

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

Serving Amston, Andover, Cobalt, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron, Marlborough, Middle Haddam and Portland

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Happy Birthday, Air Force... Airmen from the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies and NATO School Oberammergau – including Staff Sgt. Todd Carrier of Colchester – celebrated the 67th birthday of the U.S. Air Force Sept. 18 during the Senior Executive Seminar and NATO's International Senior Enlisted Seminar at the Marshall Center in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany. The event showcased the traditional cutting of the cake by the oldest and youngest airmen present: Brig. Gen. Gerry Bolduc, assistant adjutant general for the Air, Marine Air National Guard and SES participant, and Carrier, from the NATO School Oberammergau. Carrier is a veteran of three combat missions, and has re-enlisted for another term. He will complete his dual degree in computer science/criminal justice at the end of next year.

Mulligan Wins State Rep Seat

by Geeta Schrayter

The results are in, and Hebron Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan will add "state representative" to her resume come January.

Mulligan, a Republican, beat Democratic opponent Joe La Bella of Marlborough Tuesday by a vote of 5,252-2,714 for the state representative seat representing the 55th Assembly District.

The district covers Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough.

The seat has been occupied by Republican Pam Sawyer for the last 22 years. Sawyer announced in April she would not be seeking reelection and, shortly thereafter, threw her support behind Mulligan.

Mulligan took all four towns in the district after all was said and done Tuesday. Perhaps not surprisingly, her largest margin of victory came in Hebron, where she collected 2,816 votes to La Bella's 1,150. In Marlborough, she received 1,579 votes to La Bella's 1,095; in Bolton, she had 1,428 votes while La Bella had 808; and in Andover, she garnered 860 votes to La Bella's 469.

On Wednesday, Sawyer shared her thoughts on the results.

"I believe the strength of the numbers shown on election night for Gayle showed the districts supported her style of small town leadership," she said. "That is what I also saw in her when I asked her to run back in the early spring."

Sawyer added she was proud of the way Mulligan conducted the campaign, and said, "The district will find that Gayle has a deep commitment to the constituents as well as a passion for moving Connecticut's economy forward."

Wednesday afternoon, Mulligan expressed

her excitement for the results as well, exclaiming, "We won!"

She added, "It was exciting. It was really exhilarating. You never know going in. We were pretty confident, but you never know who's going to show up to the polls. We're really happy with the results obviously."

She added her team put in a lot of hard work during the campaign.

"We put in a lot of time – the whole team, all the people who supported the campaign; we had wavers, hundreds of letters [written], just a lot of hard work from a lot of people," she stated.

Mulligan furthered the experience was "humbling," and said, "I'm really honored to have the support of the district."

And after a good night's sleep, Mulligan said she was hoping to set up some office hours to continue to get to know the people of the district and listen to what they have to say and what they consider issues.

"Over the past six months, I got a lot of good feedback, but now, being representative elect, it will be nice to get out and get a feel for what else is going on," she explained.

She also reiterated what she previously stated regarding some of the issues she felt the district was facing.

"One of the big issues for our small towns is education – continuing to focus on providing a strong education, keeping in mind our open space and environmental issues for our small towns," she said, adding, "And just trying to

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Gayle Mulligan

Hebron Voters Approve Changes to Charter

by Geeta Schrayter

Along with voting for various political candidates Tuesday, Hebron residents decided the fate of the charter revisions recommended by the Charter Revision Commission and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

And when the votes came in the revisions, which came after more than a year of work by the commission, were approved by a 1,949-1,316 tally.

The changes include mandatory ballot questions on the annual budget referendum, which Charter Revision Commission Chairman Ken Slater said last week were considered a way to accomplish a similar result to bifurcation, without actually bifurcating the budget. Various individuals had expressed an interest in seeing bifurcation, but the commission ultimately decided it wouldn't be beneficial. Different town officials mirrored those thoughts, including Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan, who said last week bifurcation could lead to "divisiveness."

Town Manager Andrew Tierney also expressed his support for having questions instead of bifurcation, and said last week they would allow officials to "find out immediately whether the school budget is too high or too low."

"I'm in agreement with that and I think it will service the town very well, and if not, we can look at it next time and change it but [the commission] did take steps for that and it wasn't ignored," he had said.

The mandatory ballot questions will read: is the budget (excluding the Hebron and RHAM boards of education budgets) too high or too low?; is the Hebron Board of Education budget too high or too low?; as well as any other questions the Board of Selectmen consider necessary.

Other changes to the charter include streamlining the budget process and adding the town's code of ethics, which is currently an ordinance. Slater had said the commission felt the code

was important enough that it should be a part of the charter.

The commission also added a section on the Board of Finance and decided to drop the number of members on the board from six to five, which would match the make-up of the selectmen; the commission also decreased the make-up of the Conservation Commission and the Inland Wetlands Commission.

Slater also said last week the commission reviewed every page of the charter, and made clarifications or updated sections where appropriate.

This week, Slater said the commission was quite happy with the outcome of Tuesday's vote.

"The commission is all thrilled that it was approved," he said. "I think it was a testament that our voters, although they may not have been able to come to all our hearings, took advantage of the town website to view the edits and educate themselves, and that resulted in a very

favorable vote."

Tierney shared his thoughts as well, noting the revisions passed by "a good margin."

The vote "shows me that there were a bunch of people that were happy with the changes that were made," he explained. "We had like 59 percent of the total voters come out which is a good turnout, and to have a margin of 600 in favor, to me that wasn't that close to where it was split – it's an approval in my mind."

Tierney added, "I was happy to see that and that's another feather in the cap of the Charter Revision Commission doing a good job."

Slater concluded, "I'm so proud of our commission because we all came in with some different perspectives on issues and we tackled them together very productively and reached a consensus on issues that are important to the town."

The charter and the approved changes can be viewed on the town website, hebronct.com.

Mulligan Wins cont. from Front Page
get some more business in our towns and trying to have a more positive environment overall and trying to move in a more positive direction.”

Reflecting on the election Wednesday, La Bella said he was “disappointed with the result,” but his campaign knew going into Tuesday they had a tough road to hoe.

“It was an uphill fight and we knew it, with the 22-year incumbent giving her support [to Mulligan],” he said. “So it’s a disappointing result but I’m pleased with the campaign I ran; we stuck to the issues. I talked about the issues I felt are important to the district.”

Despite the loss, La Bella stated, “of course

I wish Mrs. Mulligan great success representing the district going forward.”

And going forward, Mulligan added she was looking forward to “getting to work with some new people, getting some new ideas [and] working with the different towns.”

She concluded “I do have some ideas, and things that Marlborough’s doing that Hebron can take advantage of. There are a lot of small towns that well run, and I think supporting each other as a district will be advantageous for everybody; I think working together with town leaders of all the towns for the betterment of the district will be fun.”

And that “fun” officially begins in January, when Mulligan is sworn into office.

Larson Secures Ninth Term in Congress

by John Tyczkowski

Despite Portland going with his Republican opponent, Congressman John B. Larson (D-East Hartford) has won a ninth consecutive term in the United States House of Representatives, representing Connecticut’s First Congressional District.



John B. Larson

Larson secured his seat with 62.3 percent of the vote within the entire district.

“Thank you very much for allowing me to continue representing you in Congress,” Larson stated on his campaign’s Facebook page Wednesday. “I am honored to be sent back to Washington on your behalf and remain committed to the people of Connecticut’s First Congressional District.”

The First Congressional District includes the *Rivereast* town of Portland, which instead supported Republican challenger Matthew Corey by a small margin. Corey collected 1,578 votes in Portland to Larson’s 1,247 votes.

District-wide, Corey managed to secure 36.1 percent of the vote.

“Thank you to all of the volunteers, [Republican town councils] and everyone who else who helped with my campaign. Your support is what kept me going and made me as successful as I was,” Corey said Wednesday on his campaign’s Facebook page. “Thank you all!”

Green Party challenger Jeff Russell received a meager 50 votes in Portland. District-wide, Russell captured just 1.6 percent of the total vote.

In Larson’s past elections, he has had no trouble consistently gathering over 60 percent of the total vote, and has enjoyed wins with over 70 percent of the vote in four of his nine elections.

He first was elected to the congressional seat in 1998.

This wasn’t Corey’s first time facing Larson; he ran against the Democrat in 2012, as an Independent. During that election, Corey managed to secure only 0.8 percent of the total vote.

With Larson’s Election Day victory, all of Connecticut’s Congressional representatives remain Democrats, as they have for the past two election cycles.

Phase III of Marlborough Sewer Project Passes

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Phase III of the town’s sewer project passed handily on Election Day, by a 1,418-1,060 tally.

Phase III includes Coleman Lane, North Main Street, Lafayette Road, Lake Road, Pettengill Road, Roberts Road and Walker Lane.

Jack Murray, chairman of the Marlborough Water Pollution Control Authority, said the approval of Phase III means a lot to WPCA members, past and present, who have spent many hours on the project.

The \$3.5 million project adds 105.25 Equivalent Dwelling Units (EDUs) to the sewer project; combined with the first two phases, this brings the total number of EDUs on the system up to approximately 500. The system was designed to be able to handle 1,400 EDUs, according to Murray.

“We’re closing in on halfway of the 1,400 EDUs the plan envisioned,” Murray said. “It’s the culmination of a lot of effort and work over the years.”

The town’s sewer project was originally approved in 2002; however, funding delays meant construction of the first phase didn’t actually start until 2008. Phase I – covering the town center and a portion of east Lake Terramuggus – wrapped in 2010. Phase II was approved in 2012, and it covers the east portion of the lake. The

Marlborough Health Care Center on Stage Harbor Road also funded its own hook-up to the town’s sewer line, which was completed during the construction of Phase II.

This third phase – which is partially paid for via a grant from the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection Clean Wa-

ter Fund – is planned to complete the lake watershed area of the sewer district.

Of the \$3.5 million project price tag, \$848,750 is being paid for via the Clean Water grant. The remainder will be paid for through a loan, also from the Clean Water Fund. The town will repay that loan over a 20-year period, at a 2 percent interest rate; the loan, with the interest included, totals \$3,218,936.

“The passage [of the project] will help to stabilize or minimize costs for other people in the sewer district,” said Ken Hjulstrom, a member of the Board of Finance who was speaking as an individual. “If it hadn’t passed, we would have seen increases for those on the system.”

From here, Murray said, they will need to evaluate where they need to bring sewers to next and at what cost.

“Unfortunately, the low-hanging fruit has been picked,” Murray said. “Picking up EDUs may be more expensive. There are a lot of areas we need to do and it costs money getting there.”

Murray used Forest Homes on the east side of Route 2 as an example.

“They desperately need sewers, but it’s going to be expensive,” Murray said. “I can’t predict the next place we go, but I would not be surprised if it was Forest Homes.”

Currently, Phase II users are hooking up now, while private property work is still being done, Murray said. However, he said, everything is in the ground that needed to be put in the ground.

Phase III is scheduled to begin May 1, 2015 and be completed by Oct. 31, 2016.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Congratulations are in order for the San Francisco Giants – featuring 1979 Bacon Academy graduate Ron Wotus – who won the World Series last week, topping Kansas City in another thrilling game, this one a nail-biter of the highest order. KC was down by a mere run for the last half of the game – and the game ended with the tying run on third base.

It was a fitting ending for what was a fantastic World Series.

And while it’s true I was pulling for the Royals – this would’ve been their first world championship since 1985; it was already their first playoff appearance since that time – watching the Giants win it all was not exactly a bad consolation prize. Yes, they’ve now won it all three times in the past five years, and while normally I’d like to see some more variety than that, it’s really, really tough to dislike San Francisco. They seem like a great bunch of guys who all know how to play smart, crisp baseball. They weren’t swinging for the fences every time up; they knew all you had to do was put the ball in play, and good things can happen. And for the Giants, it happened a lot more often than it didn’t.

San Francisco didn’t exactly dominate in the regular season, going 88-74 and squeaking into the postseason as a wild card team. But once the clock struck October, boy did the Giants turn it on: blowing out the Pirates in the wild card game, 8-0, and then making quick work of the Nationals and Cardinals in the NLDS and NLCS, respectively. The team knew how to win when it mattered most. That doesn’t always happen in baseball; the 2001 Seattle Mariners, for example, won 116 regular season games – tying a Major League record for wins. But they wound up falling to the Yankees in the ALCS that year (and that was after barely getting past the Indians in the ALDS).

You’ve got to respect the heck out of a team like the Giants. And like I said, they just seem like a great, fun bunch of guys. If the Giants are a dynasty, I don’t mind it. As dynasties go, they’re a pretty cool one to watch.

Meanwhile, congratulations also to the Royals – and especially their fans. Sure, they’d have loved to have seen their team win – why wouldn’t they? – but the fans just seemed genuinely thrilled to, after nearly 30 years, have just gotten as far as they did. How cool were the KC fans? After Game Seven – which was played in Kansas City – ended, and the Giants were celebrating on the field, Royals fans stayed in the ballpark, cheering on their team with a very sweet “Thank you Royals!” chant. That doesn’t often happen. A classy move by a group of fans that, this entire postseason, showed themselves to be nothing but classy.

* * *

It’s been written about a little bit this season how relatively long leashes networks were giving new shows before canceling them. The thought was that nets were starting to realize same-day Nielsen ratings perhaps didn’t tell the whole story in the popularity of a show. So, while in seasons past you’d sometimes see shows pulled after just two or three airings (and, for rare, quite unfortunate cases, one), new sitcoms and dramas were being given a little more time to see if they’d become the next big thing.

Well, vacation is over.

After ABC canceled *Manhattan Love Story* on Oct. 24, NBC followed suit a week later by dropping the axe on a pair of shows – *Bad Judge* and *From A to Z*. Well, okay, technically neither show is “canceled;” NBC simply decided not to pick up any more episodes beyond what it already ordered. So I guess the faintest little glimmer of hope remains for

those shows, which is nice (neither show is that great, although *From A to Z* at least is sweet and has potential; *Bad Judge*, from the seven minutes I could bear before turning the channel, was awful) – but, for the moment at least, it looks like these shows have failed – and they’re failures NBC really should’ve seen coming.

Back in May, NBC announced it was bringing the acclaimed *Parks and Recreation* back for one final 13-episode season, to debut mid-year. It also announced it was canceling *Community* after five seasons, when fans had really been clamoring for a sixth one. At the same time, NBC said it was debuting *Bad Judge* and *From A to Z* in the Thursday night at 9 timeslot.

What NBC – and the rest of America – had known for quite some time was CBS was going to be airing Thursday Night Football in the fall. NBC had just seen two new sitcoms – starring the bankable stars Sean Hayes and Michael J. Fox, respectively – crash and burn in that same Thursday-at-9 timeslot the previous fall, when CBS’ competition was *The Crazy Ones* and *Two and a Half Men*. If two new shows perished opposite two decently-rated sitcoms, then how could NBC have expected any better – in fact, how could they have not expected much, much worse – against the ratings powerhouse that is the NFL? Coupled with ABC’s decision to move the Top-20 hit *Scandal* to the same slot, it seemed like NBC was throwing the two new shows to the wolves.

I didn’t get why they were.

The obvious solution to me would have been to bring back *Community* for a final 13-episode season, pair it with *Parks and Rec.*’s final 13 episodes, and air the two back-to-back Thursdays at 9. The ratings for both shows have been low year in and year out, and they certainly wouldn’t have gotten any better against football and *Scandal*, but then, NBC wouldn’t need for them to be any better. They’d have known both shows were ending; as long as they pulled in the numbers they always had (which they likely would have; both shows have very small but very loyal fanbases), NBC would’ve surely let them play out the string, and the shows would each end in much-promoted series finales in late January.

This would have left NBC fully free to then launch *Bad Judge* and *From A to Z* in a football-free environment. And true, maybe the shows still would have failed, but at least NBC would’ve given them a better shot.

Like I said, both *Community* and *Parks and Rec.* have been around for several years. And at this point, while both shows are great (especially *Parks and Rec.*, which never seems to stop being brilliant), their ratings are what they are. Neither show is the kind of broad, *Big Bang Theory*-type show that newcomers can pick up in, say, the fifth season very easily. Their humor is more insular, with rewards for regular viewers.

But with two new shows, you don’t know what you’re going to get. Aren’t *those* the series you should foster, nurture, and give the best chance to succeed? Promoting the shows heavily only to launch them in a deadly time slot just didn’t seem to make sense to me. And yes, *Thursday Night Football*’s over now, but the damage had been done to the shows, ratings-wise.

The seeming failure of these two shows is an unfortunate development (particularly for *From A to Z*, since, like I said, I felt it had real potential), but also a predictable one.

* * *

See you next week.

Orange Wins 10th Consecutive Term

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Reigning incumbent Linda Orange won two more years in state government Tuesday, topping Republican challenger Evan Evans in her quest to continue serving as the 48th District state representative.

The district covers most of Colchester, and portions of Lebanon, Mansfield and Windham.

In the four towns, Orange wound up with a combined 4,920 votes, compared to Evans' 3,430.

Orange handled Evans decisively in all four towns, collecting the most votes in Colchester, 2,790 to Evans' 2,199. In Lebanon, Orange won 1,087-845; in Mansfield, she won 804-319; and in Windham, she received 239 to Evans' 67.

In Colchester, 60 percent of voters came out on Election Day.



Linda Orange

"I'm pleased by the election results," Orange said Wednesday. "As each issue comes before me, I will represent the constituents of the 48th to the best of my ability as I have in the past."

Orange went on to say how she appreciates the voters' confidence in her.

As far as a goal for the next two years, Orange said she would like to look into the regulations for small businesses, especially for family-owned businesses in the district. Before Election Day, Orange had said she's worked hard to protect communities' natural character and preserving farmland as well.

"The constituents come first," Orange said. "I care about people and I put the people first."

Orange was first elected to the General Assembly in November 1996, and is currently a member of its Appropriations Committee, the General Law Committee, the Joint Committee on Legislative Management and the Public Safety and Security Committee. She is also the deputy speaker of the house. Born in Hartford, Orange grew up in Marlborough before moving to Colchester 32 years ago.

In a statement to constituents, Orange said, "I was happy to support key legislation that addressed affordable education, job creation, economic development, lower energy costs, and improved chronic disease care coordination. I personally worked on the areas of health and public safety – protecting patients by reducing the use of Step Therapy and working to reopen our local police barracks seven days a week."

Tuesday's victory was Orange's second in the past three months. In an August primary, she topped fellow Colchester resident Jason Paul, who was challenging the seasoned legislator for the Democratic nomination for the 48th District seat. The primary was a first for Orange, and she won handily, 724-313.

Evans, who had unsuccessfully sought the Republicans' 2nd Congressional District nomination earlier this year, was a relatively late entry into the state representative race, joining the race after previous nominee Joe Broder pulled out.

Evans said Wednesday that while he was disappointed by the outcome of Tuesday's elec-

tion, he wasn't completely surprised.

"She has been there for nine terms," Evans said. "This will be her 10th."

Evans also expressed his frustration with the outcome of races across the state – which saw many incumbents, from state representatives all the way up to the governor, win another term in office.

"I'm more disappointed that, in looking at the bigger picture, nothing changed," he said. "Forty-nine percent of us want to leave the state and nothing changed."

Of the campaign, Evans said he hopes Orange will reflect on the topics that came up during debates.

"I wish her luck and hope she takes some of the things we discussed during the campaign to heart, and improve on her approach to constituents," Evans said. "I hope she will reflect on what she can do better and improve as a legislator."

Evans said he won't be giving up, and plans on running again in 2016 "if the four towns will have me."

Town Center Water System Moving Forward

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Construction on the water system project in the town center will begin Monday, Nov. 17, according to First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and the contractors, TradeMark Contractors.

"We're moving forward," Gaudinski said during the Nov. 4 Board of Selectmen meeting. "The paperwork and contracts have been signed."

Work will begin on School Drive, throwing off traffic in the area for three to five days concerning the elementary school, the library and the senior center. Gaudinski said they have been working with the contractors and the three locations to make sure detours run smoothly and the contractors are out of the area as soon as possible.

"We expect three to five days at most on School Drive, weather permitting," Gaudinski said. "They have an ambitious construction schedule."

TradeMark estimates the project – which is being funded via a \$500,000 Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant and a \$50,000 appropriation approved by voters in 2012) to take 45 days; however, those days will be divided between this fall and the spring de-

pending on weather.

Gaudinski also clarified at the meeting that TradeMark is installing 12-inch pipes which would be needed for a fire suppression system. However, those pipes cannot be used for emergency purposes until a new storage tank is installed that could handle the pressure.

"It won't be a functioning system yet, but this is the main line," Gaudinski said of the line being used for fire suppression. "We could have cut the cost by doing eight-inch pipes, but that's not what's best."

The project also ran into a bit of a bump in the road with a change order because of the pump station.

"Some things hadn't been installed yet that were on the design," Gaudinski said. She went on to say how they may have to cut the area the system will cover depending on the changes because of budget.

The South Road Culvert Replacement project will begin Monday, Nov. 10, with the road being closed through that area.

Gaudinski reported notices about affected areas have been in the *Rivereast* and were sent out to homeowners this week regarding the

detour.

The \$75,000 project was a much needed replacement with the culvert currently closed to heavy vehicles including school buses. The replacement is being worked on by TradeMark Contractors.

The town also had other culverts in the north side of town evaluated for their current conditions. At least four of the 19 in the north end need replacing sooner than later, according to Gaudinski, and that's without evaluating the 15 to 18 remaining culverts in the south end.

The selectmen also viewed its first piece of information regarding budget season at the meeting, this one dealing with the RHAM levy.

While Marlborough's enrollment has decreased for the RHAM middle and high schools, Hebron and Andover's enrollment has decreased more, meaning an increase in levy for Marlborough. (The amount each of the three RHAM towns pays is based on how many students from each town are enrolled at the middle and high schools.)

"I haven't started looking at what that means to us yet," Gaudinski said.

"We are dropping, but everyone is dropping

more," selectman Dick Shea said.

For the current 2014-15 year, Marlborough's portion of the RHAM levy increased, which contributed to the town's portion of the regional school district's budget climbing by \$400,000, Gaudinski said. And, she added, "I'm not sure how it's going to hit this year."

However, Shea, who is the selectmen's liaison to the RHAM board, predicted that the school district, "with all of the capital issues," will see its budget "going up."

Marlborough's levy for the 2014-15 year is expected to climb from 29.03 percent to 29.65 percent; in contrast, Hebron's is slated to drop, from 56.26 percent to 55.83 percent, and Andover's is also expected to fall, from 14.71 percent to 14.52 percent.

At the next Board of Selectmen meeting, the board hopes to host a public forum regarding 303 South Main St., the former home of the Marlborough Moose. The forum will be held Tuesday, Nov. 18, possibly at 6 p.m., Monday, Nov. 17 at 7 p.m. at the senior center.

"We want to see the public interest about ideas for the property," Gaudinski said.

Osten Wins Second State Senate Term

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Incumbent state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19th District) is headed back to Hartford, handily topping Republican challenger Steven Everett on Election Day.

The 19th District includes the *Rivereast* towns of Marlborough and Hebron, as well as Columbia, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague.

Overall, Osten collected 16,315 votes in the district, compared to Everett's 12,998. However, in the two *Rivereast* towns, Everett prevailed, besting Osten 2,038-1,849 in Hebron and 1,357-1,271 in Marlborough. The other towns, however, weren't as kind to the Colum-



Cathy Osten

bia resident, with additional wins in Columbia and Lebanon not enough to offset losses in the district's other towns – particularly Norwich, where Osten won by a 5,327-2,640 tally.

"It was a really good win; I was pleased," Osten, who is also Sprague's first selectwoman, said Wednesday. "I was happy I was able to prove I can make some real differences."

Osten said that over the last two months, she and her team have made over 130,000 phone calls and knocked on over 45,000 doors.

With her re-election to a second term as a state senator, Osten said she hopes to focus on constituent issues over the next two years and is excited to be focusing on the tax structure.

In Hebron and Marlborough specifically, Osten said she hopes to work on the infrastructure issues along with the issue of dyslexia, helping to define a definition for dyslexia and providing resources for teachers and students.

"I have a lot that I want to do," Osten said. "I was very humbled to have been re-elected. It

shows that people approve of the work that I've been doing. I worked very hard over the last two years and I'm pleased that people agreed."

Osten said she understands that they will be looking at the tax structure this upcoming legislative session.

"I'm excited to see how we can help out the middle class," Osten said.

Currently, Osten is chair of the Planning and Development Committee, vice chairwoman of the Aging Committee, and a member of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, the Public Safety and Security Committee and the Veterans Committee.

Despite the loss, Everett said he was pleased with his campaign – but was disappointed overall with how the state went, as Democrats won re-election in many races, including for governor and for Congress.

"I thought we had a good agenda and a clear vision of where the state had to go to move us toward economic recovery in the manner that

the rest of the nation is," Everett said. "It's difficult to overcome a very good Democratic machine."

Everett said he thought his campaign did a great job, and touched on things that were important to people including taxes and spending and how they need to be dealt with.

"We ran a good campaign and got out to the voters," Everett said. "I'm new to the political game, but I learned a lot in six months and we'll see where it takes me."

Everett gave credit to Osten, saying she ran a good campaign as well, and does a lot for the social issues affecting people in the district.

As far as running again in the future, Everett said he's "truly undecided."

"I need to continue to be a factor in local policies and government," Everett said. "I enjoy my job as a selectman in Columbia. I will continue to gain experience and see in 18 months what I'm doing."

Courtney Stays in Congress

by Geeta Schrayter

Incumbent Democratic Congressman Joe Courtney (Second District) will remain in office for at least two more years, after he earned the majority of the vote in each of the 64 towns in his district Tuesday.

Courtney, who first won his seat in 2006, earned his fifth term with 62.29 percent of the votes, compared to 35.58 percent garnered by Republican opponent Lori Hopkins-Cavanagh (meanwhile, Green party member William C. Clyde earned 1.09 percent of the votes and Libertarian Dan Reale received 1.04 percent).

Included in that percentage are votes from the five *Riverast* towns included in the Second Congressional District: in Colchester, Courtney received 3,604 votes to Hopkins-Cavanagh's 2,124; in Marlborough he earned



Courtney

1,509 votes compared to 1,112; and in Hebron, Courtney took home 2,203 to Hopkins-Cavanagh's 1,640. Courtney also received 2,857 votes in East Hampton compared to Hopkins-Cavanagh's 2,086; and in Andover, he earned 676 to Hopkins-Cavanagh's 554.

"I'm extremely grateful for the support literally across the entire district," Courtney said Wednesday. "We carried every single town, which is 64, and this is a very diverse district, both politically and economically. I don't take anything for granted in terms of the environment we're living in right now and to, again, to have that outcome means a lot to me."

Courtney furthered his win was motivation "to continue our very strong engagement with the people who live in the second district and to do everything we can to advance the quality of life in a time when it's not easy there."

Last week, Courtney mentioned a number of "concrete results" he's been involved with, and he reiterated some of them this week. He mentioned shipbuilding jobs that are "on a strong upswing right now," as well as a student loan bill he was "deeply involved in" that was

recently signed into law and will help keep down interest rates.

In addition, he said he's done a lot of work with the smaller towns through USDA Rural Development. It was through this agency, for example, that Colchester received a \$500,000 grant in 2007 to help with a pump station project on town-owned property in East Hampton.

"So these are the real sort of, nuts-and-bolts issues," Courtney said, "where I think we can say we've really made a difference in a positive way and that's certainly what I plan to continue to do as a member of the next Congress."

Yet even before then, Courtney said there's plenty of work to be done. He returns to Washington, D.C., next week for the "lame-duck session" – the session following Election Day but before the newly-elected members get sworn in – where he said there's work to do on the budget for the 2015-16 fiscal year along with other issues such as the tax-extendors package, helping homeowners whose homes are in foreclosure short sell their houses, and bonus appreciation for small business who have made

equipment purchases.

"We've got to move on those," Courtney stated. "It's going to be a very busy November and December, even before the next Congress is sworn in."

With the change in party majority in the Senate (as a result of Tuesday's elections, the Senate now consists of 52 Republicans and 43 Democrats), Courtney added it wasn't clear at this point how things would play out moving forward. But he furthered he still felt confident he could be productive.

"I've been the minority party in the House for the last four years and obviously as a Democrat, I wish the election went the other way as far as that goes," Courtney said, "but I feel very confident that I can still operate in that type of alignment."

And now that campaigning has come to an end, and Courtney no longer has to await the arrival and results of Election Day, his focus can return to the work that's at hand, and ensuring his "concrete results" continue, no matter the make-up of Congress.

Linares Wins Second Term in Senate

by Kaitlyn Schroyer

Republican state Sen. Art Linares won another term in office Tuesday, topping both his challengers in the 12-town 33rd District.

Three *Riverast* towns – Colchester, East Hampton and Portland – are included in the district, and Linares saw decisive victories in all three towns. He gathered 3,315 votes in Colchester to Democrat Emily Bjornberg's 1,548 votes and Green Party challenger Colin Bennett's 52; in East Hampton, Linares garnered 3,153 votes to Bjornberg's 1,939 and Bennett's 56; and in Portland, he collected 2,111 votes to Bjornberg's 1,637 and Bennett's 35.

District-wide, Linares wound up with 22,658 votes Tuesday, compared to 16,438 for



Art Linares

Bjornberg and 483 for Bennett.

Linares, who won his second term Tuesday, is a member of the Children Committee, Banks Committee, Commerce Committee and Education Committee.

"I'm excited for the days ahead," Linares said. "I'm honored [to be re-elected] and want to take the opportunity to thank the people of the 33rd District. It's been the honor of my lifetime to serve them and I'm glad they appreciate my work and I will continue to work tirelessly."

Linares said he especially wanted to thank his brother and campaign manager, Ryan Linares.

Concerning the issues Linares hopes to tackle during this upcoming term in state government, he said he "really wants to work to make Connecticut more economically competitive so we can grow jobs."

He went on to explain how employment is the key thing to focus on.

"We need to make Connecticut an environ-

ment conducive to job growth organically and on its own," Linares said.

To do this, Linares said, the state needs to make taxes more competitive with neighboring states including sales tax, gas tax, property tax and income tax.

Linares also stressed the need to trim government spending.

"We need to encourage our agency heads and governor to work toward reducing the size of the government in a planned-out, thoughtful, responsible way," he said.

Part of this, Linares said, would be to have the commissioners save a small percentage of their budgets per year, in order to help balance the general budget.

"The culture in Hartford is that agency heads and commissioners spend what's in their budget, knowing they'll get the same allocation next year," Linares said. "It's wasteful spending."

Linares also stressed the importance of keeping the Special Transportation Fund for roads

and bridges rather than taking the money for the general fund, as well as scrapping the bus way from Hartford to New Britain.

"The bus way is a terrible waste of money," Linares said.

As for Bjornberg, she said that, while she lost, she's looking forward to running again for office in the future.

"I'm very proud of the campaign," Bjornberg said. "We worked so hard. I'm grateful to all our volunteers. They put in endless amounts of energy."

Bjornberg said the campaign was an "amazing experience."

"I'm confident that we left everything on the field and no stone left unturned," Bjornberg said. "It was a tough year for Democrats across the board."

Although she said she's ready to run again, Bjornberg said right now she's going to continue with her current employment in Deep River and living in Lyme with her family.

Close Call, But Cassano Remains

by Geeta Schrayter

It was a close race Tuesday between incumbent Democratic state Sen. Steve Cassano and his opponent, Republican Whit Osgood – but in the end, Cassano won another term in the Fourth District, which includes Andover, Bolton, Glastonbury and Manchester.

Osgood actually took three of the district's four towns, including his hometown of Glastonbury. But Cassano's win in his hometown of Manchester was enough to offset those losses.

Cassano was elected to represent the Fourth



Steve Cassano

District in 2010. At that time, the district included Marlborough instead of Andover; but when he was re-elected in 2012, it was to represent a reconfigured district that included Andover. And on Tuesday, 640 Andover voters expressed a desire to see Cassano continue to represent them – but 675 were hoping for a change in Osgood.

In Bolton the results were similar. While also close, the edge was in favor of Osgood; he collected 1,142 votes to Cassano's 1,112.

In Glastonbury, Osgood earned 7,767 votes to Cassano's 6,370 – giving Osgood a 1,462 vote lead in the three towns.

But the support Cassano received from Manchester was enough to outweigh all that; in that town, he received 9,535 votes to Osgood's 6,639, a difference of 2,896.

In the end, Cassano wound up with 17,657 votes while Osgood received 16,223. Perhaps

it was a little too close for Cassano's comfort, although he's certainly been there before; in 2010, he bested Glastonbury Republican Stewart "Chip" Beckett by a mere 73 votes. (His 2012 win over fellow Manchester resident Cheri Ann Pelletier was by a much more decisive 5,756 votes.)

On Thursday, Cassano said, "I was delighted to win again. I want to continue to do what I've done to try to serve the four towns well."

Regarding the close votes in the smaller towns he added "what you do in Bolton or Andover most of the time is unnoticed because you do it with your first selectmen, seniors, leaders and so on, and so I'll continue to do that and try to get grant money, hold funding in place for education, get funding for new projects and hopefully explore some new programs."

Cassano furthered he was "particularly go-

ing to focus on senior needs over the next couple of years."

Last week Cassano shared why he wanted to continue to serve, and credited it to the individuals he's in the position to help.

"Every day, there's two, three, four calls from seniors, people who just lost their jobs, small companies looking for help, and I spend a lot of time [working with them]," he explained, adding that because of his longtime service, it was easier to put people in contact with the appropriate help.

"To me, that's more important than passing bills," Cassano said. "[Passing bills is] important, but what you can do individually as a senator is phenomenal and that's why I continue to do it."

And now, Cassano will be able to keep doing that work for at least the next two years.

Obituaries

Portland

Mason P. Baber

Mason P. Baber, 84, of Portland, husband of June (Dickinson) Baber, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 29. He was the son of the late Franklin and Edna (Martin) Baber.

Born on June 21, 1930, in Batesville, Va., he was a Portland resident for most of his life and he worked at United Technologies for 36 years until his retirement. He was a U.S. Navy veteran having served during Korea and was also a member of the Warren Lodge in Portland.

Besides his wife of 61 years, he leaves a son, Gary Baber of Acworth, N.H.; a daughter, Bonnie Baber of Portland; grandchildren, Sam Baber of East Haddam, Tonya Crowley of East Hampton and Victor Baber of Bristol; great-grandchildren, Devin and Kailyn Crowley and Tai and Austin Baber of Manchester; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by six brothers, two sisters and by a granddaughter, Felicia Baber.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Nov. 4, Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends called Tuesday morning, before the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church 183 William St Portland, CT 06480.

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

Colchester

Helen Anderson Cahill

Helen Anderson Cahill, 82, of Colchester, went home to Heaven on All Saints Day, Nov. 1. Born June 2, 1932, in The Bronx, N.Y., she was the daughter of the late John and Emily (Danch) Gosi.

Helen had worked for the former Schuster's Express in Colchester for many years and later for S&S Worldwide. She was a former member of the Colchester Lions and the Adler-Boluck VFW Post 6990 Auxiliary of Colchester.

Helen loved to use her creative abilities in both arts and crafts as well as decorating. Her greatest joy, however, was found in her entire family, especially her great-grandchildren.

She leaves her loving husband, James W. Cahill, on their 11th wedding anniversary (Nov. 1, 2003); two children, Andrew G. Anderson Jr. and his wife, Colette of Meriden and Helen Anderson Olson of Enfield; two granddaughters, Grace Fischer and her husband, Matthew and Carla Anderson and her boyfriend, Mike LaBella; two great-grandchildren, Faye and Cameron Fischer; a step-great-grandson, Gavin Fischer; three step-children, Colleen Kalita and her husband, Steve Davis of Plymouth, Mass., James Cahill Jr. and his wife, Nancy of Walpole, N.H., and Brian Cahill of South Carolina; three step-grandchildren; six step-great-grandchildren; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by her husband, Andrew G. Anderson Sr. in 1998 and her son, Michael Anderson, in 1970.

The family received guests Tuesday, Nov. 4, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Wednesday, Nov. 5, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Burial will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Colchester Lions Club Charities, P.O. Box 423, Colchester, CT 06415 or to the church.

Portland

Franklin D. Fairbank

Franklin D. Fairbank, 80, of Portland, husband of Anna (Pitruzzello) Fairbank, passed away Monday, Nov. 3, at Portland Care and Rehab. He was the son of the late Franklin N. and Marie (Abretti) Fairbank.

Born on May 12, 1934, in Milford, Mass., he has lived in Portland for most of his life. He worked at Atlantic Machine Tool for 40 years until retiring and he was also a U. S. Air Force veteran.

Besides his wife, he leaves a son, Thomas Fairbank of Newington; a daughter, Elizabeth Borg of Portland; a brother, C. Richard Fairbank of Calais, Vt.; a brother-in-law, Salvatore Pitruzzello of Portland; sisters, Penny Seifert of Florida and Judy Randazzo of North Carolina; grandchildren, Christy Borg, Christopher, Lindsey and Matthew Fairbank; many nieces and nephews; and a close friend, Adam Bisi.

He was predeceased by his son, William David. Services will be private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Portland Fire Dept P. O. Box 71 Portland, CT 06480.

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

Portland

Norman P. Hanson

Norman P. Hanson, 96, of Middletown, husband of the late Charlotte (Larson) Hanson for over 70 years, passed away Monday, Nov. 3. He was the son of the late Axel and Alida (Johnson) Hanson.

Born Sept. 11, 1918, in Portland, he graduated from Portland High School and attended Central Connecticut State University. He retired in 1980 as vice president and corporator of American Savings Bank, now TD Bank.

He was a U.S. Army veteran having served during World War II in the 95th Infantry Division in General Patton's 3rd Army. He was awarded three Battle Stars and was discharged as 155mm gun section sergeant.

He was director and secretary of the Swedish Cemetery for 50 years. He was a member of the American Legion and served on the building committee for the Valley View School and Portland High School. He was a lifelong member of the Zion Lutheran Church, taught Sunday school and was church treasurer for many years. He enjoyed traveling stateside and overseas and enjoyed woodworking.

He leaves his 14 nephews and nieces and took great pleasure following their careers.

He was predeceased by his brother, George and sisters, Mabel Hughes and Grace Fitzmiller.

Funeral services will be held today, Nov. 7, at 11 a.m., at Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William St., Portland. Burial will be in the Swedish Cemetery, Portland. Relatives and friends may call today from 10 a.m. until the service at the church.

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

Amston

Clarence W. McConnell

Clarence W. "Slim" McConnell, 89, of Amston, formerly of East Hartford and Vernon, passed away peacefully with his loving family gathered around him Wednesday, Oct. 29, at Middlesex Hospital, Middletown.

Born Sept. 6, 1925, in Canaan, Vt., he was a son to the late Bertha Fissette. He was a veteran of World War II, serving his country proudly with the U.S. Navy. At the early age of 15, Slim began working as a clerk with the U.S. Postal Service in East Hartford, retiring after 41 years of service. Following his retirement, he was employed for more than 20 years at Vernon Village. He was a member of the American Legion and VFW, both in East Hartford.

Slim was a NASCAR enthusiast, with Kyle Busch being his favorite driver, and was crew chief for Mark Butler and the late Andy Johnson. He was a Red Sox fan, enjoyed bowling, and was always "tinkering" on something, since there wasn't anything he couldn't repair, build or fix.

He is survived by his loving daughters Sharon L. Damaschi and Kathleen A. O'Hanlon McConnell-Gleason and her husband, Gregory; grandchildren Ken (Cheri), Dan (Melissa), Brenda (Bryce), Brian (Shenelle), Keri (Kevin) and Melissa (Matt); great-grandchildren Gavin, Kelsie, and Conner; and daughter-in-law Gerry. He also leaves his special friend Peggy Mayer; and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

In addition to his mother Bertha, he was predeceased by his wife, Faith (Gough) McConnell; son William C. "Skip" McConnell; great-grandson Ty; sisters Laura and Althea; brother Ollie; and other family and friends.

Calling hours for Slim were held Monday, Nov. 3, at Ladd-Turkington & Carmon Funeral Home, 551 Talcottville Rd., Vernon. A celebration of Slim's life was held Tuesday, Nov. 4, also at the funeral home. Interment with military honors followed in Grove Hill Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Slim's name to Middlesex Hospital Hospice & Palliative Care, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

For online condolences, visit carmonfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Ann Smyk

Ann Smyk, 91, of Avon, Ind., formerly of Colchester, passed away Monday, Nov. 3. She was born to Samuel and Julia Boluck on Oct. 10, 1923. She is survived by daughter, Julie Swick (James); grandson, Nicholas Schmitz (Allison); and granddaughter, Emily Wardell (Tom). She also leaves behind four great-grandchildren, Jaxson, Cole, Austin Schmitz and Jayden Wardell.

Ann was a member of Colchester Grange for over 50 years, Colchester women's auxiliary (Post: Adler-Boluck) and she was a leader for the Brownies and Girl Scouts for many years while her daughter was young. She also spent many years volunteering at her grandchildren's school doing various tasks. Ann had recently become a member at Kingsway Christian Church in Avon, Ind., on Friday, Oct. 31.

Ann was a doting mother, grandmother, and friend who will be sorely missed by all who knew her. Ann's family would like to thank the entire staff of Wellbrooke of Avon in Indiana for treating their mom, grandmother and friend like one of their own. The care and compassion given to Mom was exceeded from Day One.

A memorial service will be held in Connecticut at a later date in December.

Arrangements: Indiana Funeral Care and Crematory.

Andover

Dorothy A. Bentley

Dorothy A. (Hart) Bentley, 86, of Vernon, formerly of Manchester and Andover, died Monday, Nov. 3, at a local convalescent home. She was the loving wife for 42 years of Frederick Y. Bentley and was the widow of Edward W. Hart.

She was born in Andover June 13, 1928, daughter of Nelson and Ida (Copping) Caye. She was raised in Andover and Manchester, graduated from Manchester High School, and had been a resident of Vernon since the 1980s. Dorothy was an avid puzzle solver, enjoyed knitting and was most happy when she was with her family.

With her husband, she is survived by six children, Edward W. Hart Jr. and his wife, Joyce, of Alabama, James C. Hart and his wife, Willa, of Manchester, Paul D. Hart and his fiancée, Marlena Burns, of Stafford Springs, Roger A. Hart and his wife, Claudia, of York, Pennsylvania, Judith Pomerleau and her fiancé, Stephen Bilow, and Kimberly Hart Laird of Spring, Texas; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; her brother, George Caye and his wife, Helen, of South Windsor; and numerous nieces and nephews. Dorothy also leaves her four stepchildren and their families, Robert Bentley in Maine, Steven Bentley of East Hartford, Laurie Bentley of Texas, and Sharon Bentley in Connecticut.

Visiting hours for family and friends were held Thursday, Nov. 6, at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association.

To leave a message for her family, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Andover

Audrey Stankoski

Audrey (Gerlach) Stankoski, 93, formerly of Andover, passed away Thursday, Oct. 30, at Apple Rehab in Colchester.

Audrey was born in Luzerne, Pa. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph. She was also preceded in death by three brothers, Charles, Frank and Kenneth Gerlach; and her sister, Cora Antonitas.

She is survived by her brother, Raymond Gerlach, of Luzerne. She is also survived by her children, Joseph Stankoski and his wife, Beatrice, of Pennsylvania, Martha Grimshaw and her husband, Alexander, of Andover, David Stankoski and his wife, Lynn, of Kensington, and Nancy Peavler and her husband, Robert, of Nevada; nine grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Audrey was a caring wife, mother and grandmother who enjoyed getting together and cooking for the whole family.

A graveside service will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 8, in the Townsend Cemetery, Townsend Road, Andover.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Congregational Church of Andover, P.O. Box 55, Route 6, Andover, CT 06232.

The Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester has care of arrangements. To leave a message for her family, visit holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Colchester

Theresa Boulard

Theresa Virginia Ledoux Boulard, 85, of Wallingford, died Monday, Nov. 3, at Yale New Haven Hospital after a brief illness. She was the beloved wife of the late Roland Boulard.

She was born in Colchester, Vt., May 9, 1929, a daughter of the late Maurice G. and Sophia J. Ledoux. She was a longtime resident of Portland, and Portsmouth, N.H., prior to returning to Wallingford 11 years ago.

She had been employed as a CNA for many years, most recently at Seacoast VNA and Hospice in Portsmouth, N.H. She was an active member of her Catholic parishes in both Connecticut and New Hampshire. Theresa was a member of The Most Holy Trinity Church in Wallingford and a Third Order Franciscan.

She is survived by her children, Jean Kennedy and her husband, Tom, of New Hampshire, Dennis Boulard and his wife, Ruth, of New Hampshire, David Boulard of Maine, Timothy Boulard and his wife, Lisa, of Maine, Susan Geremia and her husband, Joseph, of Oregon, Ronald Boulard and his wife, Susan, of Maine, and Ann Cosgrove and her husband, John of Wallingford; her sisters, Laura Walter, and Patty Johnson and her husband, Craig; 31 grandchildren; 24 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her brother, Joseph Ledoux.

Her family received relatives and friends in The Wallingford Funeral home, 809 N. Main St. Ext., Wallingford, Wednesday, Nov. 5. Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 6, from the funeral home, when the funeral cortege proceeded to Most Holy Trinity Church where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated that morning. Interment will be Saturday, Nov. 8, at 11:15 a.m., at Calvary Cemetery in Portsmouth, N.H.

Gifts in her memory may be sent to Catholic Charities, 839 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105.

For online condolences, visit wallingfordfh.com.

Colchester

Cheryl J. Knox

Cheryl J. Knox, 71, of Colchester, formerly of Stratford, beloved wife of Ronald J. Knox, passed away peacefully in her home surrounded by her loving family Tuesday, Oct. 28.

Born in Bridgeport, she is the daughter of the late Ferdinand Loehn and Ninona Corris. She had lived in Colchester for the last eight years, lived briefly in Florida and had been a Stratford resident for many years prior.

Cheryl worked for 40 years as a nurse's aide at various nursing homes, including 17 years at the Jewish Home for the Elderly. Following her retirement she operated the Monroe Farm Market on Route 25 in Monroe. She loved to crochet, was always willing to help her husband Ronnie with his side jobs, but above all else relished her role as a caregiver. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother but always was the first to help someone in need.

She was predeceased by her loving niece and nephew, Louis Loehn and Sherri Pauley.

Survivors in addition to her loving husband Ron include her beloved children, Nellie Thorpe and husband Scott, Ronald J. Knox Jr. and wife Perlita, Gary Schwarz and wife Amy and Nancy Haas and husband Chuck; along with 11 grandchildren, three great-grandchildren; a brother, Richard Loehn and wife Barbara; two sisters, Dawn Loehn and Veronica Hoffman and husband Bobby; many nieces and nephews and her dear special friends, Frannie and Don Desrochers.

Friends called Thursday, Nov. 6, in the Spear-Miller Funeral Home, 39 South Benson Rd., Fairfield. A graveside service will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, at 11 a.m., at Oak Lawn Cemetery in Fairfield.

For information or to sign an online guest register, visit SpearMillerFuneralHome.com.