbeycremation.com.

Donations can be made in her memory at DanaFarber.org.

Hebron

Gisela Morrison

Gisela Hanni Frieda (Hammer) Morrison, 74, of Manchester, formerly of Hebron, died Tuesday, June 26, following a brave battle with leukemia. She was born Oct. 27, 1937, in München Gladbach, Germany, to Albert and Edith Hammer. She was married Oct. 28, 1960, in Manchester, to Robert Lee Morrison.

Gisela resided in Pforzheim, Germany, and Manchester, Hebron, Coventry and Bolton. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends, gardening, collectibles, crossword puzzles and traveling.

She is survived by Robert Lee Morrison, her husband of 51 years; three children: Sandra Ann Pinto, Michael Eric Morrison, and Diane Yvonne Gentile; nine grandchildren: Jessica Okugic, Connor and Shaun Morrison, Michael, Kellie and Kristie Pinto, Theodore Krystopa, Kyle and Keith Gentile; one great-grandchild: Braya Okugic; and her sister: Ilse Volker.

Calling hours were Friday, June 29, at Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester. Funeral services were celebrated Saturday, June 30, at Bolton Congregational Church, 228 Bolton Center Rd., Bolton. Burial followed in East Cemetery, Manchester.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Bolton Congregational Church, 228 Bolton Center Rd., Bolton, CT 06043.

To leave an online condolence, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

George W. Doten

George W. Doten, Ph.D., passed peacefully, Friday, June 29, at home in Portland, as was his wish. He was born in Plymouth, Mass., on Oct. 24, 1923, the son of Everett C. and Edith Wall Doten.

He is a member of the Mayflower Society through Edward Doty. He was educated in the Plymouth School System, and attended Massachusetts State College for two years before leaving to enter the Army serving three years in the states and Iceland before returning to the now University of Massachusetts, where he received his B.S. and M.S. in Psychology. He received his Ph.D. at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

He taught at St. Lawrence University in Canton, N.Y., for four years before leaving to work for the Rand Corp. in Santa Monica, Calif. During this time, he spent a year at SAC headquarters, and time in Washington, D.C., with U.S. Army Behavioral Science Research Lab. In 1968, he came to Hartford as chairman of the psychology department of Trinity College.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Ramona Card; two sons, Reed C. Doten of Framingham, Mass., and Todd W. Doten, his wife Caryn, and his one and only special granddaughter, Emily Grace Doten of Wethersfield; he has many nieces and nephews in Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Florida.

George was an avid bridge player and crossword puzzler. The UConn girls' games gave him pleasure during the winter, and during the summer it was the Red Sox.

There will be no calling hours. Burial will be at the family's convenience in the family plot in Plymouth. A memorial service will be held at the Rocky Hill Congregational Church at 10:30 a.m. today, July 6.

Contributions to his memory may be sent to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

East Hampton

John F. Barnett Jr.

John F. "Jack" Barnett Jr., 71, of Harrisburg and Provincetown, Mass., formerly of East Hampton, died Monday, June 4, in the Harrisburg Hospital, after a brief catastrophic bout of cancer.

Jack was born May 16, 1941, the son of John F. Barnett Sr. and Mary (Bundy) Barnett. He grew up in Jewett City and Norwich. Jack was a graduate of Norwich Free Academy, St. Michael's College, Burlington, Vt., and St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md. Jack was ordained into the priesthood in 1967 and served parishes in East Hampton and New London. After leaving the priesthood, Jack worked with mentally-challenged adults.

In 1985, Jack moved to Cape Cod where he established a guesthouse, The ShireMax Inn in Provincetown, Mass. The inn and its guests were Jack's pride and joy all the way up to the present.

Jack is survived by Dr. Robert Coldren, his committed life partner of nearly 20 years and loving husband of six years. He is also survived by cousins in Connecticut, Florida and California, and many devoted friends, as well as his husband Bob's family.

His parents predeceased him. A memorial celebration for Jack will be announced to family and friends in the future.

Memorial contributions would be welcomed by these favorite charities of Jack and Bob: AIDS Support Group of Cape Cod, 336 Commercial St., Provincetown, MA 02657; Harrisburg Diabetic Youth Camp, c/o Setebaid Services, Inc., P.O. Box 196, Winfield, PA 17889-0196; or the charity of the donor's choice.