



RIVEREAST

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Portland Veterans Honored for Service

by Elizabeth Regan

Jeanette E. Bailey was 24 years old when she went to Europe with the United States Army Nurse Corps at the end of World War II.

More than 70 years later, Bailey was one of 61 service members honored for their service to the country at last Thursday's Portland Veterans' Wartime Service Medal Ceremony.

Bailey sat with her son, Michael, and daughter, Rita, in the Portland High School auditorium as she recounted her role in what has become known as the Greatest Generation.

"We stayed with the boys that couldn't make the trip home," Bailey said. "We closed those hospitals up and we went to the next one. Just kept doing that until we all went home."

Bailey joined veterans from every conflict since WWII as they lined up to receive the Wartime Service Medal from the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Sean M. Connolly.

The medal is for all wartime veterans, according to state statute. It can also be awarded posthumously to those who have died since the end of World War I.

Connolly, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve who lives in Hebron, told the audience he's been privileged to serve Connecticut's 200,000 veterans since he took the job in 2015.

"It's a tremendous honor to pin the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal on each of our veterans today on behalf of a grateful state," he said.

According to the veterans affairs department, Connolly served in the Iraq War and has been a prosecutor and brigade legal advisor with the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky as well as in Kuwait and Iraq.

Last week's ceremony, which included a color guard from the Portland Fire Department and music from the National Honor Guard Band, was coordinated by state Rep. Christie Carpino, R-32. She was joined at the event by state Sen. Art Linares, R-33.

Carpino said she organized the event because "thank you isn't enough."

She told the veterans in the audience their service will never be forgotten: "and the freedoms and ideals you fought for – some of you a little while ago, some of you a little more recently – still hold our country together."

The veterans lined up on either side of the auditorium as they waited for First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield or Town Clerk Ryan Curley to read their names. Connolly stood in front of the stage, flanked by Carpino and Linares, to pin the medal on veterans and, in some cases, present the medal to the relatives of veterans who have died. He spoke briefly with each one about his or her wartime service.

For Carpino, hearing those brief snippets of personal history was the most compelling part of the event.

"I wish I could've spent hours with each of them," she said when the ceremony had concluded.



Jeremy D. Thompson, a U.S. Army veteran, was one of 61 residents honored last week at the Portland Veterans' Wartime Service Medal Ceremony. He is flanked by Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs Commissioner Sean M. Connolly on the right and state Sen. Art Linares, R-33, and state Rep. Christie Carpino, R-32 on the left.

Rafael Lord's story was forged in New York City when he came over on a tourist visa from his home country of Panama not long after he met Carlotta, the woman who would become his wife. Instead of trying to get his visa ex-

tended, he volunteered for the draft to expedite a citizenship process that typically took five years.

He said he went before the draft board, where

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Andover Killer Sentenced to 32 Years

by Lauren Yandow

On June 29, nearly two years to the day after he shot dead a father of two at Andover Lake, Michael Fortin appeared in Rockville Superior Court to learn how much of his future would be spent behind bars.

Fortin, 23, was convicted in May of first-degree manslaughter with a firearm in the July 3, 2015, shooting death of Andover resident Jason Marchand, 38. He was in court last Thursday for his sentencing hearing.

He wound up sentenced to 32 years in prison, followed by 10 years of special parole.

Just before 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Fortin stepped into an emotion-filled courtroom to join his public defender, David Channing. Adjacent to Fortin and Channing was the prosecutor, Tolland State's Attorney Matthew C. Gedansky.

The public area of the courtroom was filled with numerous friends and family members of Marchand. Loved ones of Fortin were also in



attendance.

Prior to giving statements to Judge James T. Graham, loved ones of Marchand – a 1996 graduate of Manchester High School who had just moved to Andover in 2014 – presented Graham with a framed collage of photographs. The judge addressed the courtroom, sharing the framed images were of Marchand during various stages of his life.

Some of the victim's family members – including his mother, father and fiancée – each addressed the courtroom with a prepared statement. Highlighting their memories of Marchand, they described him as a hard-working family man, who was a big fan of spending time outdoors, and loved being a father to his two sons.

The family members shared what they'll each miss most about Marchand – and the heartache they felt for the life Fortin took. They also stressed the agony Marchand's oldest son – who was with Marchand the night he was killed – still feels and the extensive therapy he's needed since the trauma of his father's death. Individually, they asked the judge to give Fortin the maximum sentence allotted – 50 years.

In emotional testimony, Marchand's fiancée, Suzanne Wich, said the couple loved living so

close to the lake, and added it's the small insignificant things in their daily lives together that she'll miss the most.

Wich said she felt Fortin was "cold and callous." Through tears, she added, "Michael Fortin should be put away behind bars for as long as possible so he won't be free to take away another Jason, another father, another mother's son or someone else's love."

Marchand's father, Louis, also advocated for the maximum sentence, saying, "Michael Fortin has no regard for life."

On behalf of the victim, Gedansky asked the judge to sentence Fortin to 40 years in prison, with an additional five years special parole. "Mr. Fortin presents as one of the most dangerous individuals who has ever come before the court," said Gedansky. "I want to ensure the public's safety for as long as allowed."

Before sentencing, Graham stated the goals of the hearing. He said that "until Mr. Fortin becomes much more mature, the public needs protection." Among things considered were Fortin's character and previous criminal record. Fortin showed very little on the positive side of the ledger, Graham said, with limited employment history and a record showing a "disturbing pattern of escalating seriousness ... and fre-

quent substance abuse."

That criminal record includes charges of assault, larceny and reckless endangerment stemming from a February 2015 incident in which he allegedly shot his girlfriend in the right eye with a stolen flare gun; his girlfriend lost her eye as a result.

Fortin's diagnosed Asperger's syndrome was touched upon during the hearing. While Graham said the developmental disorder "does not excuse his behavior in any way ... and no one has claimed that," he added, "Asperger's syndrome does make it difficult to recognize social cues and can result in social awkwardness."

But Fortin's lawyer painted a different mental image, arguing Fortin isn't antisocial at all. Fortin, Channing said, "rode dirt bikes with friends" and "had a serious long-term relationship with a woman."

Fortin was given the opportunity to speak to the courtroom, but chose not to.

During the sentencing hearing, Graham reiterated the account of what happened that fatal evening of July 3, 2015.

As stated in an arrest warrant affidavit unsealed in December 2015, one witness shared they were with Marchand and his 6-year-old

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he exchanged his passport for a draft card and a subway token.

Lord served stateside at California’s Fort Bragg from 1970-72, as part of the U.S. Army 82nd Airborne division.

Carlotta Lord described the wartime medal ceremony as part of the town’s tradition of giving back to its veterans. She cited the Portland Veterans Memorial Park, with its three granite panels featuring the names of all veterans from WWI to today. There’s also an annual Veterans Day dinner hosted by Seby Milardo of Melilli Caffè and Grill.

“Portland is very good to its veterans,” she said.

Bransfield noted the ceremony was an appropriate lead-in to the Independence Day holiday and a good reason for families to gather together in celebration of the veterans in their lives.

The ceremony was a surprise for Jeanette Bailey, thanks to five of her eight children who managed to get her to the auditorium without telling her why. A daughter in Ohio almost foiled the plot when she sent flowers to commemorate the occasion, according to Mike Bailey.

“We had to hide the card,” he laughed.

But while Mike Bailey described getting their mother to the event as a fun caper, it was a necessary one. He said Jeanette Bailey would not have sought the recognition for herself.



Jeanette E. Bailey, 95, served as a member of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps in 1945. She was honored last week at the Portland Veterans’ Wartime Service Medal Ceremony. Five of her eight children – including Rita, pictured here – joined her for the occasion.

If they had left it up to her, he explained, “she would have said ‘no.’”

Andover Killer cont. from Front Page

son that night, as they all headed toward Andover Lake via a right-of-way located at the intersection of Lakeside Drive and Island Street – across the road from Marchand’s house.

It was then that a white-and-blue motorcycle was found parked in the middle of the road.

Both the witness and Marchand confronted the driver – Michael Fortin – about the bike, which the witness said was blocking the fire department’s access to water; the witness said Fortin didn’t listen at first, making Marchand “very irritated,” according to the affidavit.

Fortin and Marchand then “exchanged words” before Fortin got onto his motorcycle and took off, spewing up gravel as he went. According to the affidavit, Marchand unsuccessfully chased Fortin up the right of way as he left.

The witness then went with Marchand and his son back to Marchand’s home at 38 Lakeside Drive, the affidavit said.

Later that evening, Fortin returned to the area, parked his motorcycle and walked toward Marchand’s backyard – where Marchand and the witness were “sitting peacefully by a fire drinking,” as Graham put it at last week’s hearing.

Next, Fortin approached the “poorly-lit” backyard while still wearing his motorcycle helmet. Marchand got up from his chair and headed toward Fortin, who proceeded to shoot. Marchand was struck twice, said Graham, with the fatal shot hitting his chest. Fortin had no permit to carry the pistol, Graham added.

The witness called 911 and returned to Marchand while they waited for help.

Marchand was taken to Windham Hospital where he was later pronounced dead. His cause of death was listed as “gunshot wounds of torso with injuries of the liver and right kidney” and certified as a homicide.

Shortly after the shooting, Fortin enlisted his girlfriend to help him throw the pistol in the

swamp and proceeded to discard his motorcycle into the Connecticut River, said Graham.

During the trial in April, testimony was unclear as to whether Marchand’s young son was present or not at the exact time of the shooting, said Graham. The boy was found inside his bedroom by police.

Over the course of the trial, Graham said, 12 jurors heard from 35 witnesses and had 357 exhibits before them; the jurors then deliberated for several days. Ultimately, they acquitted Fortin of murder and risk of injury to a minor; but convicted him of lesser defense – manslaughter in the first-degree with a firearm.

“The crucial difference between the charges of murder and manslaughter in the first degree is as to the intent of the defendant,” Graham said. “Murder requires an intent to cause the death of another person; manslaughter in the first degree requires an intent to inflict serious physical injury. The jury acquitted Michael Fortin of having an intent to cause Jason Marchand’s death but convicted him of having an intent to cause serious physical injury. ... The end result tragically is the same, but the intent of the defendant [Fortin] differs and the court must take that into account in sentencing Mr. Fortin.”

Graham added he was sentencing Fortin for manslaughter and not murder.

Prior to sentencing, Graham said he took into consideration documented statements from Marchand’s mother, former wife, family members and loved ones including a letter written by his son and son’s therapist.

In addition to expressing their own pain and loss, some of the victim’s family and friends have expressed empathy for Fortin’s loved ones – something Graham said he finds “admirable.”

The state intends to prosecute Fortin for two unrelated cases that remain open – including the 2015 flare gun incident – Gedansky said.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

“I heard poorly rated @Morning_Joe speaks badly of me (don’t watch anymore). Then how come low I.Q. Crazy Mika, along with Psycho Joe, came to Mar-a-Lago 3 nights in a row around New Year’s Eve, and insisted on joining me. She was bleeding badly from a face-lift. I said no!”

Those words were tweeted out late last week by our commander in chief, the president of these beautiful United States, Donald J. Trump.

I’m not a Trump fan; I’ve made that fact pretty obvious in this column over the past year or so. But I know many of my readers are. I see this in the letters to the editor page every week. So I have a serious question for you guys. I’m not even being combative here – I am legitimately interested in knowing the answer.

How can you stand by Trump when he says stuff like this? How do you defend it? Do you defend it?

Remember, he’s no longer Candidate Trump; he’s no longer just some billionaire reality TV star shooting his mouth off. He’s president of the United States. He’s the face of our country to the rest of the world. When he writes the childish nonsense he wrote last week, how do you back him up? And if you don’t back him up, how do you continue to look the other way?

I think his bizarre tweet against “Crazy Mika” last week proves – in case there was any lingering doubt – that he is never going to change. There is not going to be a moment when he flips the switch and suddenly becomes “presidential.” What we see is, unfortunately, what we’re going to continue to get.

Again: I’m not even trying to be combative here; I’m genuinely curious. How do you support Trump when he says stuff like he said in that tweet? Email a letter to the editor to me at bulletin@glcitizen.com. I’d like to know your answer – and I’d think those of my readers who don’t support Trump would like to know your answer as well.

* * *

I hope you all had a fantastic Fourth of July weekend. The weather was gorgeous and I’m pleased to say I had a fantastic time with some good friends – some of which I hadn’t seen in quite a while. Of course, lots of sloppy food was eaten as well; plenty of hot dogs and hamburgers were consumed.

On Fourth of July morning, I found myself listening, as I have the past few Fourth’s, to Frank Sinatra’s fantastic song “The House I Live In.” Some of you might be more familiar with it under the name I was more familiar with it by: “What is America to Me?” It’s a 1943 song that, simply put, stirs up emotions in you about this great country of ours. This year, it seemed to take on more meaning to me; I felt that the song’s writer had a

better grasp, nearly 75 years ago, of what America should be than a lot of the folks currently running the show. Here are the lyrics; see if you agree with me:

*What is America to me?
A name, a map, or a flag I see
A certain word, democracy
What is America to me?*

*The house I live in
A plot of earth, the street
The grocer and the butcher
Or the people that I meet
The children in the playground
The faces that I see
All races and religions
That’s America to me*

*The place I work in
The worker by my side
The little town or city
Where my people lived and died
The “howdy” and the handshake
The air of feeling free
And the right to speak my mind out
That’s America to me*

*The things I see about me
The big things and the small
That little corner newsstand
Or the house a mile tall
The wedding in the churchyard
The laughter and the tears
The dream that’s been a-growing
For a hundred and fifty years*

*The town I live in
The street, the house, the room
The pavement of the city
Or a garden all in bloom
The church, the school, the clubhouse
The million lights I see
But especially the people
That’s America to me*

This year, I looked up the story of the song’s writer, just out of curiosity. The writer, Abel Meeropol (writing under the pen name “Lewis Allan”), was an avowed leftist. He didn’t write the song so much out of joy about what the nation at the time *was*; rather, it was out of his belief in what the country *could be*. He believed in its ideals of political freedom and diversity.

A co-worker last week commented that America is an idea. I agree with him – and it’s a great idea at that. The ideals this country was founded on, the ideals represented in those lyrics I printed above, are fantastic, and should never be forgotten. I just wish more of the people currently in charge seemed to believe in them.

* * *

See you next week.

Amston Couple Biking 200 Miles to Support Environment

by Lauren Yandow

This fall, Rick and Lisa Eldridge of Amston will join team Food & Water Watch for the 'Red, White and Blue Ridge' climate ride for a cause.

Setting out on Sept. 24, the husband-wife duo will bike 200 miles over three days – from rural Montebello, Va. to the nation's capital in Washington, D.C. The pair will be joined by other riders with the same common interest – environmental activism.

The cycling event is run through the non-profit organization Climate Ride. According to climateride.org, the organization facilitates "life-changing charitable events" to help raise awareness and support for environmental causes.

The Eldridges said their interest in climate conservation has continued to grow over the years, but their interest recently turned into a passion when they – along with the organization Food & Water Watch – worked to pass the fracking waste ban in Hebron.

"We had over 800 signatures in town that helped pass the ban and that just happened in May," said Lisa. "Then we received an email from Food & Water Watch talking about the bike ride."

Food & Water Watch works with community groups and grassroots organizations throughout the state to ban fracking.

For the past few years, Rick and Lisa have ridden bikes on a regular basis, but Lisa admits – this is new. "We did a 20-mile bike ride in April and that was for environmental causes too [Earth Day]," she said, but this will be their first big ride.

It was the car drive home from that Earth Day bike event, Rick said, that sparked a conversation to go further and sign up for the 'Red, White and Blue Ridge' trip. "We both had been thinking about it, but hadn't discussed it at all. One of us mentioned it on the ride home... and we said 'yes, we should do this.'"

Lisa and Rick's goal is to raise \$3,000 each. The money, they said, will benefit five different environmental organizations of their choosing – Food & Water Watch, Nature Conservancy, 350.org, Sierra Club, and Earth Justice. The five picks were chosen specifically by the couple from a list of over 100 different organizations Climate Ride benefits.

"The money that is donated will help enable these organizations to support sustainability, green transportation and environmental causes," said Lisa.

Supporting sustainability includes promoting clean energy from renewable sources such as solar power. Green transportation means riding bikes and driving more efficient cars; and the environmental causes that'll benefit from donations include climate change issues and motivating others to reduce their carbon footprint.

On the first day of the 'Red, White and Blue Ridge' ride, Lisa and Rick will bike 86 miles; the second day – 70 miles; and day three they'll ride 52 miles to Washington D.C.

As Team Food & Water Watch, they'll finish out the event together but throughout the three days – "we'll all ride at our own pace," said Rick.

To train, the duo has been slowly gaining momentum by going out on extended bike rides; the most recent was about 50 miles. "We have to get used to riding at that distance and then doing it again the next day," said Lisa.

In order to reach their goal, they're asking people to donate to their cause.

The minimum commitment for the event is \$2,000 per rider, but both Rick and Lisa were asked to set a goal of \$3,000 each. The goal, Lisa said, was suggested by the organization – explaining donors tend to give towards a set goal; and the higher the goal, the more funds people are likely to give. Regardless, Lisa said, all raised funds will benefit the cause.

The 'Red, White and Blue Ridge' cycling adventure will go as follows:

On Sept. 23, the team will meet at the Climate Ride campsite in the heart of Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains where they'll spend the night and prepare to ride.

'Day 1' begins Sunday.

Lisa and Rick will set out along the Blue Ridge Parkway – which is known as one of America's most scenic roads.

They'll then ascend into forested Shenandoah National Park before cycling on Skyline Drive. According to climateride.org, the route parallels the Appalachian Trail through "one of the country's wildest wilderness areas."

Rick and Lisa will then cycle to an area called



On Sept. 24, Rick and Lisa Eldridge will set out on a 200-mile bicycle ride for a cause – the 'Red, White and Blue Ridge' Climate Ride.

Big Meadows. There – along with their team – they'll hear from numerous Climate Ride beneficiaries before turning into their tents for the night.

On 'Day 2,' they'll descend into Virginia's Piedmont Region – which, according to Climate Ride's website, is "a naturally diverse, gently-rolling landscape dotted with rural towns and villages." Each team member will stop to picnic at a local park then cycle to the next camp site for the night.

On 'Day 3,' Rick, Lisa and their teammates will bike the final stretch to the nation's Capitol.

When they arrive in D.C., Lisa said, the couple and their teammates will have the opportunity to "make their voices heard" by speaking with Connecticut State Representatives. The Climate Ride organization, she said, sets up

meetings for cyclists who choose to participate in 'Advocacy Day.'

According to climateride.org, 'Advocacy Day' gives cyclists the chance to participate in democracy and express views on cycling advocacy, conservation and climate change. Rick and Lisa said they hope to speak with Sen. Chris Murphy and Sen. Richard Blumenthal – who will be in Washington for session.

People can donate any amount of their choice to Rick and Lisa's individual goals by visiting climateride.org and searching for 'Rick Eldridge' or 'Lisa Eldridge.'

As of July 5, Lisa had raised \$905, and Rick had raised \$430. The deadline for each to raise \$2,000 is Sept. 15. The two could still participate in the ride if the full amount isn't raised by then, but they would have to make up the difference themselves.

Marlborough Zoning Commission Approves Big Y Application

by Julianna Roche

With a unanimous vote by the Zoning Commission last week, Schwartz Realty developers were granted full approval to move forward with their plans to bring a Big Y supermarket into Marlborough's town center.

Expected to open by the fall of 2018, the 55,000-square foot grocery store and pharmacy will become the 65th Big Y market to be built – and the town's first grocery store of any kind since Pat's Market closed in 2012.

Selectwoman Evelyn Godbout, who was present at the meeting but stressed she was speaking as an individual, said she lends her full support to the project and what it will bring to Marlborough.

"I think we're very fortunate to have Schwartz Realty make a commitment to our town," she said. "I've seen the development they've done in other towns and it's all been very professional, very impressive."

Plans to bring the supermarket to town were initially proposed last year – but had to be approved by various commissions before moving forward, including the Conservation Commission, which met June 19 to discuss whether the proposed location for the Big Y – in the 3-5 East Hampton Rd. plaza – would have any adverse effects on the five acres of wetlands which surround parts of the building.

The commission ultimately approved the site plan before it went before the Zoning Commission June 29.

During last week's meeting, civil engineer Richard Mihok presented additional improvements made to protect the wetlands which in-

clude relocating the entrance further away from the intersection on Route 66, keeping the delivery truck entrance off South Main Street, and having direct access to the loading dock behind the building.

There will also be detention ponds to clarify water put in place, as well as water quality basins, rain gardens and screening to protect the wetlands.

Following Mihok's presentation, developers Allan – who owns the property – and son, Evan Schwartz presented the supermarket site plan to the commission in detail.

Allan Schwartz, a well-known developer in the area – who could not be reached for comment as of press time Thursday – is most recognized for his work in Glastonbury with developments such as Eric Town Square, a large Hebron Avenue plaza that has, among other tenants, Plan B Burger Bar; a plaza at 2450 Main St. that includes a Moe's and Panera Bread; and a newer plaza at 41 Hebron Ave., which includes businesses such as Ben & Jerry's and Noodles and Co.

The Big Y will be built on the 11.2-acre property according to the site plan, and is expected to bring in an added \$310,000 of revenue to town, as well as the creation of 275 part-time and full-time jobs.

Furthermore, the back stretch along School Drive will not be affected by any construction and will be retained as open space. The store will also have an entranceway with an "air door" to serve as an outdoor market and entrances

located on both sides of the checkout area.

Evan Schwartz also explained to the commission that some changes had been made to the last site proposal, including adding "more modern" LED lighting which "covers any safety concerns" and are dark sky compliant.

The store – whose hours are generally between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. – will shut off 50 percent of its lighting during overnight hours, so as not to disturb residents living close by.

Also included in the site proposal are plans to renovate the Marlborough Tavern building and add in up to three new tenants, whose business signs will be displayed in both the front and back of the building, facing the parking lot and Route 66, respectively.

"[However], we don't know who they are going to be yet," Evan Schwartz said, furthering that the Marlborough Tavern will be designed to fit within "the character of the town."

Selectman Dick Shea, who also stressed he was speaking as an individual, said he offered his full support of the project – but hoped "the town staff can work together" to display retailers' signs in an aesthetically-pleasing manner and one that complements the town.

While residents in attendance of the meeting spoke mostly in support for the supermarket, not everyone has expressed pleasure at the idea – especially businesses currently located in the plaza, which will need to relocate. These include Marlborough Country Bakery, which has called the plaza home and become a town staple over the last 25 years.

Bakery owner Georgette Goodale told the *Rivereast* Wednesday that "nothing has been resolved" with finding a new location, but declined to comment further.

According to Zoning Commission Chairman Kevin Asklar, the next step is for Schwartz Realty to meet the conditions of the application for approval – which include items such as adding a sidewalk or walkway on the southwest side of Route 66 leading directly to the Marlborough Tavern, adding propane lines from the tanks to Big Y building and complying with conditions established by the Conservation Commission to protect the wetlands.

The developers will then need to obtain a demolition and building permit before they proceed with the project.

"This has been our goal – having a project like this," said Board of Finance member Sue Leser during the public comments portion of the meeting – who also stressed she was speaking as an individual. "People are complaining we're not spending enough money on education, we're not providing enough services, taxes are going up too high. This is the solution, or at least part of the solution to all of those problems. We really need it."

Both Jill Silliman and Jeremy Vigneault, members of the Economic Development Commission, also spoke in favor of the project.

"We are in full support of the Big Y," Silliman said. "And we think it will bring great things to our community."

Portland Skimming Victim: Thefts Could Have Been Prevented

by Elizabeth Regan

One victim of an ATM skimming scam is asking why Cumberland Farms customers weren't made aware a local ATM machine had been targeted by criminals.

Emily Maxfield, of Portland, said scammers drained about \$300 from her bank account on Saturday. That was almost a month after Portland Police found a skimming device on the ATM at Cumberland Farms on Marlborough Street.

According to the FBI, skimming devices secretly record bank account information using overlays that fit over the keypad and card reader. The units are usually undetectable to ATM users.

Maxfield knows at least seven victims whose money was stolen on July 1 or 2, she said. She is aware of as many as a dozen more victims based on reports she's seen on social media.

"Seven of us [last] weekend – that I know of – got money taken out of our accounts and the only common place we all have used the card was at the Cumberland Farms here in town," she said.

A spokeswoman for Cumberland Farms' corporate headquarters said she is still in the process of gathering information on the Portland skimming incident. She was unable to answer questions or provide a statement by press time.

Maxfield said bank statements from several of the victims showed the money was withdrawn from a bank in Shelton.

She emphasized the thefts could have been avoided if people who use the ATM were warned their accounts may be compromised.

She said she would have simply changed her Personal Identification Number and debit card number if she had known she was at risk.

Now, she and the other victims have to wait 10 days for their banks to reverse the charges.

"This could've been prevented if someone had just posted a sign or made public that a skimming device was found," she said.

Portland Police Officer Scott Cunningham

said police removed the skimming device from the Cumberland Farms ATM on June 7 after being alerted by a manager who had noticed the machine's blinking light wasn't working properly.

Cunningham said the department will be more vigilant about notifying the public on the department's website in the future.

"We try to keep our website updated. Unfortunately, it looks like that one might have slipped past us," Cunningham said.

He said the department "strongly believes" the skimming device is tied to this weekend's thefts.

The Portland Police Department is encouraging everyone who was affected by the theft to report it to police as well as to their banks.

According to Cunningham, the department has only received five complaints about skimming activity, even though he's talked with personnel at the town's Liberty Bank who said they've gotten many more reports of illegal activity.

Cunningham said criminals can access the information two ways: by physically removing the device and downloading the data or by retrieving the data wirelessly. Since the device was in the possession of the police at the time the money was stolen, Cunningham surmised it was a wireless operation.

In addition to withdrawals from a bank in Shelton, Cunningham said the suspects have also withdrawn money in Queens, N.Y.

A skimming device was found on an ATM at the Cumberland Farms in Granby, on June 2 and at a gas pump at the Mobil Mart in Essex on June 6, according to news reports.

According to the FBI, people should inspect any ATM or gas pump credit card reader before using it. They should be wary of any loose, crooked or damaged parts as well as any scratches or adhesive tape residue.

Cunningham noted a skimming device can also cover the blinking light where the card is inserted, as was the case with the Portland Cumberland Farms device.

Colchester Caretaker Charged with Assaulting Disabled Client

by Julianna Roche

A female employee of New Beginnings for Life – an agency in Colchester which helps disabled people get jobs and live on their own – is scheduled to appear in Superior Court in Middletown today after she kicked and shoved one of her clients in a Middletown pharmacy two weeks ago, police said.

Danielle Joy Zoldak, 50, of 14 Whipoorwill Hollow Rd., in East Hampton was charged with third-degree assault on a disabled person, breach of peace, possession of less than half an ounce of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia, police said.

According to police, at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Friday, June 23, an officer was sent to the Walgreens located at 311 East Main St. to respond to a report of an assault on someone who appeared to have a disability.

A pharmacy employee then directed the officer to a woman, later identified as Zoldak, and a man – who was sitting on the floor near the cash register, taking candy off the shelves, and eating it, police said.

While Zoldak was informing the officer that she was the person's caretaker and an employee of New Beginnings for Life, police said the disabled man continued to grab candy bars off the shelves, prompting her to slap his hand away.

Police tried to speak with the man, but he was unable to communicate.

Upon viewing surveillance footage, police said Zoldak was seen kicking and pushing the man, pulling his hair, and even at one point putting his head under her arm before shoving him to the floor.

Statements from three witnesses, including

Walgreens employees, corroborated the surveillance footage, police said, and employees reported they had pleaded with Zoldak to stop hitting the man and "to just leave him alone." One employee also said that Zoldak stated to the man that he was going to make her lose her job, police said.

According to the police, the man was then transported to Middlesex Hospital with an accompanying officer, who assisted in providing care to the victim until another caretaker's arrival.

While Zoldak was being transported to the Middlesex Police Department to be booked, police said they smelled the odor of marijuana emanating from her purse, which was sitting on the passenger floor mat of the police cruiser.

Her purse contained a clear, plastic bag containing marijuana and a multicolored glass smoking pipe containing marijuana residue inside the exterior purse pocket – which Zoldak claimed were items that belonged to her for "personal use."

New Beginnings for Life – a contractor for the state Department of Developmental Services – did not return calls or emails by press time Thursday to confirm Zoldak's current status with the agency and whether she was still employed.



Danielle Zoldak

East Hampton Police News

6/21: Donald Neff Jr., 47, of 255 Rock Landing Rd., Haddam Neck, was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates and failure to carry insurance, East Hampton Police said.

6/21: Ronald J. Deschaine, 40, of 23 Main St., was issued a summons for sixth-degree larceny (shoplifting), police said.

6/22: Jamie C. Grimshaw, 46, of 26 N. Main St., was issued a summons for sixth-degree lar-

ceny, police said.

6/25: After an investigation into a two-car motor vehicle accident on Route 66, Bernard Wagner, 40, of 37 Senate Brook Dr., Hebron, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and following too close, police said.

Also, from June 19-25, officers responded to 19 medical calls, three motor vehicle accidents and 12 alarms, and made 28 traffic stops, police said.

Property Mill Rate to Rise in Marlborough

by Julianna Roche

Following a unanimous vote by the Board of Finance at its meeting last Friday night, the property mill rate for the 2017-18 fiscal year has been set at 35.46 mills – an increase of 1.31 mills over last year's 34.15.

The mill rate helps calculate residents' taxes and residents can determine their taxes by multiplying the mill rate by their total assessments. As one mill is equal to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property, under the approved rate of 35.46 mills, the average homeowner with property valued at \$250,000 would then pay \$8,865 in taxes on it – up from last year's \$8,537.

Of the approved mill rate, Board of Finance Chairman Doug Knowlton explained that since Gov. Dannel Malloy has still not set a state budget, there were "too many unknowns" for the board to do anything other than set the mill rate based on what was presented at town meeting on June 26.

Board of Finance member Ken Hjulstrom agreed, adding this week that the mill rate is also based on "assumptions that were made regarding state revenues pending a state budget" – which per the governor's current proposed budget plan means a potential loss of \$2 million in revenue for Marlborough.

The town's motor vehicle mill rate, meanwhile, was set at 32 – which Knowlton explained is in accordance with state statute.

"We really didn't have a choice there," Hjulstrom added.

While a mill rate has been set at this point, however, Knowlton said it's likely not the last time the board will be discussing it.

"The fact that no state budget has been acted on by the legislature by the end of last month [the end of the 2016-17 fiscal year] means we're probably going to have to revisit this when the state makes up its mind," he said.

"We're not done with this," Knowlton continued. "I can say I believe [however] we are sensitive to the fact that any changes to the set mill rate will impact people in town and we want to minimize those impacts as much as we can."

"But who knows what that means," he furthered, adding the town won't know exactly how drastic or impactful cuts to municipal funding will be until the state passes its budget.

According to Knowlton, the finance board had "a very good conversation" at Friday's meeting however, and agreed that should the state cut even more revenue than what's proposed, the board would have to reevaluate the mill rate.

"Before we jump on making changes to the mill rate that the people already planned on, I think we'd need to make sure there wasn't some other way of balancing the budget," he said.

Per state statute, if the mill rate is set too low, it can always be increased. However, if the mill rate is set too high and supplemental tax bills are sent out to residents – which the Board of Selectmen can do if necessary to cover expenses in the town – then rebates cannot be offered to residents.

Should adjustments need to be made to the 35.46 set mill rate however, Knowlton explained that the Board of Finance, along with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education, would convene and "have to work together" once the state budget is passed.

"The biggest question will be where Marlborough and other towns end up once the state finalizes their budget," Hjulstrom agreed. "And when that will happen is anyone's guess."

Colchester Police News

6/27: State Police said Jeffrey Frazer, 45, of 240 Lebanon Ave., was arrested and charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct.

6/27: Colchester Police said at approximately 6:25 p.m., they received a report of a burglary from a residence on Harbor Road. According to the victim, he returned home around 4:40 p.m. to find an open front and a rear door to his residence, and \$800 cash stolen from a safe inside a bedroom closet. The case remains under investigation. Anyone with information is asked

Hebron Police News

6/27: State Police said David M. Flammia, 40, of 43 Gallaudet Dr., West Hartford, was arrested and charged with speeding and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol.

Andover Police News

6/27: State Police said Andrew J. Morrison, 19, of 585 Jerusalem Rd., Windham, was arrested and charged with 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

6/27: State Police said Alex J. Sawka, 43, of 1927 Main St., East Hartford, was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle under the influence of drugs/alcohol, failure to drive at a reasonable distance, and carrying weapons in a vehicle.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Edgar Edwin Clark

Edgar Edwin Clark of Palm Coast, Fla., formerly of Marlborough, born May 22, 1925, in Wethersfield, died peacefully in his sleep Tuesday, June 27. The son of Leon Q and Mabel L (Cross) Clark, he attended Wethersfield High School and at age 17 enlisted in the US Navy at the outbreak of World War II and served in the South Pacific Arena.

Edgar was predeceased by his beloved wife of 45 years, Patricia Eleanor Angel Bagshawe, formerly of West Hartford, with whom he had five daughters: Linda Tedeschi of Hartford, Donna and Romuald Flieger of Palm Coast, Fla., Sandra and Gary Zawistowski of East Haddam, Debra White of South Windsor, and Riva Clark of Marlborough. He is survived by three grandchildren, Joseph and Matthew Tedeschi of Hartford, Amber Zawistowski and her fiancé Brett Gallitto; great-granddaughter Brianna Gallitto of Middletown; family relative Elizabeth Robinson of Palm Coast, Fla.; and many cousins and nephews.

Edgar was also predeceased by his sisters, Joyce Stocksdale, Doris Tomlinson, and son-in-laws Anthony Tedeschi and Ian White.

He was a 47-year employee of the Merritt Baldwin Construction Company of Wethersfield serving as the construction supervisor. Well-known for his exceptional work ethic and superior craftsmanship as they were a source of self-respect, satisfaction, and fulfillment to him. Edgar was an avid outdoorsman enjoying trapping, fishing, bow and rifle hunting, and boating. He was a member of the Wethersfield Game Club, the East Glastonbury Fish & Game Club, a 50-year member of Wethersfield Free Masons Lodge 147, and the United Methodist Church of Wethersfield.

In 1966, he moved his family to Marlborough to become the volunteer caretaker of the soon-to-open Hartford County 4-H Outdoor Center. He took pleasure in being a 4-H club leader and serving on the 4-H Camp Board of Directors for many years. In addition he enjoyed American Indian history, gardening, cooking, canning, and raising a variety of livestock including cattle, pigs, lambs, turkeys, fowl and peacocks.

In 1981, Pat and Edgar sold their summer home in Charlestown, R.I., and Edgar built a new family home in Manchester and upon his retirement in 1991 they moved to Palm Coast, Fla. Edgar moved to Bear Creek, Ormond Beach, Fla., and took up growing orchids and married Alicia Tiemann, who predeceased him. He returned to Connecticut in his later years and enjoyed dominoes, Western movies and served as president of the Lake Hayward Garden Club. Edgar moved back to Palm Coast, Fla., in October 2013 to enjoy the warmer climate.

Throughout his life, Edgar never lost his passion for food, cooking, card-playing, and practical jokes.

Calling hours will be held at the Solomon Welles House, 220 Hartford Ave., Old Wethersfield, Wednesday, July 19, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. A private family burial is planned.

In lieu of flowers, he wished for donations in his name to the American Diabetes Association, 260 Cochituate Rd., Suite 200, Framington MA 01701 or online at diabetes.org.

Colchester

Victoria A. Dominick

Victoria A. Dominick, 93, of Colchester, widow of the late Henry J. Dominick, entered eternal rest Tuesday, July 4, at her home. Born Dec. 18, 1923, in Carteret, N.J., she was the daughter of the late Michael and Mary (Moskal) Ruzala.

Vickie was a graduate of Katherine Gibbs secretarial school and began her career in New Jersey before her marriage to Henry on Nov. 24, 1954. After moving to Colchester, she worked for the former Larry Gilman Corp. in Fitchville and then for the Glastonbury Board of Education, where she retired. She was a parishioner of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church in Colchester, where she was a member of the former Ladies Guild. She was also a member of the Democratic Ladies Club.

She is survived by her son, Terence P. Dominick Sr. and wife Virginia; three grandsons, Terence P. Jr., Henry C., and Joseph S. Dominick, all of Colchester; and several nieces in New Jersey and Florida.

In addition to her husband, she was predeceased by five sisters and a nephew.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated Saturday, July 8, at 10 a.m., at St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

Arrangements are entrusted to the Woyasz & Son Funeral Home.

Colchester

Jay Gardner Ingves

Jay Gardner Ingves, "Jay Bird," 57, of Colchester, formerly of Norwich, passed away at home Friday, June 30. He was born in Norwich Sept. 30, 1959, a son of Mae (Smith) Ingves of Colchester and the late Verner Ingves.

Jay grew up in Norwich and graduated from NFA. He suffered with traumatic brain injury for most of his adult life. Despite his disability, Jay was proud of his work with Marvin's John Deere as a mechanic. He was also formerly a volunteer with Project Genesis, helping others with similar disabilities. He loved his pet bird, "Baby Boy."

Jay will be remembered for his great sense of humor. He was a prankster who loved to banter back and forth and to see people laugh. He was a good man, a great friend to many and like a brother to the people who helped him. Most importantly, he was an adoring and loving grandfather.

He will be sadly missed but always remembered by his mother, Mae; his daughter, Sarah and her husband Timothy Maguire of New London; two stepsons, Charles Monck of Ellington and Jason Monck of Canterbury; five siblings and their spouses: brothers, Kris and wife Debbie of Hebron, Kent and wife Martha of Lebanon, Keith and wife Joanne of Oakdale; sisters, Debby and husband Thomas Gilman of Lebanon, Lesley Ingves of Oakdale; three grandchildren, Arianna Ingves, Logan and Mary Ann Monck; and numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and friends.

Funeral services will be held privately.

Donations in his memory may be made to Project Genesis, Inc. P.O. Box 799, Willimantic, CT 06226.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Audrey Godwin

Audrey Ann (Burdick) Godwin, 88, of Portland, beloved wife of Frank Joseph Godwin Jr. for 67 years, passed away surrounded by family Friday, June 30. Born in Middletown, she was the daughter of the late Floyd and Elizabeth (Rich) Burdick.

Audrey had lived in Portland for over 50 years and was a very active member of Trinity Episcopal Church. She was a past matron of the Lady Washington Chapter 45 O.E.S. and was a long-term volunteer at Middlesex Hospital, with over 2,000 hours logged. Audrey enjoyed golfing, gardening, bagpipe music and bird watching especially Hummingbirds. She also loved to knitting, crocheting and traveling over many areas of the world.

Audrey had a loving and generous heart and was always giving to others. She raised her four children and was involved in their lives and her grandchildren's lives. Audrey's love of family was everything.

Along with her husband, Audrey is survived by two sons, Robert Godwin and his wife Nancy of Portland and David Godwin of East Hampton; a daughter, Sharon Godwin Purzycki and her husband Todd of Portland; a daughter-in-law, Kathy Godwin of East Hampton; nine grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and three very close friends, Josephine Collomore, Stasia D'Aquila and Bill Schneck.

Besides her parents, her son, Norman S. Godwin, predeceased her.

Funeral services will be held today, July 7, at 10 a.m., at Trinity Episcopal Church. Burial will follow in Swedish Cemetery in Portland. Family and friends called Thursday evening, July 6, at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Audrey's memory may be made to Middlesex Hospital Hospice & Palliative Care, 28 Crescent Street, Middletown, CT 06457 or Trinity Episcopal Church, 345 Main Street, Portland, CT 06480.

To share memories or send condolences to the family, visit doolittlefuneralservice.com.



Marlborough

Helen C. Maiorano

Helen C. (Skorupski) Maiorano, 93, of Marlborough, died peacefully at home Sunday, July 2. Helen was born Nov. 30, 1923, in New Britain.

She was predeceased by her parents, Juzef and Helena Skorupski. She was raised along with her siblings from a very young age at the Polish orphanage in New Britain. She attended and graduated with high honors from New Britain High School in 1941. Helen began her employment at the Institute of Living in Hartford as a secretary to several psychiatrists for several years. She became a stay-at-home mom while raising her two sons. During this time, she worked as the church secretary for St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. She reentered the work force in 1964 as an executive secretary at Arbor Acres International Poultry Farms in Glastonbury, and remained there for the next 25 years. She retired in 1990 to help care for her only granddaughter.

Helen was a 67-year resident of Marlborough, having moved there in 1949 with her husband, Anthony. She and Tony were actively involved in helping to bring to Marlborough its own Catholic church in the 1970s (St. John Fisher Church). She was very generous in her financial and spiritual support of various Catholic charities and organizations over the years.

Helen is survived by her two sons and their wives, Michael and Diane Maiorano of Bolton, and Paul and Holly Maiorano of Glastonbury; a granddaughter and her husband, Theresa and Keith Jones of Hebron; and her great-grandson, Oliver Jones. In addition, Helen also leaves behind her only remaining sibling, Camille Essel of Forestville, and many loving nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was predeceased by three brothers, three sisters and one nephew.

The family would like to thank Stay At Home Care, specifically Vinnett Bromwell, her longtime caregiver of four years, who helped her remain at home. In addition, appreciation is also given to Masonicare Hospice who provided comfort and care over the last two years.

The funeral service will be held at St. John Fisher Church on Jones Hollow Road in Marlborough today, July 7, at 10 a.m. Burial will be private at a later date at the convenience of the family.

Special thanks to the Marlborough Ambulance Association. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial donations be made to Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Spencer Funeral Home in East Hampton is handling the arrangements. Online condolences can be made via the online obituary at spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Hebron

Thomas L. Kelly

Thomas L. Kelly of Hebron passed away Thursday, June 8, at the age of 74, after suffering from a series of strokes.

Tom leaves behind his wife of nearly 52 years, Barbara (Braman); his son Robert and his wife Rebecca, their children Grace, Matthew, and Daniel of Wichita, Kan.; and his son William of Hebron.

Tom is preceded in death by his son David Thomas Kelly.

Tom was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, grandfather, and friend who proudly served this nation for 20 years in the U.S. Navy, Army National Guard, and U.S. Coast Guard. Tom retired from SNET after 31 years of service. Tom remained active throughout his life travelling across the country and camping with his family, obtaining his private pilot's license, participating in Freemasonry, the Jaycees, and Toastmasters, serving as a deacon in his church and a Hebron Board of Education member, a HAM radio operator, and most recently as a volunteer firefighter/first responder and American Legion post commander at their second home in Oklahoma, where he was born and raised.

Calling hours were held Sunday, June 11, at Watkins Funeral Home, 142 East Center St. in Manchester, with a Masonic service held that afternoon. Funeral services were celebrated Monday, June 12, at Gilead Congregational Church, Route 85 in Hebron. Burial with military honors followed in Gilead Cemetery, Hebron.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Legion, 24 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248, or to the Wounded Warrior Project.

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



Portland

Constance Louise McDougall

Constance Louise (Beyer) McDougall, 94, of Portland, died peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, Saturday, July 1. She was born July 29, 1922, in Hartford, daughter of the late Charles F. and Madeline L. Beyer; she was wife of the late Donald McDougall (1918-1982).

She was in the first graduating class from East Hampton High School in 1940, where she made memories for a lifetime, dancing and singing in musicals. Mrs. McDougall was employed as a stenographer for the Selective Service System during World War II, and for 15 years at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft Division of United Technologies Corporation, in East Hartford. With her husband, she is a past member of the Pattaconk Yacht Club of Chester, The Hemlock Grange No. 182 of Portland, and the Company of Fifers and Drummers, of Ivoryton, Connecticut. Connie was a devoted supporter of her children's activities and served as secretary and quartermaster of the Portland Ancient Fife & Drum Corps in the 1970s. She was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary, Portland.

She is survived by twin sons, Peter and his wife Suzanne, Robert and his wife Luiza, both of Portland; a daughter, Diane and her husband Timothy Desautelle of Framingham, Mass.; five grandchildren, Dylan, Madeline and Heather McDougall, and Bridget and Maximilian Desautelle; a sister, Madeline Beyer Clark of Middletown; a sister-in-law, Marie Beyer of North Fort Myers, Fla.; a niece, five nephews and 12 grand nieces and nephews.

She is predeceased by a brother, Charles Eugene Beyer; a sister, Rosalie Beyer Alden; a beloved niece, Charlotte M. Beyer; and a nephew, John M. Alden Jr.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Monday, July 10, at 10 a.m., at St. Patrick Church, 47 W. High St., East Hampton, with burial in St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in support of televised Mass, to ORTV Inc. (the Office of Radio and Television, ortv.org), 15 Peach Orchard Rd., Prospect, CT 06712-1052.

Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton has been entrusted with the arrangements. To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

