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Hebron resident Gregory T. D'Auria (second from left) was ceremoniously sworn in as an Associate Justice on the Connecticut Supreme Court this week. Shown here with D'Auria during his swearing-in ceremony April 10 is (left to right) former state representative and current member of the Judicial Selection Commission Pam Sawyer, state Sen. Cathy Osten and state Rep. Robin Green.

Hebron Man New Supreme Court Justice

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Just as there's a new face on the U.S. Supreme Court these days, there's also a new one on the Connecticut Supreme Court – that of Hebron resident Gregory T. D'Auria.

D'Auria was nominated by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy in February, to fill a seat left vacant following the retirement of Associate Justice Peter T. Zarella in December. He was approved by the legislature and officially sworn in last month; a ceremonial swearing-in occurred at the state capitol this past Monday, April 10.

Malloy said in February, "Greg has distinguished himself as a talented appellate lawyer on behalf of Connecticut, serving in the attorney general's office and advocating for the best interests of the people of our state on a variety of critical matters."

D'Auria, 53, graduated from the University of Connecticut in 1985 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science, and from the UConn School of Law in 1988 where he also served as editor-in-chief of the *Connecticut Journal of International Law*.

He spent over 23 years working in the Office of the Attorney General in a variety of roles including head of the Special Litigation and Charities unit, Associate Attorney General for Litigation and, most recently, Associate General/Solicitor General.

According to jud.ct.gov, D'Auria "argued dozens of appeals in state and federal appellate

courts" during his time with the attorney general's office. Up until recently, he had served as Connecticut's first solicitor general, appointed to the role by Attorney General George Jepsen.

D'Auria was also an associate at Shipman & Goodwin from 1989-93, and served as a law clerk to Chief Justice Ellen A. Peters from 1988-89.

In 2009, D'Auria was nominated and inducted as a fellow into the American Academy of Appellate Lawyers, a national organization which, according to appellateacademy.org, is committed "to advancing the administration of justice and promoting the highest standards of professionalism and advocacy in appellate courts."

He has also served as a University of Connecticut Moot Court instructor and was a founding director of the Connecticut Supreme Court Historical Society.

D'Auria has lived in Hebron for 26 years with his wife Joan. They have three sons – Cam, Dave and Tom – and D'Auria shared this week he was a baseball coach for many years and he and his wife were active in their church "no more so, and a lot less, than many people in the community, but we have a lot of friends in the community because our kids grew up there."

Former state Rep. Pam Sawyer, who cur-

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Art Show to Showcase Four RHAM Students

by Geeta S. Sandberg

An art show next week at Something Simple Café in Hebron will showcase the work of four RHAM seniors.

The group, known at their school as "the four," includes Ariel Miner and twin sisters Miranda and Samantha Olbrias, all of Andover, as well as Alex Crampton of Hebron. They will all be promoting and selling their original work Saturday, April 22, from 6:30-8 p.m.

That work includes both digital and hand-drawn illustrations in mediums such as watercolor, pen and ink, oil, and acrylic. Some of the available art includes self-published books each artist put together. Miranda Olbrias' book is comprised of fairy tale illustrations from fairy tales around the world, while her sister's features a short story based on a larger graphic novel she's working on about the relationship between a teenager and technology.

Crampton, meanwhile, will have her illustrated short story "Alone" available, and Miner's book "The Swamp" is made up of a collection of drawings she put together surrounding plant life and a frog character named "King Grof."

This week, the Olbrias sisters stopped by Something Simple and said they were looking forward to the show, which they viewed as an opportunity to promote their work in the community instead of just at school, as well as a chance to inspire younger artists.

"We would love to inspire younger artists who will see as seniors we've been able to put on a show and sell our work," Samantha shared.

"This is the first time RHAM students have ever done this," added Miranda.

The duo explained one of their art teachers, Beverley Fisher, was the one to reach out to Something Simple owner Jess Dapsis about the possibility.

Fisher shared this week the natural ability of "the four" was apparent since they were freshmen, and because they all planned to continue with art after high school, the Art Department knew "we needed to do something different for them as seniors to help prepare them."

Fisher furthered, "We decided the best thing we could give them was real world experiences as working artists. To do this we provided them with the resources and the opportunity to self-publish graphic novels and prints of original work, and to participate in local, regional, and national events and competitions."

For example, last fall the foursome participated in the Yale University Odds and Ends Book Fair, which featured artists from all over the country, and set up at RHAM in the weeks leading up to Christmas to sell to faculty and students. Fisher said the artists also participated in art competitions including The National Young Arts Foundation Competition, Scholas-

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The artwork of four RHAM seniors – Ariel Miner, Alex Crampton, Samantha Olbrias and Miranda Olbrias – will be on display and for sale during an art show at Something Simple Café in Hebron next Saturday, April 22. Shown here at a book fair at Yale University last fall are: back row from left, Miner, Crampton and RHAM art and music coordinator Beverley Fisher; front row from left, Samantha Olbrias, Miranda Olbrias and RHAM art teacher Shelley Osowiecki.

Hebron Man cont. from Front Page

rently serves as a member of the Judicial Selection Commission, was present at Monday's ceremony and said of D'Auria this week, "Many of us know Greg for all the volunteer work he did in the community, and as a great youth baseball advocate."

She added, "Connecticut is fortunate to have someone of Justice D'Auria's legal acumen to serve on the Supreme Court and he is held in such high regard among so many in the legal community. While working at the State Attorney General's office he was given some of the toughest cases to unravel."

D'Auria explained, "Working for the state for as long as I did, there are all sorts of legal issues that implement the state's interest and so my experience, and the cases I handled, ran across that spectrum – from tort cases to consumer protection and environmental protection issues – I'm sure I couldn't list them all."

He furthered, "Suffice it to say, the state's interest implicates a lot of areas of the law."

In the February release from Malloy's office, D'Auria had said, "I am honored by and thankful to Governor Malloy for his trust in me. I have devoted much of my career to practicing before our state Supreme Court and understand fully the tremendous responsibility that accompanies this position."

He added this week, "I am thrilled to be on the Supreme Court and joining colleagues on

the Court whom I've appeared before for a number of years."

D'Auria shared while at some point he'd hoped to perhaps pursue a judicial career, he was "very happy" working in public service at the Attorney General's office and was surprised with Malloy's nomination.

"I did not expect it," he stated.

Along with Sawyer, among those present for his swearing-in ceremony Monday were state Sen. Cathy Osten (D-19th) and state Rep. Robin Green (R-55th).

"It's an honor for Hebron to have someone of such intellect and accomplishment representing the entire state on the Supreme Court," Osten said.

Meanwhile, Green shared in a Monday press release, "Based on the recommendations he has received, and how he is held in such high regard I have no doubts that between his education and experience Gregory T. D'Auria will be a great servant for the state of Connecticut in his new position."

Although D'Auria's ceremonial swearing-in occurred Monday, he was officially sworn in and began in the role March 8, following approval by the legislature.

As an Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court, where his job will be to decide each case as it comes before him, D'Auria concluded, "I hope I can do that in the best interest of the citizens of the state."

*From the Editor's Desk***Observations & Ruminations**

by Mike Thompson

You've heard the term "embarrassment of riches," correct? Well, the Trump Administration continues to show that they have an embarrassment of.....embarrassments.

As you may have heard – as it only led national newscasts Tuesday evening – White House press secretary Sean Spicer had another gigantic gaffe during his Tuesday talk with the media. While referring to Syrian president Bashar Al-Assad's use of chemical weapons on his own people, Spicer said that Adolf Hitler himself "didn't even sink to using chemical weapons."

Except for, you know, gas.

Spicer later tried to clarify his statements – and just made the situation worse. He said Hitler "did not use gas on his own people the same way Assad used them."

Strike two there, Spicy. Last I checked, the Jews in Germany were, well, German – much as Hitler was.

Strike three came when Spicer said Hitler took Jews into the "Holocaust center." Holocaust center? What the heck is that? Call them what they were – concentration camps, or, even more accurately, death camps.

And all this, by the way, took place during Passover.

Was this all a mistake? Probably. An incredibly stupid mistake, but a mistake. Spicer was still soundly attacked for it, though, and apologized multiple times. It doesn't help that this is the same White House that in late January issued a statement in honor of International Holocaust Remembrance Day that, bafflingly, didn't mention Jewish people a single time.

Nor does it help the administration features folks like Steve Bannon – and even Trump himself – that have been rumored to be anti-Semitic.

After Tuesday's gaffe, some called for Spicer to be fired; I doubt that will happen. Instead, the incident will go down as just another embarrassing misstep for an administration that seems to commit a new blunder every day.

* * *

Back in my reporter days, I'd often pick up a copy of that week's *Hartford Advocate* while on my lunch break, and read it while munching on a sandwich. One of the pages I'd turn to first was "News of the Weird," a nationally-syndicated column by Chuck Shepherd. It was exactly as it sounds; a collection of strange-but-true news briefs Shepherd and his staff had collected from news outlets across the globe.

These days, the *Advocate* is unfortunately long gone, but, thanks to the Internet, I can still get my regular dose of "News of the Weird," as it has its own website, the aptly-

named newsoftheweird.com. Here are some recent entries that are almost a little too strange to be believed:

— Public restrooms in China's parks have apparently for years suffered toilet paper theft by local residents who raid dispensers for their own homes. But the government recently decided to fight back with technology. At Beijing's Temple of Heaven park, toilet paper dispensers now come equipped with facial-recognition scanners. People will be issued one, 24-inch long slug of paper if, and only if, they pose for a picture. (Oh, and you're only allowed one slug of paper per nine-minute period, so if you need more you have to call an attendant to override the machine.)

— In February a 23-year-old Albuquerque woman opted to perform cartwheels instead of take a standard field sobriety test at a DUI stop. Alas, she did the cartwheels poorly and was charged anyway.

— A woman in England called police to report spotting a car exactly like her silver Ford Kuga in a garden center parking lot – complete with the very same license plate as hers. Police later determined a silver Ford Kuga had been stolen nearby in 2016 and, to disguise that it was stolen, the thief looked for an identical, not-stolen Ford Kuga and then replicated its license plate, allowing the thief to drive the stolen car without suspicion.

— Scientists at Columbia University and the New York Genome Center announced they have digitally stored, and retrieved, a movie, an entire computer operating system and a \$50 gift card – all on a single drop of DNA. In theory, the researchers wrote in the journal *Science*, they might store, on one gram of DNA, 215 "petabytes" (i.e., 215 million gigabytes) and could reduce all the data housed in the Library of Congress to a small cube of crystals.

— In February, a group of men decided to steal about \$1,200 from the Eastside Grillz tooth-jewelry shop in St. Paul, Minn. They promptly fled the scene – which may have worked, except two of them had already provided ID and one had left a mold of his teeth.

— Lastly, a pair of entries in the "you might want to move" category: In January, a vehicle flew off a Parkway West exit ramp in Pittsburgh, Pa., plowing into the Snyder Brothers Automotive parking lot. It was the eighth time that had happened in nine years. Similarly, Leonard Miller, 88, found himself in January picking up the pieces at his Lanham, Md., home, after a speeding car smashed into it. It's the fifth time a speeding car has crashed into the house.

* * *

See you next week.



Work by the four RHAM students who will be promoting their art at Something Simple next week is seen here on display at the Yale University Odds and Ends Book Fair, which they participated in last fall.

Art Show cont. from Front Page

tic Arts Competition, and Arisia Sci-fi Art Competition.

Putting together their own art show at a local venue, Fisher added, "Is the last event in this journey," and a different experience from the Yale book fair where advertising was done by organizers, or selling at the school where they were surrounded by people who already knew them.

"With each step of this journey we have tried to give them a glimpse of some of the opportunities out there and to have the students slowly assume more of the responsibly," Fisher explained.

She added for the upcoming show the students have worked without the assistance of their teachers to coordinate the event.

And Dapsis, Fisher said, "has been fantastic" about working with them.

"Since the first meeting I had with her, when I talked about wanting the girls to have the experience of doing it for themselves, she has worked only with them, as she would any artist showing work," Fisher said. "The girls have come back with the odd question or two, but they really have stepped up and accepted the challenge of hosting their own show."

Dapsis, meanwhile, said when she met with Fisher she thought, "how could I not do this?!" She explained, "These four are very talented and it will give them an opportunity to get some 'real world' experience in coordinating an art show. This show is theirs: from discussing the date, designing the flyer and displaying the artwork. It supports them in their growth, allows them to share their talent and passion with others and supports the school as a whole."

The Olbriases added something other artists who were interested in hosting a similar event would learn is that it takes a lot of "really hard work."

"It takes a lot of time management and you have to understand the cost," Miranda explained.

"It's not just about drawing lines" and creat-

ing the art, Samantha furthered.

But, Miranda said, "it's very rewarding in the end seeing how many people come."

And along with the above, the Olbriases said they hoped those who did attend would enjoy themselves.

"We just want people to come in and have a nice time, relax and enjoy the art and the café," Samantha shared.

Along with the artists' work, during the show the café will be offering assorted baked goods and drinks.

Dapsis added, "There are so many people out there that have these amazing skills and talents. Art is such a personal thing, an expression of people's inner self, an expression of how they see the world – it is my privilege to provide them a place to share these skills and talents. It adds life to the café."

She furthered, "I am looking forward to these students seeing their hard work come to fruition [and] to see the community support four students who are leaving high school and going on to explore a bigger world."

Fisher felt similarly.

"I am really looking forward to attending the show, seeing them speaking with new people about their work and seeing others appreciate the talent these young artists have," she said. "I hope these experiences have shown them some of the opportunities that are out there and has given them the confidence to pursue them in the future."

Fisher concluded she is "quite sure all four of these artists have promising careers ahead of them in the arts and I know I speak for all of the art department when I say how incredibly proud we are of them."

* * *

The artwork of these four RHAM students can also be found on their respective Instagram pages: @alex.r.crampton, @mir_illu_arts, @xxsami_artsxx and @renimleira. Something Simple Café is located at 12 Main St., Hebron.

Clock Ticking on \$44.26M Belltown Budget

by Elizabeth Regan

The clock is ticking on the East Hampton 2017-18 budget, which the Board of Finance presented to the Town Council this week with a bottom line of \$44.26 million and a potential mill rate increase of 2.78 mills.

Finance Director Jeff Jylkka on Wednesday said the finance board's budget is like a milk carton with a "best if used by" date on it.

"It only has a life of about 14 days," he said. The budget has to go through the council, where it is likely to change. Only then will it be sent to voters at a town meeting and then referendum.

Finance board members passed the budget proposal Monday. Councilors now have the authority, granted in the town charter, to make any cuts or changes – as long as they don't put money back in.

The council will deliberate at its next meeting on April 25.

The finance board's proposed budget represents an increase of 3.05 percent – or \$1.3 million – over the current budget. The associated mill rate of 32.22 mills is 9.44 percent higher than the current year's.

A taxpayer with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay \$8,055 in the coming fiscal year, based on the spending and revenue numbers in the finance board's budget proposal. That's an increase of \$695 for the year or \$58 per month.

About 1.49 mills of the projected 2.78 mill increase to the mill rate is the direct result of anticipated revenue loss from the state, according to the finance board. A proposal by Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to change the way education funding is given out by the state means East Hampton could lose as much as \$1.63 million in education funding compared to the current year.

It's unclear how much, if any, of the governor's proposal will make it through the state legislature. It's also unclear when the state budget will make it to the floor for a vote in Hartford.

The finance board's strategy was to send its budget proposal to the council despite the big

question mark in revenue from the state, rather than risk violating town charter and ordinance by waiting to see what happens with the state budget.

Town charter specifies the finance board must send a budget to the council by April 15 and ordinance states the council must send a budget proposal to town meeting no later than the second Monday in May.

Finance board members expressed hope that solid state budget figures will be available if they wait until the last possible moment to set the mill rate.

If the town receives more education funding than Malloy has proposed, the mill rate increase will go down accordingly.

Jylkka has stated the mill rate would have to be set by mid-June to get tax bills out in time.

The education side of the finance board's proposal comes in at \$30.05 million, a 3.41 percent increase over the current budget.

Finance board members cut \$1.7 million from the Board of Education's recommended budget. The brunt of the cut came when finance board members swept a \$1.6 million "contingency for state budget uncertainty" line item related to Gov. Dannel P. Malloy's plan to assign responsibility for one-third of teachers' pension costs to municipalities. Officials across the state have said it's unlikely Malloy's proposal will make it through the state legislature as proposed.

The remaining \$100,000 cut applies to the health insurance line item, where Smith has said he expects to find savings when the switch to a new health insurance provider is finalized.

Board of Finance members discussed potential school budget cuts at length, before voting 4-3 on the final education numbers. Alan Hurst and Dean Markham, both Democrats, were joined by Republicans Dave Lambert and Michael Rose in voting for the motion. Those opposed were Republicans Steve Ritchie, Alannah Coshow and Janine Jiantonio.

The general government side of the budget, including debt and capital improvements,

amounts to \$14.21 million. That's an increase of 2.30 percent over the current year.

The finance board's general government proposed budget included cuts of \$20,400 to public works, \$8,000 to the library, and \$4,500 in electricity costs to the town hall and town hall annex.

Finance board members added money to several line items, including \$65,000 for health insurance. While the town expects to save money compared to the current year due to a change in health insurance providers, they won't be saving as much as anticipated. Jylkka said Wednesday that three additional employees signed on to the health insurance plan when the switch was announced.

The finance board also appropriated \$10,000 to the senior center budget for the Meals-on-Wheels program. In capital improvements, \$20,000 was added for school security upgrades involving the installation of shatterproof laminate on all ground floor windows up to nine feet.

Superintendent of Schools Paul Smith said Wednesday he had asked for \$30,000 in the proposed budget based on a plan to finish the security upgrades in three years.

Coshow had initially suggested cutting that initial request by half, but was met with resistance from parents concerned about their children's safety in the wake of the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings.

Ultimately, the finance board agreed the upgrades were an urgent matter to be finished sooner rather than later. They added \$20,000, bringing the total allocation to \$50,000, in the hope of completing the project in two years, according to Smith.

To make up for the school safety increase, they zeroed out a \$20,000 contribution to a sinking fund in the capital improvement budget for a new playscape at Seamster Park. The Parks and Recreation Department is relying largely on fundraising to construct the \$250,000 playscape, which is slated for construction by volunteers in the spring of 2018.

The town side of the finance board budget proposal was approved in a separate 5-2 vote, with Democrats Alan Hurst and Dean Markham opposed to the cuts.

Some councilors went on the record at Tuesday's regular council meeting to say the possible mill rate increase attached to the finance board's recommended budget is way too high.

Councilor Melissa Engel said she has "serious, serious concerns" about the potential 9.44 percent property tax increase.

"We can blame it all on the state if we want, but it also means we have to be more fiscally responsible and conservative if that's what the state's doing to us," Engel said.

Councilor Ted Hintz Jr. said the town needs to spend less if there's not as much money coming in from the state.

"There's no way I would ever support a budget that puts through a 2.78 mill increase to the residents of East Hampton," Hintz said.

Instead of approving a 2017-18 town budget and waiting until the last minute to set a mill rate, as suggested by the finance board, Hintz said a temporary mill rate should be established so that a budget referendum can be held only after the town knows how much education aid it will be receiving from the state.

"Why wouldn't we wait until we have accurate information from the state," Hintz asked.

Jylkka said Wednesday that violating town charter or ordinance could open the door for a lawsuit. The legal remedy known as a "writ of mandamus" allows citizens to ask a state Superior Court judge to force the council to follow its own rules. But Jylkka suggested the town would likely pass a budget by the time such a filing could make its way through the court.

Last year, the council disregarded the charter by holding a referendum after the second Monday in May. Officials said the decision was made because the voting machines were locked up, per state statute, for 14 days following the April 26 primary elections.

Colchester Eye Care Commemorates 20 Years

by Julianna Roche

What stands out most about Dr. Tom Dempsey is just how much he appreciates life. Sitting backwards on a swiveling stool in his exam room at Colchester Eye Care, the optometrist explained the reason why: in addition to being a 13-year cancer survivor, 21 years ago, he also received a liver transplant after suffering from an autoimmune liver disease.

"I got through the first two big ones," he said. "I've been a host of a series of medical problems, but I'm so fortunate to be here."

According to Dempsey, he and his wife Wendy even waited until they knew if he would be healthy enough to get married, which he was – eight months after his transplant in 1996.

Now a father of two daughters, Dempsey continues trying to spread the importance of organ donation to others.

"One of the more poignant things I can tell people is that not only would I not be here if it weren't for my organ donor, [my daughters] wouldn't be here," he said.

In 1997, Dempsey was healthy enough to open his first eye care practice in Colchester – which will celebrate its 20th anniversary next Saturday, April 22. Dempsey also owns a practice in Hebron.

"It's hard for me to believe it's been two decades," he said, adding "the coolest thing about it" is that so many of his patients have been with him since the practice first started.

"They all have a special place in my heart because they grew with me," he furthered. "[Of] the kids I saw then, some of those babies are in college now. Some toddlers are out of college; some even have their own babies now."

Just one example, Dempsey said, is a patient he has seen since she was 3 years old. Today, she's out of college and working at Hartford Hospital.

"I've been really sentimental these last couple weeks because of the 20th [anniversary]," he explained, adding he was reminiscing how as a toddler, the patient used to sit on the stool in the examination room and spin in circles.

"It was so darn cute," he said. "I would ask her politely not to. She'd give me a mischie-

vous smile and then just get back on and keep doing it."

Dempsey also recalled a brother and sister who had their first appointment in 2003.

"She punched me and he kicked me," he laughed, adding that the daughter is now married and when the son comes in for appointment, Dempsey always asks him "Are you sure you're not going to kick me now?"

"Stories like that keep a smile on our face," he said.

But one patient who holds an extra-special place in Dempsey's heart is Jennifer Neri-Lorette, who was killed in a sledding accident when she was 12 years old.

"She would sit in the chair and say 'Tell me your story; tell me the one about your liver,'" Dempsey explained. "I remember her banging her hands on the chair saying, 'I want to donate organs!'"

Neri-Lorette was just 9 years old at the time.

"The thing I remember most about Jen is that she wasn't just bright in the academic sense, but she would keep adults reeling because she had one-liners," Dempsey said. "She was hysterical, such a good kid."

When she died, Jennifer's mother Lorraine Tierney made her wish a reality and her pancreas, liver and corneas were ultimately donated.

"You'd think after x number of years, you'd have met all the good people," the optometrist continued, "[but] I keep meeting nice people, good people, and friendly people every single day."

Over the last 20 years, Dempsey said the biggest change to the practice has been advancing technologies, which include diagnostics such as corneal mapping, digital retinal imaging and optical coherence tomography (OCT) – which acts similarly to an ultrasound by using light to achieve higher resolution pictures of the structural layers of the back of the eye.

He added that the practice has also started using Prokera, a biologic corneal bandage device used to heal and treat eye diseases such as keratitis, common dry eye, herpetic ulcers and neurotrophic corneas.



Colchester Eye Care, owned by Dr. Tom Dempsey, will celebrate its 20th anniversary on Saturday, April 22.

"[It's] a brand new technology we're way ahead of the curve on," he said.

However, it's not just the advanced technology that makes both Colchester Eye Care and Hebron Eye Care so successful. For Dempsey, it comes down to family practice.

"The definition of family practice was my wife and I, and only my wife and I with one part-time person," he said, adding his wife's mother also helped on Saturdays when they first opened.

"And then we grew and grew, but we still kept that family feel which we're so proud of," he continued, adding that he considers all 19 of the practice's employees as part of his family.

"I think we picked the right place to be. I think we picked the right people. We hire care-

fully and have the right staff," Dempsey furthered. "I'm blessed and fortunate I have the best support system of family, friends [and] staff. ... Who's luckier than me?"

On Saturday, April, 22, Colchester Eye Care will celebrate its 20th anniversary from noon-3 p.m. at 163 Broadway St. in Colchester.

The celebration will include a performance by William J. Johnston Middle School's jazz band, a fashion show by East Hampton's Red Door Boutique, a bounce house, free hot dogs, popcorn and drinks, sales, raffle prizes and giveaways.

For more information, visit colchestereyecare.net/20th.

New Colchester Fitness Center Has Welcoming Environment

by Julianna Roche

With a small-town community feel, Colchester's brand new Snap Fitness center is the kind of place where everybody knows your name, according to owner Kim Moran.

"We're like *Cheers* here!" she exclaimed.

After its grand opening nearly two months ago, the all-new, 24/7 fitness center has already acquired over 250 members, all of whom either she or her son Chris (who also works at the gym) have met personally.

"I probably know just about all of our members," explained Moran, who also owns two other Snap Fitness locations in Niantic and Old Lyme.

"The Snap Fitness franchise tends to go to smaller locations. We don't compete with the big box type of places," she said. "We're more of the 'small community, know everybody' type of business and we take care of our members like they're our friends."

Other highlights of the new fitness center include a spacious exercise room for group classes, a weights section with free weights and machines, a cardio section with TVs, three restrooms (two of which have showers), and a personal training office.

Moran, who started working as a Pilates instructor at various other Snap Fitness locations nearly 13 years ago, added that one complimentary consult and training session with one of Snap Fitness' personal trainers is included in the membership package for every new member.

"From there, if they want to do more sessions, the price is very reasonable [and] it's based on how many sessions or how long members want to do it for," she explained, adding that some members may only need one or two sessions "to give them an idea" of what to work on, while other people may want more of a regu-

lar routine to hold them accountable.

"Our goal here isn't to have members purchase 10 sessions for \$700," Moran emphasized – which she said can commonly be the case at other commercial gyms. "We want to get our members using everything and using it by themselves."

Currently, Moran said she employs three trainers, but she's looking to hire more.

Snap Fitness also offers group classes, which is still "a work in progress," according to Moran, as she's still "trying to see what all of our members' needs are."

While the classes are not included in the overall membership, members can participate in a spring special right now of three classes for \$24. The classes run Monday through Saturday at various times and include classes such as total body, TRX, senior fitness, barre, fit fusion, Bootcamp, Pilates, and Vinyasa yoga.

Memberships also run on a month-to-month basis and with the one-time \$20 global access fee, members can use a fitness pass to access any of the other 2,300 worldwide Snap Fitness locations.

Snap Fitness members can also rent MYZONE belts – a mix between a fitness tracker and heart rate monitor – which can be worn during group fitness classes or personal workouts. Individuals can then track their workout progress by downloading the MYZONE app to their phone.

Members also have full access to a broad variety of weight and cardio machines inside the gym, which were hand-picked by Moran and include both traditional gym staples and more unique machines.

Moran furthered that she purposely chose a wide range of weight and cardio machines to tackle every age group of potential gym members.



Nearly two months ago, Kim Moran (shown above) opened an all-new Snap Fitness location in Colchester at 179 Linwood Ave. The fitness center, open 24/7, offers group classes, personal training, and access to what Moran said are some of the best weight and cardio machines.

For example, the double mega rack and platform "is good for the younger bodybuilders," while the seated elliptical bikes are "really nice if somebody has just had hip or knee surgery," she said, adding the bikes and walking on the treadmills tend to be more popular with senior members.

"We have all ages here," Moran explained. "People in their late 20s, early 30s, some in their 70s."

She added the gym is a "welcoming" envi-

ronment and so far, "everybody seems to be pretty happy."

Snap Fitness is located at 179 Linwood Ave. and is open 24/7. For more information or to view the group fitness class schedule, visit snapfitness.com/locations/usa/ct/colchester or [facebook.com/snapfitnesscolchester](https://www.facebook.com/snapfitnesscolchester), email Colchester@snapfitness.com or call 860-603-5060.

Hebron Budget Recommended with 1.18 Percent Tax Increase

by Geeta S. Sandberg

The Board of Finance this week recommended a \$36.74 million budget for 2017-18 with a 1.55 percent budget increase.

The proposal totals \$36,740,238 for a spending increase of \$562,289 over the current year's budget. Included in that amount is \$9,312,714 for the general budget – an increase of 1.79 percent – and \$11,588,546 for the Hebron Board of Education budget – a drop of 1.45 percent. The spending package also includes \$15,838,978 for the town's portion of the RHAM schools' budget.

The recommended budget is around \$1.88 million less than what Town Manager Andrew Tierney proposed last month, due mostly to reductions in the RHAM budget proposal as well as the local education budget.

RHAM Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski originally proposed a 2017-18 budget for the district that came with a 6.21 percent increase in response to the budget proposal from Gov. Dannel P. Malloy. If it passed, Malloy's proposal would cut the amount of state aid the district receives and result in an increase from a shift that asks municipalities to pay for one-third of the costs of the Connecticut State Teachers' Retirement plan.

Siminski had explained regional school districts weren't included in the state's proposal, so exactly how much of an impact Malloy's budget would have was uncertain, which led him to craft a budget with no state reimbursement included.

However, earlier this month the RHAM Board of Education approved a spending package that was 2 percent less, and clocks in at \$28.86 million. Coupled with \$289,960 for the

capital budget, the proposal now equates to an increase to 3.99 percent. Of that, Hebron is responsible for paying the greatest share at 54.33 percent, which amounts to \$15,838,978.

Along with RHAM, the Hebron budget also decreased due to a \$154,586 reduction in the local school board's budget. The Hebron Board of Education originally approved a proposed budget that was .13 percent less than current year spending; however, that amount dropped to a .45 percent decrease last month following the board's decision to raise tuition rates for preschool.

Included in the recommended general government budget of \$9.31 million is \$7,221,076 for general government expenditures, a \$100,000 contribution to Open Space Land Acquisition, a \$41,000 contribution toward the cost of revaluation which takes place every five years, and \$3,050 for Capital Non-Recurring projects. The general government budget also includes a \$770,911 contribution toward Capital Improvement Plan requests, and a \$44,260 contribution to Capital Projects that cost between \$5,000 and \$25,000.

The spending proposal includes \$1,234,260 in Capital Improvement Plan requests for projects such as: road resurfacing and road improvements for \$268,775; the replacement of a roadside mower for \$105,000; the replacement of self-contained breathing apparatus units for the fire department at \$234,000; replacement of the Douglas Library roof at \$98,500 and the library's HVAC system for \$90,000.

If approved, the projects would be paid for with the \$770,911 contribution from the general fund plus \$59,216 left over from previous appropriations and an anticipated \$404,133

contribution from the Fund Balance.

In addition to the above, the 2017-18 recommended budget includes a list of Capital Expenditures costing between \$5,000 and \$25,000 that total \$44,260. Projects on that list include \$15,460 for a Public Works fuel management system; \$9,000 for the installation of a generator in the Burnt Hill Park Operations building and \$7,700 for the demolition of an abandoned building at 501 Church St.

Proposed revenue sources to help pay for next year's budget include \$5,366,355 in Education Cost Sharing and Special Education grant funds from the state – \$1.56 million less than the current year. In addition, \$1,938,164 is proposed as coming from other state revenues, \$895,745 is proposed as coming from the general government, and \$315,000 is anticipated from back taxes/lien fees.

Of the total \$36.74 million proposal, \$27,921,545 is proposed as coming from taxes, which is an increase of \$325,552 from the current year.

Along with the overall increase, also impacting the budget proposal is a decrease in the grand list due to the October 2016 revaluation. As a result of that process, which is used to value all of the property in town on an equalized basis, the Grand List decreased \$30,937,720 or 4.1 percent; that translates to an increase of 1.49 mills – before the rest of the budget is even taken into account.

Altogether the recommended budget, if approved, would result in a 2.52 mill increase, which would bring the mill rate for 2017-18 to 38.16.

For an average house in Hebron with a market value of \$300,000 that would mean a tax

bill of \$8,033 – however, whether that amount is an increase, a decrease, or the same as the current year's taxes depends upon what impact the revaluation had on a resident's assessment.

A tax comparison chart for individual properties can be found on hebronct.com under "Budget Information."

Speaking to the budget recommendation this week, Board of Finance Chairman Malcolm Leichter stated, "As we are all aware the financial environment in Connecticut continues to struggle. Most towns are being called on to assist the state in addressing years of poor planning at the state level of government."

He added, "The Hebron Board of Finance believes that we have put forth well-thought-out and reasonable expense budgets for both the Town of Hebron and the Hebron Board of Education."

Leichter noted, however, that "we continue to struggle with the unknown direction of the State of Connecticut and Federal governments in terms of revenues Hebron will receive for the 2017-18 fiscal year."

Leichter said he looked forward to continued discussion on the budget at the public hearing, which is scheduled for Tuesday, April 18, at 7 p.m. in the Douglas Library community room and urged residents to "be an informed voter" and attend the session to learn the details of the budget and have the opportunity to provide input to the finance board.

And most importantly, he concluded, "Please remember to vote on May 2 at the budget referendum."

Voting on the 2017-18 budget will take place from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. at Hebron Elementary School, 92 Church St.

Selectmen Vote to Give Portland Resident Tax Money Back

by Elizabeth Regan

Portland resident Donald Snyder is getting his money back six years after overpaying his taxes by \$4,837.58.

Despite a state law that says overpayments become the property of the town after three years, selectmen last week voted to settle a small claims suit brought by Snyder. He claimed the town was “unjustly enriched” when it took his money and refused to give it back.

Selectmen voted 5 to 2 to settle the case by repaying Snyder from the town’s contingency fund. First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and Selectman Fred Knous voted against the motion.

The move is a reason for other taxpayers, who may have overpaid their taxes more than three years ago, to be optimistic they can get a refund even though state law says they’re not entitled to one.

The precedent leaves at least \$19,000 up for grabs, according to Bransfield. She said Tax Collector Nancy DiGirolamo told her that’s how much taxpayers overpaid from the 2010 grand list year through 2012.

Selectmen Brian Flood and Ben Srb, who have been Snyder’s most vocal supporters, said anyone willing to file a lawsuit against the town should receive the same treatment as Snyder.

“If other claims come and they have merit, then they should be dealt with in kind,” Flood said after last week’s meeting.

Neither Flood nor Srb would specify how far back in time they’d be willing to go in issuing a refund for overpayment, saying only that it would be at the board’s discretion.

Flood, in his parting act before submitting his resignation from the board the next day,

made the motion to settle the small claims lawsuit.

“There’s just this idea of what’s right and wrong,” Flood said. “And clearly in this case I believe the money should be returned.”

Flood didn’t dispute assertions by Bransfield and Knous – as well as legal opinions from two different town attorneys – that Connecticut statute clearly delineates the period of time during which a resident is entitled to ask for a property tax refund. But he said there are numerous legal arguments that could be made in court to justify Snyder’s request.

Flood reminded selectmen that town attorney Kari Olson, of Murtha Cullina, acknowledged last month the case potentially could be settled in the state superior court by Judge George Levine, of the Tax and Administrative Appeals session, even though statute clearly gives the town the authority to keep the money.

“In [Levine’s] opinion, anything could be settled – even if it’s contrary to law,” Olson said in March when she sat in on a lengthy Board of Selectmen meeting at a rate of \$235 per hour.

Bransfield told selectmen last week that while she empathized with Snyder’s situation, settling the case is a bad precedent. She said fighting Snyder’s claim “protects the town in its future liability with similar matters that could very well come to us.”

Bransfield said Olson had recommended filing a motion to dismiss Snyder’s lawsuit.

Snyder’s complaint, which has played out over the past few months, turned contentious last month when Srb said the town is effectively “stealing” from residents by keeping excess

payments.

Theo Horesco, staff representative for the Municipal Employees Union Independent representing DiGirolamo, objected to that allegation as well as statements that DiGirolamo had “misapplied” Snyder’s payment to the wrong year. He emailed Bransfield with his concerns, which she read out loud at last month’s meeting.

“The Collector of Revenue followed all statutes and procedure that were in place at the time of the complaint and it should be made clear, in a public [manner], that there was no misapplication of funds by the collector of revenue,” Horesco wrote.

Bransfield, as well as several other selectmen, affirmed during the March meeting that the discussion about tax refunds was not a criticism of DiGirolamo’s performance.

Srb said he never implied the tax department staff did anything wrong. He reiterated the problem is the lack of an established protocol for notifying residents of excess payments.

Snyder stood before selectmen at last week’s meeting to say he had apologized to DiGirolamo and revenue collection assistant Cheryl Creem for any misunderstanding, adding that there were no attempts by anyone to imply “personal wrongdoing.”

Horesco said in an email this week that the union is satisfied with the management’s actions in addressing the concerns.

“The union wanted it to be clear that the issue is a policy or political issue, not a personnel or performance issue. I do not anticipate

any further action being necessary from the union,” Horesco wrote.

In light of the situation, DiGirolamo instituted a new practice for ensuring notification of overpayments.

“Each spring, as a courtesy, taxpayer overpayment notifications will be mailed,” DiGirolamo wrote last month. The department had not previously sent out such alerts.

The notifications of overpayment were sent out around the beginning of March, according to Finance Director Tom Robinson.

Last week’s Board of Selectmen agenda included more requests for refunds of overpayment than had shown up prior to the notification, which Srb applauded.

“Our new practice is wonderful. It’s working. I think we solved any issues in the future,” Srb said.

But there are still unresolved questions about what to do with excess payments made in the past, according to Bransfield.

She said one option is to create an ordinance that allows the town to issue tax refunds of excess payment going back further than the three years specified in statute.

She said she’d be happy to discuss such an ordinance with selectmen.

“As administrator of the town, I’m very conscious of making sure everyone is treated the same and that we have rules established and we follow them,” she said Tuesday. “That makes running the town more professional and also fairer, so that people can know how their questions are going to be answered.”

Marlborough Finance Board to Present 6.96 Percent Tax Increase

by Julianna Roche

The Board of Finance voted 4-2 this week in favor of presenting a proposed \$24.58 million 2017-18 budget – which calls for a 6.96 percent tax increase – at a public hearing later this month.

The spending package considers most of Gov. Dannel Malloy’s proposed cuts to revenues – but not \$840,959 in teacher retirement funds the governor has suggested to make the town pay.

Board members Ken Hjulstrom and Sue Leser were the two opposing votes, with both agreeing the board should instead include the town’s contribution to teacher retirement funds into the budget and present the “worst-case scenario” to taxpayers.

If that retirement contribution were included, it would beef up the tax increase to 12.03 percent.

“I personally think we should put teacher pensions in there and let people see this is what your governor will cause you to have to pay in your taxes,” Leser, a Republican, said. “Let them [residents] know what the impact will be personally” to them.

Hjulstrom, also a Republican, agreed – and noted that the 6.96 percent increase was also not an ideal situation.

“I don’t want to see the public approve either version with or without pension money, [but] let the public see how bad things are,” he said. “I’d rather present worst case. I think it’s going to get voted down anyway. Why sugar-coat it?”

First Selectwoman Amy Traversa, who was also present at the meeting, showed concern, however, with presenting a 12.03 percent budget increase to the public, saying that it was “a real risk” to do so, considering “sometimes we’ve had [only] 12 people show up for a budget hearing.”

“Most of the towns we’ve talked to, specifically smaller towns, are not including [the teacher pensions] into their budgets because it is felt that it is not our debt,” she continued, adding that including teacher pensions into the budget would make it seem as an “approval” of the Gov. Malloy’s proposal.

She furthered that as such, voters are even encouraged to vote the 6.96 percent budget increase down – giving the town more time to wait and see what the state will actually do.

“I don’t think there’s ever been a time when the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education chairmen have stood shoulder to shoulder to tell voters to vote [the bud-

get] down,” Traversa said.

“We want to be united,” Leser agreed.

Board of Finance Chairman Doug Knowlton shared similar sentiments.

“These budgets were pretty lean to begin with,” he said, adding that the budget items currently included are “things [the town] needs to take care of,” such as road improvements, facility upgrades – and even snowplowing.

“They represent services this town needs and expenses for those services,” the chairman furthered. “We’re not alone here in Marlborough... the towns cannot absorb [teacher pension funds] by cutting services to compensate for what’s happening at the state level.”

Under the current budget plan, the mill rate, which helps determine residents’ taxes, will increase from 34.15 to 36.53 mills; a resident can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments.

One mill is equivalent to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property, meaning with a 36.53 mill rate, a resident with a home assessed at \$250,000 would pay approximately \$9,133, up from the current \$8,537.

Also this week, the finance board unanimously approved the local Board of Education budget of \$7.32 million – a 1.44 percent in-

crease over current spending – and its capital improvement plan set at \$82,265.

The capital plan includes repaving and lining the parking lot by Marlborough Elementary School’s community room entrance for \$54,000, as well as replacing both the boiler and roof marked at \$10,000 each. Also included is \$6,000 toward replacing air conditioning units and \$2,265 to replacing air conditioning motors and transformers.

Both the town operations and town operations capital budget – set at \$4.94 million or a 3.69 percent increase and \$893,675 or a 3.64 percent increase over current spending – were also approved.

Among the town operations capital plan, the largest line items include \$160,000 to be used for culverts on North Main Street and \$115,000 for culverts on Finley Hill Road, as well as \$164,000 worth of road improvements. The library parking lot will also be restored for \$50,000 and Blish Park will see sewer upgrades marked at \$64,475.

* * *

The Board of Finance public hearing on the proposed budget will take place Monday, April 24, at 7 p.m. in the Marlborough Elementary School cafeteria.

Principals to Switch Hebron Schools Next Year

by Geeta S. Sandberg

Students who will be moving up from Gilead Hill to Hebron Elementary in the fall may have a case of déjà vu when they walk through the doors to their new school: the principal who will be greeting them will be the same one they had at Gilead Hill.

No, the district hasn't figured out how to make a person be in two places at once, but rather, the decision was made to have the principals at the two schools switch roles next year: Gilead Hill School Principal Eric Brody will become principal at Hebron Elementary School, while Katie Uriano will become the principal at Gilead Hill.

In his release announcing the change April 7, Schools Superintendent Tim Van Tassel said the move would give both individuals the chance "to align their experiences with the needs of the schools they have been entrusted to lead."

Prior to becoming principal at Hebron Elementary School in 2015, Uriano served as a classroom teacher at Gilead Hill School for 11 years, followed by another two as a math interventionist.

Meanwhile, Brody, before becoming principal at Gilead Hill in 2012, spent a year as assistant principal at Hebron Elementary, prior to which he spent nine years as a classroom teacher in grades 5 and 6 and another six years

as a math specialist, mostly in the intermediate grades.

Van Tassel said of Uriano in the release, "Although she has done an outstanding job at Hebron Elementary School, it is without question that she will leave an indelible mark on all facets of Gilead Hill School." He added Brody "has also done a commendable job bringing stability to Gilead Hill School."

"Our principals are duly qualified to take on their new assignments, and I am excited for what the future holds for each of them," Van Tassel wrote. "I recognize the apprehension and uncertainty that accompanies change, but I am confident this decision will positively enhance the educational opportunities at Gilead Hill School and Hebron Elementary School."

Van Tassel furthered, "I strongly believe we have an outstanding leadership team in Hebron, and I look forward to seeing both administrators foster new relationships with students, staff and families as well as bring visionary leadership to their new assignments."

To prepare for the switch, both principals will be shadowing each other over the next couple of months, and Van Tassel added with three months remaining in the school year, "there is significant time to prepare for their new assignments and ensure a smooth leadership transition."

The change takes effect July 1.

Colchester Store Owner Charged with Assault

by Julianna Roche

Colchester Police responded to a disturbance this week involving multiple people at Louie's Seafood located in the CVS plaza on 119 S. Main St., which resulted in the arrest of an East Haddam man.

Arnold L. Pappas, 52, of 71 Sipples Hill Rd., who co-owns Louie's Seafood, was charged Tuesday, April 11, with third-degree assault and breach of peace, police said.

According to police, at approximately 7:18 p.m., Pappas incited an altercation with two alleged victims in the seafood market's parking lot, leaving one victim with minor injuries.

Police said Pappas then left the area and was later located by police at his residence and taken into custody.

Pappas is due to appear in Norwich Superior Court April 27.

Colchester Police News

4/6: Colchester Police said Michael Gordon, 23, of 65 Princeton Ln., Glastonbury, was arrested and charged with fifth-degree larceny.

4/6: State Police said Douglas G. Hall, 45, of 42 Spoonville Rd., East Granby, was arrested and charged with second-degree failure to appear.

4/7: State Police said Joshua Ogden, 25, of 48 Novelli Pl. was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with an emer-

gency call.

4/8: Colchester Police said Benjamin Alvarado, 27, of 70 Pond Meadow Rd., Apt. 13, Ivoryton, was arrested and charged with operating an unregistered motor vehicle, failing to meet minimum insurance coverage requirements, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple lane highway, and operating a motor vehicle without a license.

Marlborough Police News

4/5: State Police said Amanda Burns, 25, of 46 Hemlock Rd. was arrested and charged with evading responsibility and failure to drive in the proper lane of a multiple-lane highway.

4/6: State Police said Nicholas C. Lea, 20, of 23 Blish Rd. was arrested and charged with failure to carry a license, speeding, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol and a stop sign violation.

Portland Police News

3/25: Melinda Rannou, 56, of 244 Summer St., was charged with failure to maintain safe distance, unsafe backing, evading responsibility and reckless driving, Portland Police said.

Flood Resigns from Portland Board of Selectmen

by Elizabeth Regan

Six-term Board of Selectman member Brian Flood announced his resignation last Thursday, effective immediately.

Flood emailed his resignation letter "with regret" to Town Clerk Ryan Curley, copying his fellow selectmen and Democratic Town Committee Chairman Brian O'Connor on the message.

"My other commitments have become too great for me to fulfill the requirements of my position on the board, and I feel it is best for me to make room for someone with more time to devote to the position," Flood wrote.

He said it was an honor to serve the town over the past 11 years.

Flood, a personal injury lawyer in Middletown with a young and growing family, was serving as the deputy first selectman at the time of his resignation.

He did not return a call for comment.

Flood has been a strong voice on the board and an advocate for what he believes is fair and right.

Flood was known most recently for his vocal opposition to giving a tax abatement to the developer who plans to turn the former Elmcrest Hospital property into a mixed-use development with 238 apartments and approximately 90,000 square feet of commercial space.

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield applauded Flood for his devotion to the Board of Selectmen for over ten years.

"I thank him for his many years of work and dedication and wish him well, as I'm sure he will be found in volunteer positions throughout the town in other ways," Bransfield said.

O'Connor called Flood's resignation "a tremendous loss to the board."

Citing the Flood family's local involvement going back generations, O'Connor said Brian Flood "comes from a long tradition of community service, and he carried that banner well."

Bransfield and O'Connor agreed Flood is likely to be seen in different volunteer roles going forward.

"I do anticipate we have not seen the last of Brian Flood," O'Connor said.

Per charter, the Board of Selectmen is authorized to replace Flood with another Democrat within 45 days of the resignation.

Bransfield said there is "a lot of interest" in the position.

According to O'Connor, the committee has already received three inquiries. He encouraged any Democrats interested in serving on the Board of Selectmen to contact the Democratic Town Committee prior to its May 4 meeting.

The committee will invite candidates to that meeting for brief presentations. O'Connor said the full committee may vote on its recommendation that evening.

O'Connor described the ideal candidate as someone in tune with "the pulse of the community" who has prior experience in elected or appointed roles. That's not to say the committee wouldn't consider a more inexperienced candidate with the right background, he added.

"We're looking for someone who's kind of an independent thinker, someone who brings their experience to the table to round out the board," O'Connor said.

Bransfield said a successful candidate simply has to love the town.

"It's someone who cares a lot about the town of Portland and is interested in serving in a volunteer capacity," she said. "I hope the person has a lot of energy and interest in the progress Portland has seen and is continuing to see."

It will also be up to Board of Selectmen to decide who will replace Flood as deputy first selectman, according to Bransfield. She said the title typically goes to the next highest vote-getter in the previous election.

That would be Kathy Richards, who received 1,316 votes in the 2015 general election compared to Flood's 1,393 votes.

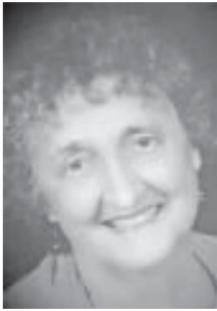
Registered Democrats interested in serving on the Board of Selectmen may contact O'Connor at bjconnor@sbcglobal.net.

Obituaries

Colchester

Margaret Ann Wells

Margaret Ann "Peggy" Wells, 86, of Lake Hayward, widow of the late John C. "Jack" Wells, went home to Heaven on Wednesday evening, April 5, at Hartford Hospital, surrounded by loved ones. Born Jan. 18, 1931, in Woonsocket, R.I., she was the daughter of the late Rodney and Anna (Fitzsimmons) Pugsley.



She grew up in New London and it was there that three of her lifelong loves began – her love of the water, with many fond memories of Ocean Beach; her love of nursing, as she was a graduate of the Lawrence & Memorial School of Nursing; and it was where she met the love of her life. She and Jack were married June 19, 1954, at St. Joseph Church in New London. Together, they shared 54 years of marriage before he predeceased her Feb. 16, 2009.

After raising their children, Peggy resumed her career as a registered nurse working mainly at the former Liberty Hall Convalescent Home in Colchester until her retirement in 1991. After Jack's retirement in 1992, they enjoyed spending winters in Hobe Sound, Fla., again where she was able to enjoy the water, just as she had at Lake Hayward.

A devout Catholic, she was a communicant of St. Andrew Church in Colchester, where she was a longtime member of the choir – whom she affectionately referred to as her second family. Her greatest joy was found in her family, especially in her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

She is survived by three daughters and their spouses, Patricia and Thomas Spitzer of Hebron, Pamela and Thomas Bousquet of Windsor and Beth Wells-Mackay and Andrew Mackay of Hebron; her son, Michael Wells of Vermont; seven grandchildren, Joshua and wife Gwen Spitzer, Megan and husband, Stephen Karloff, Marissa Wells and her fiancé, Ryan Palmer, Alexandra Wells and Anna, Jack and Molly Mackay; three great-grandchildren, Clara, Maksim and Eleanor; her daughter-in-law, Kathryn Cinder of Vermont; a beloved niece, Kathleen Nielson; a special cousin, Leslie Morgans; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband, she was predeceased by her siblings, Ruth Courtois and George Pugsley.

Friends called Sunday, April 9, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The funeral liturgy was celebrated Monday, April 10, directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. She was laid to rest alongside her husband in the New St. Andrew Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the St. Andrew Choir.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Ryan Dorflinger

Ryan 'Dorf' Dorflinger passed away tragically Sunday, April 9, at the age of 34. Ryan was the beloved son of Denise and Russell Dorflinger. He grew up in the woods of Abbey Road in East Hampton with his three brothers, Austin, Adam and Jake. Ryan was the oldest and led the boys on adventures in childhood, adolescence and as young men.



He was full of life and his friendly spirit resonated throughout his hometown. He had an infectious laugh that became known as the "Dorflinger laugh." Ryan followed his heart to concerts, snow-covered mountains, and green golf courses. He made his own trails and did not leave the mountains until they closed. His childhood friends loved him his whole life, and his next adventure was planned for Portland, Maine.

Ryan was deeply loyal to his family and was proud to stand next to Austin and Jake at their weddings. His remarkable character and legacy of kindness was inspired by his father Russell and his mother Denise. There is nothing Dorf wouldn't do for the people he loved. Ryan was brilliant and poured through books, historical accounts, journals, music, movies and games. He was humble and shy, which only made his beauty shine brighter. He was a blessing to this world, and will be forever loved and missed.

A private ceremony will be held in honor of his life amongst his family and friends.

Portland

Darren Dean Anderson

Darren Dean Anderson, 47, of Portland, passed away peacefully Monday, April 10, with his family by his side. Born on April 23, 1969, in Middletown, he was the son of Susanne Anderson-Woronoff and the late Dean E. Anderson.



Darren was a lifelong resident of Portland and a 1988 graduate of Portland High School. Before his 15-year career as a legal assistant in the law offices of Attorney Ronald Kutz and Attorney Joseph Prokop, he worked in the business office of Atlantic Detroit Diesel-Allison in Middletown. Using his outstanding computer skills, he also did work for the Swedish Cemetery, B & S Auction Services, the Portland Historical Society, and many others.

Besides his mother, Darren is survived by his brother, Chad Anderson and his wife Andrea of East Hampton; his sister, Kim Hue Quach and husband Kent of Worcester, Mass.; his step-father, Bruce Woronoff of Portland; and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and friends.

In his teens, Darren was an active member of the Cruisers, a team of young local athletes living with physical disabilities who participate in wheelchair sports. He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Portland where he was involved in many church activities and a former member of the Spina Bifida Association. As a youth, Darren enjoyed boating with his father and brother in Great Hill Lake, Portland. He had a love for fine dining and enjoyed sharing recipes with friends and family, especially dessert ones.

Losing Darren wasn't just a loss for his family but a loss for everyone who knew him; he touched the lives of so many. He was known for his warm smile and willingness to help anyone. He was a dedicated volunteer at Middlesex Hospital with 20 years of service, volunteering over 5,000 hours. In 2014, he was presented with the President of the United States' Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong commitment of volunteer service at the Patient Financial Services of the Middlesex Hospital. He had a close relationship with many nurses, doctors, and staff at the hospital.

After graduation, he kept in touch with his fellow classmates and was the force behind the coordination of his class reunions. As one of his classmates commented, "Darren's journey in life was not easy but his smile, kindness, and dedicated friendship gives us all an example to live by and cherish."

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, April 18, at 11 a.m. in the Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William Street, Portland. Burial will follow in the Swedish Cemetery. Friends may call at the Zion Lutheran Church Tuesday, April 18, from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, 183 William Street, Portland or to the Hospital for Special Care (HSC), 2150 Corbin Avenue, New Britain, CT 06053. HSC is the managing sponsor of the Cruisers, a team of disabled athletes who compete locally, regionally, and nationally in wheelchair track and field competitions.

The family wishes to extend a warm "thank you" to the doctors, nurses, and their staff of the Critical Care Unit at Middlesex Hospital for their devoted care to Darren for the past several days. We would also like to thank the staff at the Greystone Retirement Home for their care and support.

Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Jacqueline Anne Dimmock

Jacqueline Anne Dimmock, 50, of Syracuse, N.Y., died on Friday morning, April 7, surrounded by those who loved her, at the home of her parents in Colchester, after a prolonged illness.



Jackie, as she was known to all, grew up in Colchester, and attended school there until she went to St. Bernard High School in Uncasville, where she excelled academically, participating in both cross country and theatre. After high school, Jackie attended UConn for a year before transferring to and later graduating from Connecticut College, in New London, with a degree in psychology.

After college, Jackie worked in the psychology field in Boston for several years before she decided to pursue her doctorate in clinical psychology at the University of Virginia. After UVA, Jackie moved to Rochester, N.Y., and later settled in Syracuse, N.Y., where she has been for the last 20 years. For that time, she was a member of the faculty of SUNY-Upstate, a medical and research university located in Syracuse.

Throughout her life, Jackie pursued many passions, including table tennis and water sports, but her biggest was her involvement with Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Her relationship with her little sister, Renee, as well as with Renee's sister, Christina, and the rest of her family, brought special joy to Jackie. Another of Jackie's passions was the UConn basketball team, especially the UConn women. Whenever a game was on, she could be found reading all available information about it, and sharing observations with her father and sister on the phone. An avid Twitter follower of all of the players, Jackie knew more about the team than even the most fervent of fans.

Jackie is survived by her parents, Julia and Edward Dimmock of Colchester; her sister, Susan Dimmock of Rocky Hill; and her sister, Julie Dimmock and brother-in-law, Bill Gagnon, of Burlington, Vt.

Funeral services were at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, Tuesday, April 11. Visiting hours were that afternoon, with a vigil service immediately following. The burial was Wednesday, April 12, at East Neck Cemetery, 154 Niles Hill Rd. in Waterford.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Onondaga County (New York).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Edward John Nagy

Edward John Nagy, 83, of Andover, passed away peacefully Thursday, Jan. 5, at Hebrew Home & Hospital. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Blanche Nagy. Ed was born Sept. 21, 1933, in New Haven, to the late Julius Nagy and Clara Massey.

He is survived by his children, Gary (Debbe) Nagy of Owings, Md., Karen Nagy of Windsor, Tricia (Andrew) Leary of Pawcatuck, and Laurie (Shane) Drum of Vernon; his stepchildren Pamela Morano of Colchester and Peter (Kristen) Bruno of Enfield; his grandchildren Jason (Lauren), Jennifer, Travis and Logan; his step-grandsons, Anthony and Daniel; his three great-grandchildren; his brother, James Nagy of Wallingford; also his four nephews and extended family members.

He is predeceased by his son, Kevin Nagy. He graduated from Lyman Hall High School in Wallingford. He went to RPI in Troy, N.Y., and to WNEC. He served in the California and Connecticut Army National Guard. He was a fireman at Hayden Station in Windsor, serving as a captain in 1962. He made a 40+ year career as an engineer at Kaman Aerospace in Bloomfield. He later drove a bus for the Nichols Bus Co of East Hampton.

His favorites were fishing, sailing, snowmobiling, riding dirt bikes, hunting, going to fairs to watch the oxen pulls, traveling to Florida and country music. He loved going to the "country" with his brother Jimmy to work and enjoy the family property, where his mother was born in Roxbury. He served on committees in Andover.

Family and friends will gather for his burial Saturday, April 22, at 11:30 a.m., in the Roxbury Cemetery, located next to the Roxbury Town Hall, 29 North St. in Roxbury.

Affordable Cremation of Connecticut is in charge of his arrangements.

Portland

Earl E. Brown

Earl E. Brown, 84, of Portland, husband of 52 years to the late Janet (Healy) Brown, was called home by his beloved Friday, April 7. Born in Middletown Sept. 15, 1932, he was the son of the late Edward and Pearl (Schmidl) Brown. He spent most of his life in Portland. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Portland since the age of 14, a member of the Portland Fire Department Co. 2, and was superintendent of the Swedish Cemetery in Portland.



Earl started working for Dominic Valli in 1945 after school. He was in the PHS Class of 51, leaving in September of his senior year to serve in the Army during the Korean War as a combat engineer. In 1953, after returning from the war, Earl went to work for Valli fulltime. In 1971, Valli passed away, leaving the business to Earl, who acted as corporate president until his death.

During his marriage to Janet, they enjoyed many trips to Florida and Hawaii every winter. He enjoyed Monday night poker games with the guys, visiting the Valli crew on job sites, trips to the casino, and morning coffee with friends at DaLaur's and Sarah's.

Earl is survived by his three sons and their families: Lawrence and his wife Sue of Middletown, and their children Sarah and Nathaniel; Richard and his wife Mary, and their children Caitlin Charest and her husband Kevin and Jordyn; and Michael and his wife Lori, and their children Kelly (Kevin), Justin and Jacklyn. He also leaves his great-granddaughter, Reagan Hassett (Ronnie to him), and his dear friend of 63 years, Joyce Swokla.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, April 15, at 12:30 p.m., at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Burial with military honors will follow in the Swedish Cemetery. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home Friday, April 14, from 5-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Earl's memory to Portland Fire Department Co. 2, P.O. Box 71, Portland, CT 06480; First Congregational Church of Portland, 554 Main St., Portland, CT 06480; or the charity of your choice.

Colchester

Ronald W. Legler

Ronald W. Legler of Colchester, formerly of Glastonbury, passed away Wednesday April 5, at the age of 74. He was born in Pittsburgh, Pa., on Dec. 5, 1942, to the late Raymond and Grace Legler. He was the beloved husband of Carol for 54 years.



Ron served in the U.S. Air Force in the 1960s. He retired from Equifax Inc./Choice Point after a 37-year career which started in Pittsburgh, Pa., in 1964 as a field rep. During his tenure he achieved many prominent management positions. His career brought him and his family to many parts of the country, including Pittsburgh, Pa., Buffalo, N.Y., Philadelphia, Pa., Chicago, Ill., Cherry Hill, N.J. and finally Hartford.

Ron was an energetic lifelong fan of his Pittsburgh Steelers. He served as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion and in pre-funeral ministry for St. Paul's and the Rosary Ministry at Glastonbury Health Care.

Ron is survived by his wife Carol; his two children, Ken and his wife Barbara of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Lisa Prisbie and her significant other, Michael Guerrero of Newington; and three grandsons, Kevin, Timmy and Steve, all of Pittsburgh, Pa.

The family would like to thank the cardiac team at Hartford Hospital for all their support and care given to Ron.

A Mass of Christian Burial celebrating Ron's life was held Monday, April 10, in St. Paul Church, 2587 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial with military honors was in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Calling hours were Sunday, April 9, at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury.

Donations in Ron's name can be made to Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation, 103 Vision Way, Bloomfield, CT 06002 or to the Connecticut Humane Society, 501 Russell Rd., Newington, CT 06111.

For online condolences, visit mulryanfh.com.

Colchester

Leo Glemboski

Leo Glemboski, 94, of Colchester and Black Point, Connecticut passed away peacefully Saturday, April 8, at Harrington Court in Colchester. Leo was born Nov. 8, 1922, in the Bronx, N.Y., the son of the late Joseph Glemboski and the late Katherine "Pasternak" Glemboski of Colchester.



He is survived by his beloved wife of 70 years, Vera Glemboski; his children, Paul Glemboski and wife Susan of Colchester, Joyce Bilello and husband Joseph of Highland Park, New Jersey, Diane Glemboski of Mystic and Teri Borodezt of Canterbury; his grandchildren, Christopher, Kelsey, Leslie, Katie and Noah; his great-grandchildren; as well as an extensive extended family and group of friends.

Leo is also survived by his siblings, Frank Glemboski of Glastonbury, Eddie Glemboski and wife Bertha of Colchester, Helen Long of Rogers, Ark., and Thomas Glemboski of Colchester.

He is predeceased by his son-in-law, Allan Weiner, husband of Diane Glemboski.

Leo, a prominent figure in town, graduated from Bacon Academy in 1941. He served as the Probate Judge for the town of Colchester for 24 years, where some of his favorite memories were of adoptions and bringing families together.

Leo was also a very active and dedicated member of the Lions Club – receiving numerous awards such as Lion of the Year, holding perfect attendance for 63 years, and many titles including president. He became a lifetime member in 1994.

Additionally, he also served as a member of many committees, including Board of Trustees for Bacon Academy, Board of Trustees for Norwich Savings Society, Board of Tax Review, Board of Finance, Colchester Historical Society, Elks Club, and St. Andrew Church. Leo was also a lifetime member of the Colchester Fish & Game Club. He was the owner of the former Leo's Esso Station and Colchester Auto Body.

Frequently noted as the town's "Santa Claus," one of Leo's greatest passions was donating Christmas boxes filled with food for needy families in Colchester through the Lions Club – a project which he began in 1955 and coordinated for 51 years.

Leo loved nothing more than spending time with his family and volunteering throughout the community in any way that he could. No matter the situation, Leo always had a way of lighting up a room with his stories and words of wisdom. His charisma, charm, and generosity will be deeply missed by all that knew him.

Calling hours were at the Belmont Funeral Home in Colchester Tuesday, April 11. The funeral was held at St. Andrew Church Wednesday, April 12. Burial followed at the Linwood Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to a local charity of your choice.

East Hampton

Maureen King

Maureen "Mo" King (Mulcahy) passed away Sunday, April 9, at the age of 70, after a courageous battle with cancer. Maureen, a lifelong resident of East Hampton, daughter of the late Esther and George Mulcahy, is survived by her devoted husband Jack (John), celebrating 47 years of marriage.



Mo is also survived by her three boys, Matthew and his wife Sheileen of West Hartford, Joshua and his wife Dena of Middletown, R.I., and U.S. Navy Commander Zachary and his wife Tiffany, stationed in Yokosuka, Japan; four cherished grandchildren, Lily, Delaney, John and Patrick; her three brothers, Mark, Dudley and Colin Mulcahy; she was predeceased by her brothers Barry and Kevin.

Mo was a devoted wife and mother who always put others' needs ahead of her own. She loved her Irish Setters, had an addiction to fabric, made killer potato salad, pecan rolls for Easter and her famous Christmas Danish. She cherished spending time with Jack – the love of her life and high school sweetheart. They loved seeing shows at Goodspeed Opera House. Mo always made it a point to be involved in what Jack and the boys were involved with: baseball, basketball or soccer game; any event or game during her boys' high school years (Xavier, Middletown and Hamden Hall Country Day School). Mo was most happy spending time with family and friends at Sears Park on Lake Pocotopaug in East Hampton. She will be deeply missed by her family, friends and all who knew her.

The King family would like to thank "Mo's Marauders" and the many family friends that have been there for Mo and for our family – your love, support and compassion has been wonderful and will never be forgotten.

Also, heartfelt and special "thanks" to those that took care of Mo; Dr. Kawada, Dr. Albert, the compassionate nurses and staff at Hartford Hospital, Second Floor Conklin Building; to Maureen Klett and her staff at Bel-Air Manor in Newington.

A funeral service is scheduled for 11 a.m. Wednesday, April 19, at St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton. Calling hours will be held at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Tuesday, April 18, from 5-8 p.m. Burial will be private at the request of the family.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in honor of Maureen to the American Cancer Society: cancer.org.

Online condolences may be made at spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

James Albert Grenman

James (Jim) Albert Grenman, 56, of Portland, beloved husband of Flo Bartosiak-Grenman, passed away Wednesday, March 8, from a heart attack, in Pompano Beach, Fla. Jim was born in Middletown Aug. 16, 1960, son of the late Ernest Grenman and Joyce Carini-Grenman. He grew up in Haddam and graduated from Vinal Tech.



Jim was a skilled aircraft machinist/cutter-grinder at Pratt & Whitney, and for 25 years at Portland's Jarvis Airfoil. He was an EMT, both at work and locally, and a fireman. Jim selflessly entered St. Mary's Church during the fire when the steeple collapsed. He grew up with animals and cared for Portland's renowned oxen. He loved boating and fishing on the river and along the shoreline. A true Mr. Fix-it, Jim always helped anyone in need.

He was a friend and father-figure to many. In addition to his wife, he is survived by two stepdaughters, Randi Bartosiak of Los Angeles, Calif., and Laura Schleifer, currently in China; brothers John and Gunnar Grenman of East Hampton and Haddam, respectively; sister Nancy Grenman-Tucker of Haddam, and numerous nieces and nephews.

A summer service will honor and celebrate his life. For details, contact ServiceforJim@yahoo.com.