

RIVEREAST

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Wild Looks...Hair Magic Salon Owner Dottie Seitz stands between Amanda Koss, left, and her daughter, Jessica Seitz, right, during a wild salon competition in New York City. For more on the competition, see the story on page 13.

Raising Funds for RHAM Teacher

by Geeta Schrayter

The family of a RHAM Middle School teacher who was struck by a vehicle at the school last Friday is raising money to help pay her living expenses while she's unable to work.

Dawn Mallory, 65, of Groton, who teaches seventh- and eighth-grade math at the school, was walking through the parking lot at RHAM Middle School March 14 when she was struck by a vehicle at around 7 a.m.

According to state police, Elizabeth Everett of Hebron realized she had driven into the bus lane at the school and was backing up when she struck Mallory.

As a result of the accident, Mallory suffered a skull fracture and bleeding in the brain, and was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar.

As of Thursday, she remains in the intensive care unit, in critical but stable condition.

Mallory's daughter-in-law Monica Bushor, who started the fundraiser in conjunction with some of the teachers who know her, said "there really has been no change since Friday."

"The only comment that was really kind of made was that we're likening [her recovery] to a marathon and she's still just warming up," she stated, adding the hospitals hadn't provided any sort of timeframe.

Bushor went on to say the family and Mallory's doctors were waiting for milestones.

"If there's any brain injury, they have milestones they work toward," she explained. "The next thing is a direct response where they tell her to wiggle her toes, give a thumbs up, things of that nature – but we're not there yet."

Bushor added her mother-in-law was being kept medically sedated, but the doctors bring

her out of it every few hours to try to illicit the responses they're looking for.

On the page for Dawn Mallory's Helper Fund at giveforward.com, updates are periodically provided. In an initial update from Monday, Bushor said Mallory was in "critical but stable condition."

Scans showed there were no broken bones apart from her fractured skull, and the bleeding had stopped.

The road to recovery is far from over, though, and Bushor expressed gratitude for the support that had been provided to the family, who includes Mallory's son Sean and Bushor; her son Eric and his wife Laura; and four granddaughters.

"We're very thankful for all of the support that all of the people have been giving out," Bushor stated. "I've been fielding multiple emails and calls and it's just meant so much to our family. People who don't even know us or mom are writing things and praying for us and her and it means just so much to us."

Bushor added, "It really has been just an amazing support for the boys."

Cards and well-wishes have been sent from students, parents and teachers alike, and Bushor shared some of these instances on the fundraising page this week. She shared one parent who said Mallory had been able to help her son, who has ADD and a handwriting disorder, bring his math grade up to a B. The parent explained "when other teachers could only see a kid who didn't seem to care, she saw a bright, funny, sweet child who was starting to blossom and make friends and really come to

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Upcoming 5K Honors Late East Hampton Resident

by Elizabeth Bowling

After a longtime East Hampton resident passed away from heart disease last year, a group of her friends decided to take their heart health – and the heart health of those in their community – into their own hands.

Karen Pfaffenbach, a Belltown resident for more than 30 years, passed away last April. Friends of hers are putting on the first "Running with Scissors" 5K road race next weekend in memory of their friend and in an effort to spread the word of the symptoms of heart disease in women.

JoAnn Pagliughi, a close friend of Pfaffenbach, is handling much of the media relations for the race.

Regarding Pfaffenbach's struggle with heart disease, she said, "It was sudden. She had no idea; she had no idea she had heart disease."

Unfortunately, many women who have heart disease don't know it, Pagliughi said, because their symptoms are so subtle and don't necessarily seem heart-related. For example, she said, some symptoms include unusual fatigue, lightheadedness, dizziness, nausea, pressure in

the chest, shortness of breath and sweating.

But George Pfaffenbach, Karen's husband, said in a phone interview Wednesday that for his wife specifically, "one of her main arteries was totally blocked" and she suffered from a "silent heart attack," which caused a blood clot. Additionally, she suffered several strokes, he said.

Neither George nor his wife knew she was having any heart troubles until she had garbled speech, which is a sign of a stroke.

George said he was in disbelief because "she never stopped. She was a skinny little thing. She was non-stop."

George and Karen Pfaffenbach lived on Lake Pocotopaug for 30 years, and in East Hampton for a total of 34 years. The two had a son, Ken, together.

"She loved living on the lake," George said of his late wife. "She loved East Hampton. She had many, many friends. She's gone and it leaves a big hole."

Pfaffenbach's best friends – Pagliughi, Cory Ucci, Monica Turning, Karen Moore and Dor-

othy Winch – knew each other since kindergarten and all attended Glastonbury High School together. They graduated in the class of 1973, with the exception of Turning, who graduated in 1972.

Three of the friends, never straying far from one another, currently live in Glastonbury, one in Rocky Hill and another in Colchester.

The group of friends was dubbed "The Golden Girls" about 10 years ago when one of their husbands used the television show title as a nickname for the women.

Though Pfaffenbach herself was never a runner, her heart disease opened her friends' eyes to the importance of their own cardiovascular health.

"Karen wasn't a runner, and neither were we," Pagliughi said. "When Karen died we were devastated. We were just totally shocked that she was gone." She added that Pfaffenbach was "full of spunk, full of life, 59 years old. It kind of shocked us into becoming healthy."

That's why Ucci suggested that the group of friends join a beginners' running group in

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Karen Pfaffenbach



RHAM Middle School teacher Dawn Mallory was seriously injured after being struck by a car in the parking lot of the school last Friday. The family of Mallory, who is shown here with three of her four grandchildren, is now raising money to help pay her living expenses.

RHAM Teacher cont. from Front Page
his own.”

And one of her students called Mallory a “wonderful woman, who truly cares about her students and wants them to succeed.”

On Wednesday, Bushor also shared there were a number of “angels” by Mallory’s side when the accident happened. Although she didn’t know their last names, she thanked Becky, Kelly, Cody and George who were on the scene and responded “before the paramedics and firefighters even arrived.”

Bushor also thanked the responders, writing, “As we learn about the first moments after her

accident we are learning about the numerous angels that were there for mom. Know that our whole family is filled with gratitude for your quick response and service.”

And of course, along with the above, the family is also grateful for those who have donated, too.

As of press time, \$8,520 out of a goal of \$10,000 had been raised to help Mallory as her recovery continues. To donate or leave well-wishes for the family, visit giveforward.com/fundraiser/ry64/dawn-mallory-s-helper-fund.

Upcoming 5K cont. from Front Page

Glastonbury called “Glastonbury River Runners.”

Ucci, Pagliughi and Turning first took on the challenge to get healthy in May 2013. The three trained for about a month and then participated in their first 5K race in June 2013.

Turning, ironically, underwent open-heart surgery in July 2013 to have a valve replaced “so she couldn’t continue with the beginning running group” at the time, but has since returned to her new-found healthy lifestyle, Pagliughi said.

Since being “scared healthy,” Pagliughi said, she and Ucci have each completed five 5K races and plan to continue.

“This whole scenario is new to me. I never ran before,” Pagliughi said, noting that her motivation to run and stay healthy “is coming from my heart” in every sense of the term.

George Pfaffenbach had only positive things to say about the Golden Girls and their efforts in putting on next weekend’s race.

He said, “I’m blown away. There’s no words.” “If something good could come from her passing, I’m all about it,” George said. “I hope they raise a hell of a lot of money so more research could be done for women in her situation.”

The race earned its name “Running with Scissors” not because of the well-known memoir by Augusten Burroughs with the same title – far from it, in fact. Actually, Pfaffenbach owned her own hair salon in Glastonbury for five years called “The Hideaway Salon” and worked previously at “Roger’s Hideaway” for about 25 years.

The scissors theme of the race is symbolic of Pfaffenbach’s successful career, plus it ties in with the motto of the race, which is, “running with scissors is dangerous – so is heart disease.”

Proceeds from the race will go to the Women’s Heart Wellness Center at the Hospital of Central Connecticut. (A portion of the registration proceeds will go toward covering the cost of the race, but the rest will go directly to the Women’s Heart Wellness Center at the Hospital of Central Connecticut, Pagliughi affirmed.)

The Women’s Heart Wellness Center at the Hospital of Central Connecticut “will be there with all kinds of info and giveaway products,”

Pagliughi said. Additionally, there will be a representative from Women Heart, a national coalition for women with heart disease.

“We wanted something to do with women that would really benefit women,” Pagliughi explained.

As of Monday afternoon, more than 100 people had signed up for the race. Pagliughi said, “With warmer weather, registrations are going to double, we’re hoping.”

Also as of Monday afternoon, nearly 50 East Hampton businesses were signed up as sponsors for the race. Pagliughi said any businesses interested in sponsoring the race should “absolutely” contact her.

Pagliughi added of the race, “We’re looking for it to become an annual event.”

George said he, too, hopes the 5K will become an annual event. “I hope this is something that can continue to make people aware of how bad this is,” he said.

He noted, of course, “It’s going to be a tough day for me emotionally.”

The 5K run will start and end at Sears Park. Runners will go up to the top of Pocotopaug Lane, which is a cul-de-sac and a hill, before they turn around and race back to Sears Park. Those who opt for the alternative two-mile walk will stop and turn around just short of Pocotopaug Lane, Pagliughi explained. She said people will help direct participants to their respective routes.

George said he’d like to participate in the event; he may do the two-mile walk and push his granddaughter in her stroller.

Besides the hill of Pocotopaug Lane, the course is “basically flat,” Pagliughi said.

Pagliughi said she ran the course herself recently. “It was good. I have to say I was a little slow on the uphill,” she laughed.

She affirmed that runners will experience an “unbelievable” view of the lake about halfway down the hill of Pocotopaug Lane.

The first “Running With Scissors” 5K run or two-mile walk is scheduled for next Saturday, March 29, at 10 a.m. at Sears Park. To register online, visit runforkaren.com, or register in person on race day starting at 8:30 a.m. The entry fee is \$25 online or \$30 in person.

For more information, visit runforkaren.com or email runforkaren@gmail.com or call Pagliughi at 860-250-8346.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Last Friday morning, I was looking at the latest news headlines on my phone, and saw the horrible story about RHAM Middle School teacher Dawn Mallory being struck and seriously injured by a car at the school.

My thoughts quickly went to: *Not again. How much more heartache can those schools take?*

Indeed, it’s been an awful year for RHAM. Four students there – two of them members of the Class of 2014, who were literally months away from graduation – have died in the past year. And now this.

What happened last Friday was a tragic accident, as was what happened to Garrett Campen in January, as was what happened to Paige Houston last August. Accidents can happen anywhere; why does it seem they keep happening to RHAM?

Whenever news like this pops up in any of the *Rivereast* towns, it strikes a chord with me. But with RHAM news, it’s a little different. I didn’t graduate from there or anything, but as a young reporter, newly out of college, I covered that school system for three years, from 2001-04. I spent a lot of time at school during those years, writing various stories. I got to know the place fairly well, I think – and let me tell you, it’s a special community. They’ve got a great, supportive staff over there, and as a result the school system produces some real top-notch kids. I feel for everyone at RHAM during this time; I really do.

As I write this Tuesday, Mallory is still in critical condition at Hartford Hospital. My thoughts are with her family and friends during this difficult time – but also with the RHAM community as a whole. Like I said, it’s been an awful year for them.

When I’m asked my political leanings, I tend to tell people that I guess you’d call me a moderate. On the left side of moderate, sure, but still a moderate. For while I do have many liberal beliefs, every so often I come across a political piece on *Slate* or in *Rolling Stone* that makes me think, you know, maybe I’m not as liberal as I thought.

One of the ways I likely differ from my liberal friends is my stance on assisted suicide. Frankly, I’m not in favor of it.

The issue’s been in the news a lot lately, as Connecticut lawmakers are debating House Bill 5326 – which would permit doctors to legally prescribe a lethal dose of medication to patients with less than six months to live.

It’s a very delicate issue, and indeed, it’s easy to see both sides. Supporters of the bill see it as a way to die with dignity. A woman suffering from Lou Gehrig’s Disease told legislators during a public hearing Monday she faces “a very nasty death in which my body is physically trapping me and will until I either choke to death or can no longer breathe. ... I do not want to die in a stupor.”

And for people in that situation, I sympathize; I really do. It’s terrible to be in, terrible for your loved ones to be in. But suicide – I just don’t think it’s the way to go.

Opponents of the bill have argued it could

be a “slippery slope.” And I can see that. How long before people who “well, they’re probably terminally ill” start to fall under the category? As Connecticut has bandied about the issue, people from Oregon and Washington state – two places where assisted suicide is legal – have chimed in to say that the quality of medical care in those states has declined since assisted suicide was legalized.

Seattle resident Elizabeth Benedetto, who with her husband owns several elder-care facilities, wrote in to the *Courant* to say that, after assisted suicide was made legal in 2008, she noticed “a shift in the attitudes” of doctors and nurses toward the facilities’ typically-elderly clients, “to eliminate their choices.”

“Since our law passed,” Benedetto added, “I have observed some medical professionals are quick to write off older people as having no quality of life, whereas in years past, most of the professionals we dealt with found joy in caring for them. Our clients reciprocated that joy and respect. I, for one, am quite uncomfortable with these developments.”

As am I. In fact, that’s downright scary.

My dad and I were recently discussing the matter, and he brought up an interesting point (he too is against it): If you’re in such severe pain that you want to end your life, then are you really thinking rationally? There’s a provision in the bill Connecticut’s considering that says only “mentally competent” people would be eligible for assisted suicide – but who determines if you’re mentally competent? If doctors really start “writing people off” as they’ve allegedly been doing in Washington, do we really want them making these determinations?

And here’s a big reason why I’m against assisted suicide: sometimes doctors are wrong. As I said earlier, the bill state lawmakers are considering would allow lethal doses of medication to be prescribed to people with less than six months to live. But you hear all the time of people who were given mere months to live and wind up living much longer – sometimes years longer.

Look at actress Valerie Harper. She was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer, and given as little as three months to live. That was 14 months ago. She recently told *Entertainment Tonight* she’s “not suffering. I am not in pain, so I’m really blessed.” Harper, 74, said she “just had a great response to a certain drug.”

Entertainment Tonight also talked to Travis Stork, of the talk-information show *The Doctors*, who said, “I think Valerie is showing anyone who gets a diagnosis of cancer that there’s always hope, no matter what your doctor tells you.”

But with suicide, there’s obviously no coming back. It’s very much the final answer – and slamming the door in the face of any hope that may be waiting around the corner.

The philosopher Cicero once said, “Where there’s life, there’s hope.” Let’s keep hope going. I hope lawmakers say ‘no’ to assisted suicide.

See you next week.

Sixty Years Later, Hebron Resident Gets His Medals

by Geeta Schrayter

This week, a Hebron man was officially recognized for his military service – more than 60 years after the fact.

Howard Lunt, 82, made his way to the Russell Mercier Senior Center Monday with his wife Ann. There, the two were greeted by Town Manager Andrew Tierney, selectman Brian O'Connell and Congressman Joe Courtney, who presented Lunt with the medals he was owed from his time in the military during the Korean War.

It was an occurrence Courtney said wasn't uncommon.

"It comes as a surprise to some but this is not uncommon, particularly after World War II and Vietnam," Courtney said, explaining when service members were completing their time and getting ready to head home, garnering those medals "was not high on the list" of things to do.

"But a little research can get the medals," Courtney furthered, calling them "a wonderful thing to have," even if they're received posthumously by a veteran's family.

"It's a powerful heirloom," he said.

Courtney said he was "kind of amazed at [Lunt's] sincerity and modesty," and said he had "amazing stories" to tell. Courtney said Lunt endured "brutal combat" in Korea and the conditions and equipment – or lack thereof – made it extra tough for soldiers.

"The United States Army was caught off-guard" he explained, adding, for example, "A lot weren't sent with appropriate winter clothing."

Courtney concluded giving Lunt his medals was an important symbol of his service.

"It's an important symbol of the most high level of service you can give, which is to wear the uniform in this great country," he said.

Lunt was drafted into the Army at the age of 20 and spent a year in Korea as squad leader of a weapons platoon. At Monday's presentation, he recalled that period in his life as he shared photographs with those who were present – proudly pointing to the photos he had of Marilyn Monroe from one of her visits overseas.

Lunt explained the war ended while he was in combat, and when word got around it was over, some of the soldiers made their way to the frontlines and fired their guns into the air to use up all their ammo. In addition, he said some of the American soldiers and South Koreans

hugged one another.

"A minute before they were fighting," Lunt said. "So it goes to show how you don't really want to fight."

For a long time after the war, Lunt explained he would wonder how he'd been able to do the things he did.

"I used to have thoughts and used to say, 'How could I ever do this hand-to-hand combat?'" Lunt stated. "All I could think and tell myself was that at this time in life, it's what everyone was doing so it's just what you do; you do what you've got to do, but it sort of bothered me for a while."

His wife Ann – who married Lunt in 1956 – added he'd have nightmares, too.

"When we first got married he had a rifle under the bed and had terrible dreams," she said. "I was scared to death. It was like he was reliving it again."

There are times, she furthered, when that still happens.

"If he watches war stories, when he sees it, it's like he goes back," she said.

In addition, when their daughter recently helped organize his photographs, "that rifled things up again."

And so, she hoped receiving the medals would allow Lunt to finally close that chapter.

"Maybe he can put it to rest now," she said. "He started having dreams again. No one should have to go through war. Mentally what it does to them is unbelievable."

But it could be said Lunt is lucky to be alive to even *have* those dreams, considering the number of men who never made it home. Lunt mentioned one of his close friends died in battle, while another – now also deceased – lost an arm.

"I'm here for them," the honored Lunt said, adding "there were a few times I thanked God for saving me."

And now, perhaps Lunt will be able to think more about the life he made after the war than the time he spent fighting; a life that included meeting and marrying his wife.

Ann explained she was living by herself in a rooming house when one of Lunt's friends who also lived there, asked if she wanted to meet a buddy of his. She said yes, and the two went out to eat at one of her favorite restaurants.

"He was so nervous he couldn't eat – so I ate his too! I wasn't nervous," she laughed.

From the beginning, Ann said she was struck by his eyes.



Hebron resident Howard Lunt looks over photos from his time fighting in the Korean War with Senior Services Director Sharon Garrard, left, and Congressman Joe Courtney. Lunt was presented Monday with his military medals over 60 years after his service in the war.

"He has the most beautiful blue eyes. I always remembered that," she said.

In addition, she called him very shy, but a great talker and "the man" among his friends. In return, Lunt said Ann was "a wonderful wife."

"He thought I was beautiful" she said, to which Lunt added, "She still is!"

In the 58 years the couple has been married, they raised five children and ran Lunt's Market in Andover and Columbia where they came to know individuals such as state Rep. Pam Sawyer and now-former state Sen. Edith Prague, who shopped at the store.

The Lunts have also collected quite a bit of Red Sox memorabilia due to Lunt's love of the team. But now, his wife said some of those things may need to make way for Lunt's newly-acquired mounted and framed medals.

"The medals are going to go right next to his flag," she said. "We might have to move some of his Red Sox stuff."

But it will be a rearrangement that's well deserved and long overdue: surely the Red Sox will understand.



Lunt received five medals for his service during the war.

Portland Superintendent of Schools to Retire

by Elizabeth Bowling

After nine years helming Portland schools, superintendent Sally Doyen is ready to call it a day.

Doyen will retire at the end of the current school year. She submitted her letter of resignation to the Board of Education March 4. She'll remain as superintendent until her contract expires June 30.

In her letter of resignation, Doyen wrote, "I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to work with so many outstanding, talented and dedicated staff members, whose daily goal is to improve the lives of the students they serve."

She went on to thank current and past Board of Education members – and to rave about the town.

"Portland is a town with wonderful and caring people, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it," she concluded in her letter.

Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps said in a phone interview Wednesday, "We've been really lucky to have Dr. Doyen as our superintendent for nine years now. She's done a really wonderful job."

Phelps said Doyen's biggest strength has been her ability to collaborate with town officials, school staff, the Board of Education and all other stakeholders in the Portland public school system. He furthered that she was suc-

cessful in a lot of areas, ranging from budget control to student achievement.

In sum, Phelps said, "We're going to miss her."

Regarding the search for a new superintendent, Phelps said, "We're starting the search process to fill her shoes but they're, quite honestly, big shoes to fill. The district has continued to progress over the past, nearly a decade now."

He said the search is one for someone who is ready and able to "step in" and "take the reins" in continuing Doyen's good work of the past nine years.

According to Phelps, the school board will lead the search process. Its first step is to bring in a superintendent search service.

In terms of the June 30 deadline, Phelps said, "that's a relatively short timeline" but "ideally we would have a new superintendent at that point."

Phelps said it's possible that the board may need to hire an interim superintendent, which he said is "not at all unusual."

Doyen told the school board at its meeting Tuesday, "I absolutely will do what I can to make the transition as easy as possible."

Also at Tuesday's meeting, Portland High School Principal Andrea Lavery presented the board with an update on secondary school reform initiatives according to the Connecticut Association of Schools.

The changes were originally supposed to be completed for the graduating class of 2016, but have been extended to impact the class of 2020, Lavery affirmed.

The reform calls for students to have 25 credits in order to graduate, rather than the current 24 that are required to graduate. Lavery said, "Most of our kids graduate with more than 24 credits anyway."

Other changes include all students to have two credits in a world language (the current requirement calls for only college-bound students to take a world language class).

Additionally, the current two-credit science requirement will be upped to three credits; and the current three-credit math requirement will be upped to four credits and will mandate that students take algebra II. Lavery said the inclusion of algebra II "goes hand in hand" with the Smarter Balanced Assessment.

Students will also be required to take one STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) elective course credit, which Lavery said most

students already do.

Finally, by 2020, the school's end-of-the-year exams will "probably" be replaced by state exams, Lavery said.

Regarding the reforms overall, Lavery said, "We're not panicked about them."

She said the impact on the school would call for the part-time world language position to increase to full-time; and, similarly, for the part-time math position to increase to full-time. She said in total, those increases would "add up to maybe one whole person."

She concluded, "I don't anticipate a huge financial burden on us as a result of these reforms." But she reminded the school board that more changes could still be in store.

More changes can be found in the new teacher evaluations. The board voted unanimously to "pull back on some of the requirements" of the teacher evaluations for the current year, as allowed by the state, Doyen explained.

Doyen called the change "advantageous for us this year."

The next regularly-scheduled Board of Education meeting is Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m. at the Portland High School media center.

Colchester Salon Owner Heads to International Competition

by Melissa Roberto

Three weeks ago, Dorothy "Dottie" Seitz received a phone call that presented her with the opportunity of a lifetime.

Seitz is the owner of Hair Magic, a salon and cosmetology academy in the heart of Colchester on Norwich Avenue. The call, Seitz recalled, was so surprising she initially thought it was "a gimmick."

The person on the other end of the phone was a representative of Battle of the Strands (BOTS), the first international hair, makeup, nails and wardrobe salon competition. Seitz was at first skeptical of the call; she was told she was one of only five salon owners in the northeast – and the only competitor from Connecticut – chosen to compete in a qualifier round for the competition in New York City.

"I thought it was something phony," Seitz said within her salon on this week. "Then I looked it up online and said, 'I don't know if I can do this! This is major.'"

But it didn't take long for Seitz to make up her mind.

"I said, 'You know what? I'm going to do it. I'm going for it.'"

And it's a good thing she did. Seitz had just one week to assemble a team and create an extreme head-to-toe look to be modeled in front of industry icons at the International Beauty School (IBS) Show, held at the Jacob Javits Center March 9-11 in New York City.

Seitz and her team ultimately won, beating out other professionals from New York City, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, thus granting Seitz a trip to Las Vegas in October, at which she will compete against other competitors from around the world in the final round of BOTS for a chance to win \$100,000.

BOTS is in its fourth year, according to the website battleofthestrands.com. The website describes it as "one of the biggest" competitions of its kind in the world that began in Las Vegas in 2011, and has since expanded to include more than eight countries. Other qualifier rounds are currently being held in various regions of the United States, as well as Canada, Japan, Brazil and Paris. It's known as "Project Runway for Stylists," the website explains, and the 2014 competition is advertised to be "Bigger, Bolder and Louder!"

That slogan stuck with Seitz and her team last week. Seitz's teammates were Jessica Palmer, Seitz's former student and now co-worker, and Ericka Moody, also a graduate of Hair Magic Academy. The competition's theme was "Broadway Meets Avant-Garde," Seitz explained. Each team had to create a look based on a Broadway play and put an avant-garde, couture twist on it.

Within the one week she had to prepare, Seitz created the look of Glenda, the good witch from the *Wizard of Oz*, which debuted on Broadway in 1902. Seitz transformed the look into avant-garde by getting inspiration from Lady Gaga, who is known for her over-the-top looks.

"What inspired me to do *Wizard of Oz* was that the hair pieces back then were kind of big," Seitz said. "And it actually related to Lady Gaga, so I was inspired to make it huge."

In addition to a team and a vision, before heading to the competition Seitz had to recruit a model and looked no further than one of her clients, Amanda Koss, an 18-year-old Bacon Academy senior. On March 11, a transformed Koss appeared before a panel of judges – similar to the setting of *American Idol*, Seitz said.

The panel consisted of master colorists, stylists and platform artists, who analyzed the look from head to toe. With a major hairpiece that floated above her head, Koss appeared nine feet tall.

"It's wild," Seitz said of the complete look. "I just wanted something extreme and I know the judges were looking for extreme. I wanted to win."

Seitz clothed Koss in a white bra encrusted with rhinestones Seitz glued on herself, white panties and knee-high white boots. A skirt completed the look, which Seitz said was crafted to resemble a bird cage. The skirt was sculpted with brake lines – actual materials used in car brakes purchased from Auto Zone.

Moody was responsible for Koss's makeup which featured a sparkled lip and white and pink shades. Palmer created the nails. According to an article published by Dailynails.com, nail judge Kimberly Rhoten said the nails "really tied the entire look together."

The final portion of the look was the hair, constructed by Seitz. The hair piece rose feet above Koss's head, and was designed to look like a crown. Seitz used a wicker wreath and cardboard, and even used equipment from a motorcycle helmet. Approximately \$600 worth of supplies went into the hair design alone, which included hair pieces, wigs and "tons of extensions," Seitz explained.

The judges asked each team to describe their look. Seitz said her hairstyle was inspired by "today's women."

"Women are powerful and that's what this is to me," Seitz recalled telling the judges. "The good witch was powerful, strong, and bold."

But that wasn't the only look the team created. To get a leg up on the competition, Seitz recruited her 19-year-old daughter Jessica, an art student at University of Hartford, as a prop. Jessica was created to look like the wicked witch, adorned in a black outfit and wild hair.

The looks, it seems, weren't the only things that were dramatic. The contestants were also filmed throughout the competition, to which Seitz assumes is footage that will eventually be televised in a reality series of the competition. Contestants were encouraged to say key phrases, Seitz explained, which is sure to make for some catty reality television.

"Those girls were, like, wicked vicious to me," said Seitz. "They were walking around saying, 'We're going to get you!' You wouldn't believe it!"

The final competition is scheduled to be in Las Vegas on Oct. 6. And while it already is expected to be bigger and bolder, Seitz says contestants aren't being told "anything" yet. Regardless, Seitz says she has no intention of being camera shy.

"Oh, it'll be fine," she said without hesitation. "Hell yeah, I can rock it."

She also plans to take the same team with her, and was fortunate to have them alongside her for the first competition.

"I picked [Moody and Palmer] because they are both enthusiastic," Seitz said. They both have a lot of artsy ability. We made a really good team."

In terms of the final competition, Seitz said she is already preparing. She says the "only thing" she knows thus far is that the model's hair has to withstand 90 miles per hour in a convertible.

"Each week I'm going to work on a new idea or concept with color," Seitz said, "because I want to do something that's going to be the latest trend that's going to be in a magazine."

And no matter what happens Oct. 6, Seitz is just excited to represent where she comes from.

"I'm just so happy Connecticut is part of it," Seitz said. "That's what makes me thrilled about the whole thing – not only for my salon but because we're representing Connecticut. No one ever thinks of us as high fashion! We freaking stepped it up!"

Hair Magic in Colchester runs the full gamut when it comes to salon services. The salon offers services in nails, hair, coloring and hair replacements. Seitz says she specializes in corrective coloring and extensions. She has been in the business for 34 years, opening her first salon at the age of 18 in East Hartford and then another in Manchester. Hair Magic Salon has been open in Colchester for 18 years; Hair Magic Academy has operated within the salon for the last 12. Seitz received her cosmetology license from New London Academy for Cosmetology in 1979, which has since closed.

Her unexpected appearance in the BOTS



Bacon Academy senior Amanda Koss models a couture look of Glenda, the Good Witch from *The Wizard of Oz*, created by Hair Magic Salon owner Dottie Seitz.

competition has the potential of opening doors for Seitz to become a platform artist – the "only thing I haven't done yet," she said.

If that's the case, Seitz said she isn't one to pass up chances.

"I'm always telling my students, 'If you ever get the opportunity, you better take it because you'll never get the chance again!'" she said.

And, of course, Seitz is bringing that mentality with her to Vegas.

"I can't wait to get to Vegas!" she said excitedly. "We're going to win. Connecticut is going to win!"

For more information about the competition, visit battleofthestrands.com.

Marlborough Man Convicted on Voyeurism Charges

by Melissa Roberto

A Marlborough man arrested on more than 100 counts of voyeurism last April, after allegedly taping women in the bathroom of his home, was convicted on two of the counts last Friday, March 14.

William Myers, 74, pled no contest to two counts of voyeurism in Hartford Superior Court. He is due to be sentenced June 25.

On April 10, 2013, Myers had turned himself into State Police Troop K in Colchester. According to an arrest warrant affidavit, Myers was charged with 132 counts of voyeurism, for allegedly filming women using his bathroom through the use of a hidden camera. He was also charged with six counts of second-degree sexual assault for allegedly having intercourse with his girlfriend who was unable to consent, the document states. His girlfriend had been diagnosed with dementia in 2006.

State police had seized 11 memory cards from Myers' home, and nine of them con-

tained video files depicting the sexual assault, and the voyeurism, with a majority taken from inside of the bathroom, the affidavit states.

According to the affidavit, Myers told police in December 2012 that he had purchased the hidden camera sometime in 2009 because he had suspicions his cleaning lady was stealing money from the home. The affidavit says Myers also told police he began to use the video camera in the bathroom that same year, and would turn it on whenever he knew a female was coming to his house.

Myers said he videotaped family members, friends, neighbors, the cleaning lady, and his girlfriend's caregivers since 2009, according to the affidavit. The document also lists 23 alleged victims were found in the video footage using the toilet, changing clothes or showering.

Myers still has 21 counts of voyeurism still pending.

Portland Selectmen Accept Two Parcels of Land

by Elizabeth Bowling

In the middle of budget season, the Board of Selectmen squeezed in a regular meeting to accept two parcels of land on the town's behalf, as well as to discuss upcoming budget deliberations.

The first parcel of land the board unanimously voted to accept is adjacent to Goodrich Lane and is in the town's right of way. According to the resolution to accept the land, the board decided "it is in the best interest of the town" to accept the parcel, to facilitate proper maintenance along the road.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield explained, "When you own a road, you're supposed to have a certain amount [of land] on either side of the pavement in the event you need to make improvements."

The board voted unanimously again to accept a similar parcel of land adjacent to Wolcott Avenue on the same basis of facilitating proper maintenance.

Land Use Administrator Deanna Rhodes explained to the board that in the past, land

acquisition didn't necessarily need to be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Now, however, the town's attorney suggested that all land acquisition go through the board.

Selectman Brian Flood requested that Rhodes research and report back to the board all land that has been acquired by Portland without Board of Selectmen approval.

* * *

Also at Wednesday night's meeting, the Board of Selectmen discussed this year's budget calendar.

Budget workshops will take place March 25 and 26.

There will be no budget deliberations Tuesday, April 1. Budget deliberations will resume Wednesday, April 2, at 7 p.m. at Portland Library and will be followed by the next regularly-scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting at 7:30 p.m.

The board will make its formal adoption of the budget April 9.

Marlborough Finance Board Reviews Local, Regional School Budgets

by Melissa Roberto

At a workshop Wednesday, the Board of Finance was presented with the local and regional school budgets – and, despite spending increases in the proposals, finance board members didn't balk at either plan.

Marlborough Superintendent of Schools David Sklarz presented the local school board's proposed 2014-15 budget of \$7,301,585, an increase of \$119,980, or 1.67 percent, over current year spending.

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski then presented his budget, a proposal he advised finance board members is "not finished" and is still "a work in progress," as the RHAM school board has yet to take action on it. Marlborough's levy of the RHAM budget as it stands now was presented at \$8,042,879, an increase of \$730,440, or 9.99 percent.

Sklarz kicked off his presentation by saying he was proud of the budget the school board was putting forward. Of the \$7.30 million total, 84 percent, or \$6.13 million, is made up of salaries and benefits – in Sklarz's words, "we're a people organization." The other 16 percent labeled "other" totals \$1,169,117.

Some of the larger increases within the local school budget include: a new position of special education consultant at \$55,000; a new office reception/security position at \$17,000; implementation of the second phase of the reinstated Spanish program at a cost of \$151,000; and severance benefits of \$44,000 due to teacher retirements, among others.

Board of Finance Chairwoman Evelyn Godbout spoke positively about the local budget.

"I do appreciate that you came in I think with a very reasonable budget," she told Sklarz. "As we're looking at things and we're looking at other towns I want to tell you we appreciate all the hard work that you guys did."

One aspect of the local budget that's mirrored in the RHAM budget as well is lower heating costs. In the Marlborough Board of Education budget, the price per gallon for heating oil drops from \$3.08 in the current year to \$2.99.

Godbout continued she was "surprised" to see the drop.

"And there's a good reason for that," Sklarz responded. "We're part of a consortium and we got locked in with a price on diesel, fuel, electricity and oil, and we get incredible rates."

As for the RHAM budget, overall the district's spending package totals \$27,710,405, an increase of 6.83 percent over the current fiscal year. The three RHAM towns – Hebron, Marlborough and Andover – each pay their own portions of the budget, based on how many students from each town are enrolled at the middle and high schools. The number of Marlborough residents attending the schools is predicated to go up next year and, if the budget were to pass as presented, Marlborough would be responsible for 29.03 percent of the spending package, up from the 28.19 percent it's contributing in the current fiscal year.

This would make Marlborough's levy \$8.04 million – up \$730,440.

Siminski showed a graph breaking up the categories of the budget. The largest percentage, of 55 percent, is proposed to go towards salaries, followed by 13.1 percent for benefits, 9.8 percent of costs labeled "other," bonds at 9.2 percent, transportation at 5 percent, tuition at 4.7 percent, utilities at 2.3, and fuel at .9.

Siminski said he felt it was important to take into consideration the economic climate when looking at the budget. A special education cost grant from the state is "level-funded."

"You're seeing a great number of students enrolled in special education that have severe

needs," Siminski explained, "and the cost of those programs is increasing. When you look at the money coming back to the districts, you know it's going to decline."

Major increases of the RHAM budget were shown as followed: health insurance at \$177,919, special education at \$360,649, textbooks at \$86,348, instructional supplies at \$53,081, operations and maintenance at \$52,000 and capital projects at \$383,555.

Health insurance, Siminski explained, is rising due to the cost of national health care, and increased staff enrollment. The 4 percent increase over the current year translates to a climb of \$177,919.

Operations and maintenance increases were shown as: \$10,000 to go towards custodial and maintenance supplies, \$22,000 for emergency repairs – like door hardware breaking and ventilation system replacements – and \$20,000 for HVAC repairs.

A capital budget is included in the RHAM plan, which totals \$383,555. Capital projects for the upcoming year include \$110,240 to work on the HVAC system in the media center at \$74,315 to work on the HVAC system in the science rooms. Another \$70,000 is listed for a new hot water heater and \$129,000 is listed to reread the track.

Budget decreases total \$119,699. The largest contributor is a nearly \$60,000 drop in utilities, thanks to a solar ray portion on its roof, and replacement of LED and fluorescent light bulbs, Siminski said.

Additional items were also included in the initial budget that go beyond what Siminski refers to as the "continuation budget," or a budget that will allow the schools to continue on with the same level of programming. These additions include: \$109,830 for three special education paraprofessionals, \$109,830 for three

security concierges, \$39,608 to increase the part-time technology staff to full-time, \$38,245 for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program implementation, \$2,000 to implement a capital fund, \$57,960 for an additional groundskeeper, \$9,550 for increased fertilization, and \$2,382 for increased irrigation maintenance.

The continuation budget would total \$26,962,475, or a 3.92 percent over the current year. If the RHAM board stuck to the continuation budget and did not fund the aforementioned additions, the amount each town pays would change. Marlborough's assessment would lower from the presented \$8,042,879 to \$7,825,755.

Finance board member Susan Leser did not seem startled by the RHAM increase presented.

"The RHAM budget has always been very, very, very lean so I'm not surprised," said Leser.

Siminski concluded the "real issues" in the budget are the capital projects, because they total "a considerable amount of money."

Godbout questioned why legal fees have doubled in the RHAM budget, and Siminski said that is a result of current negotiations for two contracts.

Overall, Godbout said she was surprised to see the high school expenses decreasing.

"As I looked I would have expected, I guess, for the increase to be at the high school, not the middle school for teachers," Godbout said.

Siminski said the result is that middle school increases are "salary-driven," as there are more numbers of teachers retiring from the high school.

Budget workshops are continued to occur in the coming weeks, with the next scheduled for Monday, March 24, at 7 p.m. at the Marlborough Elementary School library.

Marlborough Selectmen Agree on Streetscape Project for STEAP Grant

by Melissa Roberto

The Board of Selectmen Tuesday agreed on a target for possible Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant funding: a streetscape project involving the North Main Street business park.

STEAP grants are awarded each year by the governor, who prioritizes and awards grants to only a portion of towns who apply. The program is administered through the Office of Policy and Management, and the grants have a maximum of \$500,000. This year's deadline to apply for a STEAP grant is April 14.

The streetscape project is one of three projects the selectmen initially reviewed when discussing STEAP possibilities last month. The other two options reviewed at the Feb. 18 meeting were a third phase of the town's sewer expansion project, and a second phase to the Town Center Public Water System.

Although the selectmen agreed last month the sewer expansion would be the "biggest bang for the buck" out of the three options, First Selectwoman Cathi Gaudinski and selectman Dick Shea explained the support has since shifted. One of the reasons for the change is that the town has learned it would not receive contributions from Churchill & Banks, owner of the Marlborough Commons property. If Churchill & Banks was interested, a sewer expansion project involving that property would have been looked at, and the town's costs for

the project could have been lowered.

"They came back and said, 'At this time our development plans are not far enough along where we could be ready to make a financial commitment,'" Shea explained. "That did two things. Obviously, it raised the town's cost, and it also took away the attractions as far as getting the STEAP grant, which [Town Planner Peter Hughes] has said you always do better if you've got some private contribution."

Also, it seems the Water Pollution Control Authority Commission – responsible for making sewer project recommendations – has yet to come to an agreement on what a third phase would entail.

The WPCA "had a number of combinations which made it difficult to get your arms around anything," said Shea. "Each one had pluses and minuses to cost and number of units served, and also degree of need. It was pretty clear quickly that nobody could just sit there and look at all these numbers and say 'I see the way to go.'"

Thus, the consensus was to explore a streetscape project involving the North Main Street business park area. This would allow for improvements to Austin Drive and Hodge Road, which currently are in need of widening to create better angles for truck drivers who often have difficulties pulling into businesses on those roads.

Gaudinski explained Hughes would also "take a look at other issues" involving drainage and even guard rail improvements that could potentially be added to the project.

Shea voiced support of this project.

"I wouldn't feel that we were going in the wrong direction by supporting the North Main Street business center road improvements," Shea said, to which his fellow selectmen agreed.

The consensus did not involve a vote. Gaudinski said she would be in talks with Hughes, who would put together the STEAP grant application. The application will need to be approved by the selectmen before it's sent to the state.

* * *

Also at Tuesday's meeting, the selectmen accepted the resignation of the town's Building Official J. Claude Jean. Jean has been the building official for the last three years, and had actually worked in the position previously, about 20 years ago.

"He was a good building inspector," selectman Denis Soucy said, to which Gaudinski responded, "Yes, very good."

Jean's resignation will go into effect today. The selectmen explained the timing is "tricky" because next year's budget proposal proposes the building official position to go from part-time to full-time. Until that is approved, Gaudinski explained the position cannot be

advertised. In the mean time, Gaudinski said the town is seeking interim coverage from area towns and is also seeking to hire a fill-in building official to work until the end of the fiscal year, or June 30, 2014.

Per state law, it is up to the board of selectmen to appoint a building official.

* * *

Lastly, the selectmen discussed the need for volunteers to serve on the Charter Revision Commission. This would be the first step toward charter revision, which was last conducted in 2002.

In order to be considered to sit on the commission, citizens need to express interest in writing to the board of selectmen. If the board does not find members to sit on the commission, the process cannot be started. The commission would be responsible for reviewing the entire town charter and recommending revisions. Gaudinski said she's already looked into hiring a facilitator to assist the commission through the process.

The commission would meet for at least one year but cannot exceed an 18-month duration, Gaudinski said. Anyone who has questions or is interested in serving should call her office at 860-295-6204.

The next regular Board of Selectmen meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 1, at 7 p.m., at Town Hall.



At the RHAM Education Foundation's fifth annual Adult Spelling Bee, the Wannabees from Marlborough, left, came out on top after successful spelling "diphthong." Although they didn't win, team Beeware, right, which consisted of faculty from RHAM High School, was happy to have made it almost 20 rounds, a significant improvement from the year prior when they clocked out after the first word.

A Night of Spelling Fun at RHAM

by Geeta Schrayter

On Wednesday night, a group of spelling aficionados – or those simply looking to come out for a cause – ventured to RHAM High School for the RHAM Education Foundation's fifth annual Adult Spelling Bee.

Education was the focus of the night, with all proceeds going toward the Foundation, which, according to the website rhamef.org, "is dedicated to the advancement of educational excellence through initiatives that promote innovation, enrichment and lifelong learning for our students and the community."

Unlike a traditional spelling bee, where individual contestants take turns at a podium spelling their given word aloud, Wednesday's bee featured teams of up to four contestants – who joined for a tax-deductible entry fee of \$100 per team – who could work together on the spelling.

"Beekeeper" Dave Gostanian read each word, provided a definition and used the term in a sentence. Each team then had 30 seconds to consult – while Gostanian played the theme to *Jeopardy!* – and write their answer on a provided whiteboard.

The judges, Hebron Town Clerk Carla Pomproicz and Marlborough resident and past-RHAM Education Foundation President John Grasso, then walked around and checked each team's answer.

Twelve teams participated in the event, most with bee- and spelling-related names – such as Spellbound, the Madspellers, A² + Bee² and Bee Catchers in the Rye.

After the first two words – macaroni and curriculum – the bee was still anyone's for the taking. But the teams began to thin out starting with the next word, albatross, which is "a large white ocean bird that has very long wings" or "a continuing problem that makes it difficult or impossible to do or achieve something" according to Merriam-Webster.

Other words Wednesday ran the gamut from dungarees to pumpnickel, thesaurus to pecadillo, ubiquitous to gingham.

RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie, who was a member of the team Beeware along with assistant principals Tom Mueller and Penny Bryzgel and guidance coordinator

Joanne Prague-Doyle, proudly noted his team was still standing after round four; an improvement from last year, when they were eliminated after the first word.

In the end, Beeware made it 19 rounds but were eventually stumped over the word braggadocio, "the annoying or exaggerated talk of someone who is trying to sound very proud or brave."

But Leslie was confident he'd eventually see victory.

"There will be a year we will make it to the end," he laughed.

And in the meantime, he enjoyed participating in the fundraising event.

"The Education Foundation is just a fantastic group and they're so supportive of what we're doing [at the schools]," he said. "So the added benefit is that it's [the proceeds] going to a great cause."

Leslie added the event was "lighthearted," which was something the RHAM community needed after a year filled with tragedy; four RHAM students have died in the past year, and just last week, middle school teacher Dawn Mallory was severely injured when she was hit by a car at the school.

"We need as many kind of lighthearted things as we can find at this point," he said. "It was a nice break I think for the students involved and the teachers involved."

As play continued, state Rep. Pam Sawyer watched from the audience. Although she admitted "I can't spell my way out of a paper bag," she said she was a fan of the competition.

"I love the event. I've been to every one since they started," she said. "It is such a fun multi-generational, multi-community event. You can sit here and listen to the giggles around the different tables when the words come up."

Like Sawyer, Hebron Board of Selectmen Chairwoman Gayle Mulligan, who was part of the team Beelieve, along with her daughter Abby, Selectman Brian O'Connell and Director of Administrative Services Donna Lanza, felt it was "a nice community event."

"It brings different groups of people together" she said. "It's a great way to raise money for the RHAM Education Foundation – some-



One of the judges, past-RHAM Education Foundation President John Grasso, stands by as some of the teams contemplate the spelling of one of the words.

thing a little different."

Mulligan added, "Everyone is trying to look for money and ways to raise funds – it's creative, fun, it gets you thinking and is an appropriate type of event for an education foundation."

As the competition went on, the teams continued to stumble over words such as gulag, a penal system from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; and apartheid, which is a former social system in South Africa.

After braggadocio only four of the 12 teams remained; that number dropped to three after gesundheit. Then, when diphthong, the noun used to describe "when two vowel sounds join in one syllable to form one speech sound" such as the sound of "oy" in "boy," was uttered, the winners came to light.

The Wannabees, which was made up of Marlborough residents Anne Wursthorn, Christine Rich, Linda Garrett and Judy McBair – three of whom are retired teachers – came out victorious for the third year in a row.

The group was all smiles as they posed for their winning photo at the end with their tro-

phies and a box of chocolates.

McBair said she didn't think the team would be able to win again, but it turned out "third time's a charm!"

Meanwhile, Rich called the event "lots of fun" and said winning felt "fabulous."

Along with the ladies of the Wannabees, the RHAM Education Foundation came out winners as well. Although she hadn't yet counted the money received from the participants, audience members, raffles and the silent auction, RHAM Education Foundation President Beth Fitzgerald estimated the proceeds Thursday at around \$2,000.

"I thought [the event] went really well," she said. "There were a lot of people and everybody was very enthusiastic."

Fitzgerald said "it might be the largest group of spellers yet."

While not huge, she noted the event had interest. And with five years now under their belt, the hope is the hive will only continue to grow, bringing more spellers next year and more funds for the foundation.

Obituaries

Colchester

Philip Robert Gaudette III

Philip Robert Gaudette III, 21, of Colchester, passed away tragically Friday, March 14, from injuries sustained in a motor vehicle accident. Born May 8, 1992 in Middletown, he was the son of Philip and Maria (Morico) Gaudette Jr. of Salem.

Philip was a 2010 graduate of Bacon Academy in Colchester and had worked as a helicopter mechanic for M2 Services Corporation at the Groton-New London Airport. An avid outdoorsman, he loved to hunt and fish and was also a motorsports enthusiast. He will be deeply missed by all whose lives he touched.

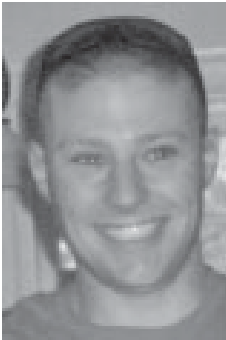
In addition to his parents, he leaves his sister, Heather Gaudette of Lebanon, his fiancée, Kaleigh Vincent of Colchester; grandparents, Philip and Mary Ellen Gaudette, Sr., of Centerville, Maine, and Joan Morico of Wallingford; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his maternal grandfather, William Morico.

The family received guests Wednesday, March 19, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A chapel service was observed that afternoon at the funeral home, followed by a reception celebrating his life.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Gardner Lake Vol. Fire Co., 429 Old Colchester Road, Salem, CT 06420.

For online expressions of sympathy, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Portland

Kenneth E. Schoell Jr.

Kenneth E. Schoell Jr., 82, of Portland, husband of Frances (Hall) Schoell, passed away Friday, March 14, at home. He was the son of the late Kenneth E. Sr. and Minnie Mae (Wilson) Schoell Phillips.

Born April 23, 1931, in New Britain, he lived in East Hampton and then has lived in Portland for the last 46 years. He worked at Pratt & Whitney as a jet engine technician for 33 years until his retirement and was a U.S. Air Force veteran having served during the Korean Conflict. He was a member of the East Hampton American Legion for 56 years, the Portland Mattabassett Camping Assoc, and a member of First Congregational Church in Portland for 45 years. He was an avid rock collector, a wood craftsman, bird watcher, WWII enthusiast, he treasured his cats and he loved the Boston Red Sox and the UConn Huskies.

Besides his wife, he leaves his sons, Mark Schoell of West Hartford, and Kirk Schoell and his wife Rozanne of East Haddam; a daughter, Cheryl Tuttle and her husband Art of Cobalt; daughter-in-law, Sonya of Portland; brothers, Louis Schoell and his wife Marge of Colchester and Harry Schoell of Pomona, Fla.; sisters, Marilyn Collins of East Hampton and Carol Schoell of Florida; grandchildren, Alexandra, Brendan, Mary and Elizabeth Schoell, Chrystal Goodson and her husband Justin and Jessica Tuttle and her fiancé Michael Siavrakas; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by two brothers, William "Billy" Phillips and Eugene Schoell, and a step-brother, Francis "Slim" Phillips.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 20, at Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial was in the State Veterans Cemetery, Middletown. Relatives and friends called Thursday morning, before the service.

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.



East Hampton

Dolores Rita O'Neill

Dolores Rita O'Neill, 90, of East Hampton, died Monday, March 17, at Middlesex Hospital. Born Oct. 18, 1923, in East Hampton, she was the daughter of the late Roger and Beatrice (Madigan) O'Neill.

Dolores was a retired nurse's aide for the former Rest Haven Convalescent Home. She was a lifelong communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton where she had served as a choir member, Eucharistic minister, lector and a sacristan.

She is survived by several nieces and nephews, including her special niece, Tracy Barbour.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her two sisters, Joan Barbour and Clarene Porter.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, March 21, at 11 a.m., in St. Patrick Church. Burial will be in St. Patrick Cemetery. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, this morning from 9:30-10:30 a.m.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church Repair Fund, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

Lisa D. Hall

Lisa D. (Slivinsky) Hall, 55, of Andover, formerly of Marlborough, beloved wife of 29 years to Mark A. Hall, passed away Friday, March 14, at the UConn Medical Center.

Lisa was born July 7, 1958, in Manchester, daughter of Bette Jeanne (Burrnett) Slivinsky of Glastonbury and the late Carol Slivinsky. She was a graduate of RHAM High School, Class of 1976. She also attended Manchester Community College and Eastern Connecticut State University. Lisa, along with her husband Mark, owned and operated the Andover Archery Center for the past seven years.

In addition to her husband and mother, Lisa is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Jessica Hall and their children, Mark and Dylan; her daughter and son-in-law, Alicia Hall and Diego Velasquez and their children, Samuel and Lucas; her sister, Lauren Person and her husband, Scott; three brothers, Stephen Slivinsky and his wife, Jerene, David Slivinsky, and Daniel Slivinsky and his wife, Michelle, several nieces and nephews; two stepsons, William Hall and Kyle Hall; and her father-in-law, Arthur Hall.

It was Lisa's wish to be cremated with no services. There are no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the University of Connecticut Foundation, to benefit the Breast Cancer Research Fund, P.O. Box 842659, Boston, MA 02284-2659.

Watkins Funeral Home, Manchester, has care of arrangements.

Colchester

Philip Liverant

Philip Liverant, antiques dealer and retired school teacher, of Colchester, passed away peacefully Wednesday, March 12, at his home. He was born March 6, 1924, in Colchester. He was the son of the late Nathan and Esther Liverant.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Robyn Liverant Marquis and Roger Marquis of New York City and his granddaughter Paige Marquis. He is also survived by a sister, Pearl Vogel, of Bloomfield.

He was predeceased by a sister, Ruth Fier Peck; and four brothers, Samuel, Isreal ("Zeke"), Benjamin and Abraham. He leaves behind many nieces and nephews and his two marvelous caregivers, Barbara McKenzie and Margaret Brewster.

A star athlete for Bacon Academy in baseball and basketball, he also played baseball for the Colchester Townies. He served in the Navy during World War II on the *USS Freestone* from 1944 to 1946. After the war, he earned his degree from Central Connecticut State College.

Phil was a science teacher at the Mary A. Callen School in Bristol and retired from the Dr. Michael D. Fox School in Hartford. His true passion was antiques and he was a noted antiques dealer with a specialty in American furniture, glass and Native American items. He was a die-hard Whalers and UConn basketball fan as well. In 2004 he sponsored the Colchester Continentals Fife and Drum Corps, of which he was especially proud.

Funeral services were held Friday, March 14, at the Congregation Ahavath Achim on Lebanon Avenue in Colchester. Interment was in the Congregation Ahavath Achim Cemetery, Colchester. Shiva was observed Sunday, March 16, and Monday, March 17, at the home of the deceased's former wife, Babs Liverant, at 42 Cider Mill Rd. in Glastonbury.

In Phil's memory, his family requests that a good deed be done in his honor or a donation be made to the charity of your choice.

For further information, directions or to sign the guestbook for Phil, visit online at weinsteinmortuary.com/funerals.cfm.

Colchester

Keith Bernard VanderVegt

Keith Bernard VanderVegt, 44, of Linwood Avenue, Colchester, passed away unexpectedly Monday evening, March 17, at Middlesex Hospital in Marlborough. He was born Sept. 11, 1969, in Paterson, N.J., to Ann Marie Grassia of North Stonington and the late Bernhard VanderVegt.

Keith worked as a drug and alcohol counselor for Southeastern Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency in Norwich. He loved to spend time with his friends, often times getting together to play board games.

Besides his mother, he is survived by his stepfather Robert Grassia Sr.; a brother, Robert Grassi Jr.; aunts, uncles, cousins, several nieces and nephews that reside in New Jersey; and many close friends.

Calling hours will be held 9-10 a.m. Saturday, March 22, at the Gagne-Piechowski Funeral Home. A memorial Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at St. Thomas More Church in North Stonington. Burial will private and at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Keith's memory to the American Diabetes Association, 330 Congress St., 5th Floor Boston, MA 02210.

For online condolences, visit gagnepiechowski.com.

East Hampton

Margaret Ficks

Margaret (Fagan) Ficks, of Kensington, wife of the late C. Richard Ficks, died Friday, March 14. She was born in New Britain, a daughter of the late Edward J. Fagan and Margaret (Fitzsimmons) Hauck.

She attended New Britain schools, graduated from East Hampton High School, attended Lasell Junior College and proudly earned an Associates in Science degree from Tunxis Community College in late 2013.

Peggy worked at Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company, New Britain National Bank and its multiple successor banks. She was a former member of the Ladies Guild at St. Gabriel Church in Stamford, a current member of the Ladies Guild at St. Paul Catholic Church in Kensington and an active Eucharistic minister and daily communicant at St. Paul's.

Peggy was an avid college basketball fan who loved to watch and root for the UConn Huskies and Providence College Friars. She loved being near, and swimming in, the ocean and was a prolific writer of poetry.

She is survived by her daughter, Laura A. Ficks of West Hartford, Atty. Carl R. Ficks Jr., and his wife Carol Tomasso Ficks and their children, Leia and Sarah of Farmington, and Paul J. Ficks, his wife Andrea Coon Ficks and their children, Dylan and Kylee of Farmington, her brother Atty. Lawrence J. Fagan and his wife Mary Ann of Kensington; her brother Robert L. Hauck and his wife Janet of Sugar Land, Texas; several nieces and nephews who were a cherished part of her extended family; and many dear friends and neighbors.

Besides her husband Dick, she was predeceased by her sisters, Therese F. Wood and Maureen F. Hollfelder and nephew, David S. Hauck.

Peggy was a wonderful wife, mother, mother-in-law, grandmother, aunt and friend and will be greatly missed. The family would like to thank the exceptional care givers at St. Francis Hospital and Cancer Center.

Friends called at The Ahern Funeral Home, 111 Main St., Route 4, Unionville on Monday, March 17. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, March 18, in St. Paul's Church, Kensington. Burial at Mount St. Benedict Cemetery in Bloomfield will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Peggy's memory to St. Paul Church, 485 Alling St., Kensington, CT 06037.

To send online condolences to the family, visit ahernfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Ronald Carl Kenney Jr.

Ronald Carl Kenney Jr., beloved son, father, grandfather, brother and uncle passed away after a short illness Thursday, March 13, at the age of 50. Born in Groton May 21, 1963, he grew up in Hebron and attended RHAM High School.

Ron is survived by his mother and stepfather, Janet and William Berner of South Newfane, Vt., and his father and stepmother, Ronald and Lorna Kenney of Santa Rosa, Calif. He is also survived by his daughter, Jamie Armstrong and grandson David of Vernon. He will be missed by his sisters and their families: Debra and Albert Latour and children Erin, Ashley and Taylor of Connecticut; Dawn Kenney-Copperthite and Brian Copperthite and their son Austin of Vermont and Renee Kenney and her daughter Emily of Georgia. He is also survived by many loving friends and extended family members.

He was a loving gentle soul who would help anybody. May he rest in peace in the arms of the Lord.

A memorial service was held at The First Congregational Church in Newfane, Vt. Wednesday, March 19.

Hebron

Robert F. Preston

Robert F. Preston, 61, of River Road, Hebron, formerly of Middletown, died Monday, March 10, at his home. Robert was born in Middletown, the son of the late Francis H. and Shirley J. (Tucker) Preston.

Known to his friends as Bob, he was a lifelong Middletown resident and also maintained a home in Hebron. He was a graduate of Bates College and held a Masters Degree in Accounting from the University of Hartford.

Bob was a certified public accountant and practiced many years in the greater Middletown area. He was an avid golfer and tennis player and a member of Stanley Golf Course in New Britain. Sports and sports related activities were an interest and source of felicity throughout his life.

Bob leaves numerous friends and his caring neighbors from River Road. Funeral services were Wednesday, March 19, at 7 p.m., at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Friends called that day, prior to the service. Information regarding the spring burial will be posted at biegafuneralhome.com.

Those who wish may make memorial contributions to St. Vincent DePaul, P.O. Box 398, Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit biegafuneralhome.com.

Portland

T. Peter Ratcliffe

T. Peter Ratcliffe, 77, of Portland, beloved husband of Karen (Granger) Ratcliffe for 51 years, passed away Sunday, March 16, surrounded by his family, at Masonicare Health Center. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late Frederick and Ruth (Hendrikson) Ratcliffe.

Peter grew up in Cromwell before moving to Portland. He was a former member of Third Congregational Church and a former member of the Cromwell Fire Department. Peter loved boating, the ocean, running and most of all spending time with his family and grandchildren.

Along with his wife, he is survived by two daughters, Dr. Kimberly Ratcliffe and her husband, Dr. Edward Chu of Yorktown, Va., and Jennifer Ratcliffe and her fiancé, Ronald Stewart of Stoughton, Mass.; and three grandchildren, Brandon and Samantha Chu and Thomas Stewart.

Besides his parents, Peter was predeceased by his son, John Peter Ratcliffe, his daughter, Elizabeth Ruth Ratcliffe and his sister, Esther R. Purvins.

Funeral services will be held today, March 21, at 11 a.m., at Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown. Burial will follow in Pine Grove Cemetery. Family and friends called Thursday evening, March 20, at Doolittle Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Peter's memory to Masonicare Home Health & Hospice, c/o The Masonic Charity Foundation of Connecticut, 74 Cheshire Road, P.O. Box 70, Wallingford, CT 06492, or visit masonicare.org/mcf.

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

Colchester

Arlene Blackman

Arlene Blackman died Tuesday, March 18. She was the daughter of the late Harold and Judy Markman and had one brother, Mark. She grew up in Brooklyn, N.Y., before moving to Ledyard and eventually settling in Colchester.

Arlene spent much of her life giving to others by donating her time to charitable organizations such as Meals On Wheels, the Food Bank and Toys for Tots. In addition, she served as a foster parent for many years and helped numerous children. She always made the extra effort for a friend and remembered every event with a handwritten card.

Arlene is survived by four children, Shari Blackman of Enfield, Scott Blackman of Newburyport, Mass., Donna Blackman of Salem and Mikel Blackman of Norwich. She is also survived by four grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting that donations be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Her final resting place will be the Agawam Center Cemetery in Agawam, Mass.

Marlborough Police News

3/12: State Police said Bunna Va, 33, of 74 Sandy Brook Dr., New Britain, was charged with DUI and failure to reduce speed and/or move over for an emergency vehicle.

3/14: State Police said Michael J. Nass, 35, of 218 Jones Hollow Rd., was taken into custody for possession of a controlled substance.

3/14: State Police said Nicholas Bagnasco, 30, of 32 Johnson Ln., Madison, was charged with DUI and speeding.

3/15: State Police said Steven Roberts, 24, of 40 Wilson St., Westfield, Mass., was charged

with DWI and speeding.

3/16: State Police said Timothy Daigle, 60, of 14 Blackledge Dr., was charged with failure to appear.

3/16: State Police said Kerstin Barbara Wesson, 38, of 19 South Main St., was charged with disorderly conduct and criminal violation of a protective order.

3/17: State Police said Tyrus T. Cooper, 24, of 21 Salem St., Springfield, Mass., was charged with possession of weapon in a motor vehicle and reckless driving.

Colchester Police News

3/10: State Police said Enock Kazibwe, 18, of 106 Buckley Hill Rd., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, first-degree failure to appear, failure to drive in the proper lane, making a restricted turn, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics and possession of alcohol by a minor.

3/11: State Police said Georgina Polikowski, 26, of 156 Alden St., New Britain, was arrested for reckless driving.

3/12: State Police said Clifford J. Ellis, 42, of 267 North Main St., Apt. C, Manchester, was charged with 11 counts of violating a protective order.

3/13: Colchester Police said Gottam Mahey, 19, of 24 Oakleaf Dr., was charged with possession of narcotics.

3/13: State Police said Matthew Cermola, 25, of 9 Patricia Ln., Cromwell, was arrested on an active PRAWN warrant for second-degree failure to appear.

3/14: State Police said Aaron Ogden, 22 of 48 Novelli Place, was taken into custody for DUI, speeding and interfering with a police officer.

3/15: State Police said Mark Litwinko, 30, of 14 Diane Circle, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right.

3/16: State Police said Robert Eldridge, 50, of 76 Prospect St., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

3/17: State Police said Ryan Scott Richardson, 20, of 39 Phelps Rd., Marlborough, was charged with second-degree failure to appear.

Hebron Police News

3/13: State Police said Sara Perrin, 36, of 218 Deepwood Dr., Amston, was traveling north on Route 85 in the area of Hope Valley Road when John Ferree, 61, of 71 Old Andover Rd., who had been traveling on Hope Valley Road, pulled out onto Route 85 and struck Perrin's vehicle. Police said Hebron Fire Department transported Perrin to Marlborough Clinic for report of neck and back pain.