

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Fire Ravages Home... An East Hampton duplex was ravaged by fire Sunday night. Everyone was able to safely escape the blaze, and no injuries were reported. See story on page 19.

Early Snowfall Blankets Area

by Sloan Brewster

It's technically still autumn, but Mother Nature had other ideas earlier this week when a storm dumped several inches of snow on area towns, leading to delays and cancellations for schools and a prolonged clean-up.

Riverest towns got anywhere between three to nine inches of snow as well as some freezing rain in the long-duration storm that spanned from Sunday night through Tuesday morning, officials said. In most of the towns, crews started treating surfaces for the oncoming storm sometime Sunday afternoon and worked through Monday clearing snow from roads and parking lots. Then they picked up again Monday evening and worked through the end of the business day Tuesday.

"They're getting out dark and early and they're doing a fine job," Marlborough First Selectman Greg Lowrey said.

Total snowfall in that town was between 7 and 8 inches, he said.

Lowrey, who is also a volunteer EMT, said he has been in ambulances during storms and has seen the transformation from a snow-covered mess to clean drivable streets in a couple hours.

In Colchester, crews hit the roads at about 1:30 in the afternoon Sunday and kept up the

effort until about 11:30 that night, said Jim Paggioli, director of Public Works.

The first thing they did was put down de-icing treatment to make sure things didn't freeze, he said. After snow started coming down, they began snow removal.

Many towns are now using treated salt instead of the previous mixture of salt and dirt to treat the roads.

Portland moved to treated salt last year, said Robert Shea, director of public works. The town buys salt and treats it with an organic molasses-based mixture.

This storm marked the first time Andover used treated salt, as opposed to a salt-and-sand mixture, Town Administrator Eric Anderson said. The town buys salt that is already treated.

"We made the transition to align policies with the state guidelines for what the state calls the Green SnowPro Program," he said.

Snow accumulations weren't as intense Sunday as they were Monday, when the crews were back on the roads starting at about 6 p.m., Paggioli said. They continued for the next 13 hours.

By Tuesday afternoon, the roads were clear and snow was melting under the gleaming sun. See Early Snowfall page 2

State's Lone EEE Survivor Continues to Recuperate

by Karla Santos

Richard Pawulski, 43, of Colchester, spent the last days of summer swimming at his home pool with his wife and daughter, who was getting ready to start high school at Bacon Academy.

But Aug. 21 would prove to be a life-changing day for him and his family. Pawulski began experiencing symptoms of what would eventually be diagnosed as the mosquito-borne illness Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE).

According to the state Department of Public Health, Pawulski was one of four Connecticut residents diagnosed with the disease this summer – and he is the only one to survive.

The road to determining EEE to be the cause of Pawulski's suffering was a long and winding one. Vomiting and with a high fever, Pawulski was rushed by his family to Middlesex Hospital, where an MRI was conducted.

Through the MRI, medical professionals noticed some fluid in Pawulski's head and thought it had to do with a shunt, or a narrow piece of tubing, that he had in his brain since age 9, when he had brain cancer.

That day, he was transferred to Yale New Haven Hospital. At that point he was conscious, talking and walking. The next day, he went through a shunt removal surgery to figure out what the fluid was.

"When we went to visit, he was sleeping, which we thought it was just because it was after surgery," his daughter, Amellia Pawulski, said – but they soon realized he was in a coma.

Richard's wife, Margaret Pawulski, said that at that point doctors thought he had bacterial meningitis, but the results for it were negative. Then the doctors performed a biopsy from the fluid in his brain, and the results didn't show anything of concern.

"After this, they took a lumbar puncture, and the first lumbar puncture showed nothing," Margaret said. "Then they took a second lumbar puncture, sent a sample to Atlanta, Ga., and they told us it was [EEE]."

It took about five weeks, or until Oct. 1, for the results to come back, Margaret said. After learning he had EEE, another MRI was performed on Richard. It showed that his brain had begun to get inflamed.

Amellia said that because of the inflammation, all of the cells were gone in the portion of Richard's brain that controls his walking and talking.

Doctors told Margaret and Amellia that he would never talk or walk again. Doctors also told the mother and daughter that there was no treatment, cure or therapy for his condition.

"When we were told that he was not going

See EEE Survivor page 2



Richard Pawulski of Colchester is recuperating at Gaylord Specialty Healthcare after he was infected with Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE) this summer. Of the four Connecticut residents diagnosed with EEE this year, Pawulski is the only one to survive. He's shown here with his wife Margaret and daughter Amellia at her middle school graduation earlier this year.

Early Snowfall cont. from Front Page

First Selectman Mary Bylone said. “Well it looked beautiful, really; if you’re in New England you better like beautiful snow,” she said. “The trucks were out and made quick work of it.”

East Hampton got between four and six inches of snow, depending on the location in town. Public Works Director Matthew Walsh said. During the storm, there were between 13 and 14 trucks on the road.

The majority of the roads were clear by mid-morning Tuesday, once the heavy bands of snow ceased, Walsh said.

On Sunday, crews – which began working mid-day and continued through late evening – focused mostly on treating the roads and removing slush, he said. They returned Monday and worked to ensure there were no icing conditions and worked through the day preparing for the rest of the incoming storm. Then, from Monday evening through Tuesday morning – when the storm pounded the landscape with the most snow – they were out plowing the roads.

Once the roads were clear, crews commenced cleaning school parking lots and later in the day, focused on town-maintained sidewalks.

“The spread-out duration of the storm was the biggest challenge, but East Hampton Public Works crews kept up with it, which aided in the quick cleanup of the roads Tuesday morning,” Walsh said.

Hebron got between four and five inches of snow, with about 10 trucks clearing the roads, according to Town Manager Andrew Tierney.

“Well, of course we got more snow than was forecasted,” he said. “So, it made clearing the snow for rush-hour a little more challenging due to the continued snowfall, but by 8 o’clock everything was in pretty good shape.”

In Andover, crews dealt with about three inches from the first part of the storm and six from the second, Anderson said. They started working at about 2 in the afternoon Sunday and worked through the night.

“We had freezing rain in that period so we needed to keep a reasonable amount of salt on the road and continue to plow,” he said.

On Monday night at about 9 p.m., they started up again and kept going until the end of the business day Tuesday.

Portland got between six and eight inches of snow, Shea said, with the highest volumes falling in the hills.

“The heaviest snowfall came – which we didn’t really expect – between the hours of midnight [Monday] and 4 a.m. [Tuesday],” he said Tuesday afternoon. “We’re treating and trying to stay ahead of it.”

With a full staff, crews started Sunday and were out “for quite a while,” Shea said. The

guys were able to get some rest before heading back out Monday afternoon and working through the night.

“The guys did a great job,” he said. Portland Superintendent of Schools Philip O’Reilly said “for all intents and purposes,” cleanup at the schools was done by late Tuesday morning.

A custodial crew of two to four members per building cleans up sidewalks while maintenance workers do the plowing, he said.

Town crews come in when there’s heavy snow to clear, the superintendent added. “So we really do work with the town.”

Work on school grounds starts between 2 or 3 in the morning, he said.

“Sometimes it doesn’t end. In other words, people are out 24 hours until it’s cleaned up,” he said. “Every storm is unique and this storm certainly was unique. It didn’t perform in any way that the weather people said it would.”

Based on weather reports, O’Reilly anticipated that the storm would be stronger “on the front end than the back end,” he said. It ended up being the opposite.

O’Reilly delayed school Monday and closed schools Tuesday, he said. He made that decision at about 3:55 a.m., after speaking with the director of facilities and grounds.

In addition to that call, O’Reilly also had a call with about 20 superintendents and a weather consultant. After that call, he emailed local superintendents from Middletown, Cromwell, East Haddam and East Hampton to see what each one was planning to do, so districts that share services could plan how those services would be affected.

“It could be the Cromwell and Portland football team we share, that could impact football games or practices,” O’Reilly said. “We do send children from Portland to a school in Middletown – the vocational [school] – so what they do impacts that or what we do impacts them.”

One thing superintendents have to keep in mind when deciding whether or not to close or delay school is new drivers, according to Lowrey, who said he was reminded about that in a phone call with RHAM Superintendent of Schools Patricia Law Tuesday morning.

“At the high school level, you’ve got students driving themselves to school,” he said. “Students are new drivers.”

While the roads were pretty clear by 3 a.m., the snow had not stopped falling when the schools had to make the call about closing that day, Lowrey said.

“It was still snowing pretty heavily,” he said. Still, he added, “the parking lot was blacktop by the time the sun was up.”

Storm Impact on Budgets Unclear

by Sloan Brewster

Town officials said this week it’s too soon to say how the cleanup for this week’s storm will impact their snow removal budgets.

Portland Public Works Director Robert Shea said the town budgeted approximately \$50,000 this year for snow specific overtime and about \$80,000 for materials related to snow removal. The town bases its numbers and determines how much product it will need on an average number of anticipated storms.

“If we start early and end late, it’s definitely going to impact the season,” he said. “Last year we started early, then had a lapse, then had hard ice storms at the end.”

While the town endeavors to get as close as possible to the actual number of storms, it’s not an exact science.

“That is one particular part of the budget that’s difficult to manage, you have very little control over Mother Nature,” Shea said.

This week’s storm cut into overtime, with crews getting double time Sunday and time-and-a-half Monday night, he said.

“Because it was a long-duration storm it was a little expensive,” he said. “Last year, there were holidays and Sunday/Monday storms. The double times and the holidays really hurt, as well as the long-duration storms.”

Budget is not the only place that gets hit, he added, saying it was also hard on the work-

ers, who sleep at the office during long snow events.

Colchester’s total snow removal budget for the current year is \$495,165, Jim Paggioli, the town’s director of public works, said. Overtime related to snow is included in the tally and early storms are anticipated when the math is done, so while this week’s storm hit early the budget should balance at the end of the year.

“As long as the storms don’t line up two times a week, we’ll be okay,” he said.

Also in anticipation of early storms, crews have a stockpile of salt and their gear on hand by Nov. 1.

“You will always hear the word ‘snow’ occur one time between Halloween and Thanksgiving,” Paggioli said. “We always expect a snowstorm, even at this part of the season.”

Andover First Selectman Eric Anderson said that town has budgeted \$88,550 for snow removal this year – a number that includes sand, salt and snow-related items such as snowplow blades.

“It’s way too early to know,” Anderson said of the cost of this week’s cleanup. “The town budgets for basically the average snow year.”

In years with more snow than expected, money can be moved from other places into the snow removal account.

EEE Survivor cont. from Front Page

to go back to the way he was, we had a decision to make – to either keep him at Yale or move him to a nursing home, so we could just keep him alive,” Amellia said. “We chose to move him to hospice in Middlesex, and he was there for a week.”

According to Amellia, he had no food or water for that entire week.

Doctors then moved him to a medical floor of the hospital, where he stayed for another two weeks. And that’s where things started to take a delightful turn: Richard began to wake from his coma. The signs were small – opening his eyes, moving his fingers – but they were there.

“He started to make progress, more and more,” Margaret said.

Since he was emerging from his coma, the family needed to move Pawulski to a rehab center. They chose Gaylord Specialty Healthcare in Wallingford, and he has been there since Nov. 8.

Happily, the progress continued at Gaylord. “We have a video where we asked him if he could stick out his tongue and he stuck it out,” Amellia added.

Amellia said her father is now saying simple words and phrases like their dog’s name and “I love you.” He is also moving his arms more.

“He has occupational therapy, speech therapy, and physical therapy,” Margaret said. “Everybody is saying, ‘Oh my God, that’s like a miracle.’ I can’t explain what’s happening with him. That’s my one answer: Miracle. We prayed a lot. Everybody prayed – friends, family.”

The family is going through negotiations with their insurance company to extend Richard’s time at Gaylord for as long as possible. Margaret said that the insurance company’s recommendation is to transfer Richard to a nursing home.

Before falling ill, Richard worked as a physical therapist for people with brain injuries at Allied Community Services. The family moved to Colchester last year, after previously living in North Branford.

The family has created a GoFundMe page to help with its financial burden. To donate, visit tinyurl.com/qgo2hrs.

Vandals Strike Parking Lot of Abundant Life in Colchester

by Karla Santos

The Colchester Police Department is looking for people it said vandalized the parking lot of Abundant Life Church during the overnight hours of Nov. 26-27.

The morning of Nov. 27, Charles Brown, pastor of Abundant Life, arrived to the church to find out that the parking lot of the church was damaged in several areas.

Because of the mud tracks in some areas of the parking lot, he said it appeared that either two vehicles, or a truck, drove over the parking lot, damaging its curbing and landscaping.

"Apparently there were two people," Brown said, adding that they were possibly in dually trucks – meaning there were four rear wheels. "They were skidding in the parking lot and then they went over a couple of flower beds and did some quite damage."

Upon discovering the damage, Brown said he called the local police department.

Resident Trooper Sgt. Michael Rondinone told the *RiverEast* Monday that at the moment police didn't have any information leading to the person or exact vehicle that vandalized the church.

"That looks like it was possibly a larger pickup truck so we are going to look to see if any of the neighbor residents has a video that was captured with regards to the incident," Rondinone said. "It's either two vehicles or a large dually truck."

Brown said the church has no surveillance video available of the scene.

"It's a big parking lot; it'd be pretty hard to [have video surveillance of] the whole parking lot," he said, and added, "We've had some vandalism in the past with people painting. I've seen things in the parking lot but never this.

That can be cleaned up; this can't."

Brown said one of the main concerns is the amount of money that it may take to repair the damages.

"It's going to be expensive to repair," Brown said. "We have insurance but the insurance deductible is so high in a church, it may not be worth it. It might just be cheaper to fix it."

Brown said he would like to "eventually" get it fixed and while church officials have not met to discuss the issue yet, they plan to do so.

Brown said he estimates that it may cost between \$2,000 and \$3,000 to fix the damage that was done to the church's parking lot.

"And that's just a rough estimate, of course," he said.

Brown said "we are forgiving people," but if the person who did it gets caught, the hope is that they would pay for the cost of the damage.

"It's a shame that they would treat church property so lightly," Brown said. "Maybe they were drunk; I don't know. It's just kind of foolish."

The way the parking lot looked before it was vandalized was the result of many hours of volunteer work the church community has put in.

Brown said the yard is worked on all the time and church members take turns as volunteers to work on it. Some of the work that's frequently done in the parking lot is cutting the grass, plowing the snow and keeping up with the flower beds.

"We do the flower beds, we try to keep them up nicely," Brown said. "There's like eight flower beds and so different people take turns making our flower beds look nice."

The police department's Facebook post in-



The Colchester Police Department is looking for the people behind the vandalism of the parking lot of Abundant Life Church the night of Nov. 26-27.

cluded four pictures of what the parking lot ended up looking like after it was vandalized.

Police ask anyone who may have witnessed

the vandalism or has information concerning it to contact the department at 860-537-7270.

Annual Gathering on the Green in Marlborough is Saturday

by Karla Santos

Marlborough's annual Gathering on the Green returns Saturday – and this year, beloved restaurateur Kevin Haggerty is the guest of honor.

Haggerty, owner of Sadler's Ordinary, suffered a spinal cord injury in a July surfing accident. The injury left him paralyzed, and he is currently recuperating at Portland Care & Rehabilitation Centre Inc. as he undergoes physical therapy to regain some of the strength he lost following the accident.

At Saturday's gathering, Haggerty and his family will perform the ceremonial lighting of town Christmas tree at 6 p.m. on the Town Green.

Normally the guest of honor selected for the event is an individual or a family going through a tough time. Mark Merritt, rescue captain of the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and an organizer of the event, said the department is "beyond excited" to have Haggerty light up the tree because of his "huge" support to the fire department and "everything in Marlborough."

Haggerty said he was honored by the request to participate in the tree-lighting. In past years, he said, he's made contributions to the fireworks display – but had no idea that he would be the one lighting the tree one day.

"Once I got past the tears, I gladly accepted," Haggerty said. "We've done a lot for the community and I find, since my accident, they've wrapped themselves around me, helping me with my injury and supporting me through it all."

The Gathering on the Green is a partnership between the fire department and the Marlborough Parks and Recreation Department.

This year the festivities start at 4:30 p.m. with holiday music, hot chocolate and cookies. At 5:30, the lighted fire truck parade and arrival of Santa will take place. From 5:15 to 6 p.m., the community will have an opportunity to take

pictures with Santa. The event ends at 6 p.m. with the Christmas tree lighting and fireworks.

The Gathering on the Green was first held in 2010. The Marlborough Education Foundation, PTO and Marlborough Arts Center joined together to provide the community with the free celebration of the holiday season. At that time, the event included the tree lighting, refreshments and other activities. The initial organizers eventually bowed out, Merritt said, which is when the fire department stepped in to take over. Merritt said the fire department added the lighted fire truck parade and the fireworks.

Other towns' fire departments also join Marlborough in decorating their trucks and participating in the lighted fire truck parade.

"There's a lot of towns that come with fire trucks if they don't have anything going on that year," Merritt said. "This year we have Bozrah, East Hampton, Hebron and Windsor. ... We send [the invitation] out to a bunch of departments and whoever responds, responds."

The parade starts at the firehouse and then it travels through Route 66 and North Main Street.

"Then we just pull back in, so it's just like one big loop," Merritt added.

As for the Parks and Recreation Department, it has "a couple of small events for the kids to do around 4:30, just while they are waiting for the fire truck parade," Merritt said. "The Women's Auxiliary and the PTO participate in handing out hot chocolate and cookies. The cookies are donated by the Senior Center."

Merritt said members of the fire department try and raise as much money as they can for the event. The cost of the fireworks display is normally between \$5,000 and \$6,000 each year, he said.

The Parks and Recreation Department also contributes with funding for the event, he said. He said Parks and Rec. pays a disc jockey to be in charge of the music, and also contributes some of the lighting and a portable restroom.

One of the main sources of fundraising for



Residents lined North Main Street last December to check out decorated fire trucks from Marlborough and surrounding towns during the town's annual Gathering on the Green. This year's Gathering takes place tomorrow, Dec. 7.

the event is through a GoFundMe page. Merritt said that some people had also sent checks to the Fire Department with donations for the event. Merritt said that by Tuesday, the GoFundMe page had collected more than \$3,000, which was getting them closer to their \$5,000 goal.

He added that if they don't collect what they need, the fire department will cover the rest of the cost.

The event is centered around the community, which is why, Merritt said, it's a "great" one.

"We had snow a couple of years ago and it was like our own little Hallmark movie," Merritt said. "We don't do a lot of things like that in Marlborough and the more stuff we can do like this, I just think it brings the whole community together."

To donate toward the fireworks display, go to tinyurl.com/r6zy88z.

Fire Displaces East Hampton Family with Tiny Baby

by Sloan Brewster

Fire gutted an East Hampton home Sunday night, but the family and cat inside safely escaped.

Michelle Rodriguez was feeding her 2-month-old daughter at their 48 Abbey Rd. apartment when she smelled something burning and noticed sparks outside the window, according to family friend Jodie Sylvester of Lebanon. She looked out the window and could see the top floor of the house was in flames.

She called for her husband and they grabbed what they could, ran outside and called for help.

As soon as Michelle Rodriguez got outside, she screamed and the family cat appeared in the window, allowing them to rescue the feline as well, said her mother, Liz Bloomingdale Tallberg. Tallberg added that, in the melee, her son-in-law ran outside in only a robe and bare feet.

The Rodriguez family lived on the bottom floor of the over-under duplex. The occupant of the second floor could not be reached for this story, but Fire Chief Greg Voelker said he safely escaped.

The Rodriguez family is temporarily staying with Tallberg in her East Hampton home, Sylvester said.

Jim Burke, public information officer for the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department said

the call for the fire came in shortly after 10 p.m. Sunday. Upon arrival, firefighters found the house fully involved with heavy fire shooting from the roof and second floor.

The department called for mutual aid tankers and manpower from neighboring towns and, according to Burke, “They came from all over the place.”

Departments that answered the call were Colchester, Marlborough, Portland, Haddam Neck, Haddam, East Haddam, and Lyme, Fire Chief Greg Voelker said. East Hampton firefighters were dispatched to the fire at approximately 10:15 p.m. and the blaze was extinguished in one and a half hours.

“No injuries to any civilians or firefighters were reported, all residents, and pets were accounted for (except a fish),” Voelker wrote in an email.

After returning to the firehouse, firefighters worked several hours to ready the apparatus for the next call, the chief said.

Voelker said the fire appeared to start in the northeast corner of the attic. The roof and attic were consumed by the fire, and the second floor sustained heavy fire, smoke, and water damage as the fire progressed.

The first floor also sustained water damage but much of it should be salvageable, both in

goods and in structural integrity, the chief added. The local and state fire marshal’s offices are investigating the blaze to determine its cause and origin.

The challenge was getting enough water to put out the fire as the road does not have a fire hydrant, Burke said. The East Hampton department brought in engines, ladders and tankers and the departments that helped out added their resources to the mix.

“Abbey Road is a long, narrow, windy road and the home was fully-involved when we pulled up,” he said. “Mutual aid brought water on wheels.”

Excess water was drawn from a dry hydrant about two miles away on Chestnut Hill Road, Burke said.

The Rodriguez family returned to the house Monday to find all their belongings waterlogged and damaged by smoke, Sylvester said – and added that smoke-damaged items, such as clothing and blankets, cannot be used by the infant.

She is helping the family get the necessities, especially needs for the baby and has set up a GoFundMe Page for donations to help them get a new place to live.

“We’re trying to get them food and belongings,” she said. “We’re just more concerned

about the baby stuff right now.”

The family needs blankets and clothes for a 3- to 6-month-old and diapers in size 1 and 2, as the baby is on the verge of growing out of size 1.

They also need women’s clothes in size large or extra-large and women’s size 10 shoes. For men, they need size medium shirts and pants with a 32-inch waist.

Other items that would help include a baby swing, wipes, winter jackets, a breast pump, and a stroller as well as gift cards to for personal hygiene items, food, clothes and shoes to stores such as Walmart.

While they will be on the lookout for a new place to live, Michelle Rodriguez is also working on completing her bachelor’s degree in nursing and her laptop and recently purchased books were also destroyed by water.

“We’re looking for new books. That’s one of the next things on the list, so she can finish up the semester,” Sylvester said. “We’re sitting here like, ‘Oh, the school stuff.’ Every time you start to think of something, you’re like, ‘Oh my God, it’s all gone.’”

To donate through GoFundMe, visit tinyurl.com/uurmchc.

New Furniture Coming for Andover Senior Center Space

by Sloan Brewster

Some new furniture will transform the Town Hall community room into a temporary senior center.

At Wednesday’s Board of Selectmen meeting, the board authorized selectman Paula King to buy several pieces for the room.

“We are ready to rock and roll with this,” King told her fellow selectmen.

According to information in the meeting packet, the furniture will include two couches for \$798, a set of three tables for \$199 and a hutch for \$599 with delivery totaling \$199.

Senior coordinator Cathy Palazzi chose from three couches, selecting one with two cushions and side handles, King said. The hutch will hold supplies and the coffee pot.

The room will also have a refrigerator, which has not been picked out yet, but according to the packet will cost approximately \$600. There will also be a coffee maker for \$50 and a television for approximately \$600.

“Did Cathy Palazzi go and sit on the couch?”

First Selectman Jeff Maguire asked with a smile.

Palazzi did not say if she had actually sat in the couch but said it did meet with her approval, adding that her only concern was the refrigerator, which she said she did not want to be too big.

Vice First Selectman Adrian Mandeville asked King if the purchases were within the \$5,000 budget the board had authorized for the pieces and she said yes.

According to the packet, Town Administrator Eric Anderson is looking for a grant to cover the cost of the TV.

The total cost for the new items comes to \$3,045; it will be drawn from the multi-use building fund.

The account has a total of \$450,000. The money can be used to cover costs for converting space for the seniors or toward the purchase of property for a free-standing center.

Last month selectmen approved the transformation of the community room into an interim senior center, after plans to convert the emptied third- and fourth-grade wing at Andover Elementary School into a senior/community center fell through. The wing was emptied out due to declining enrollment but after an outcry from parents about crowded classrooms, selectmen began to doubt the wing’s availability.

At last month’s Board of Education meeting, Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said the wing was currently used for physical and occupational therapy for special education students and as a timeout space if needed.

The school board is now considering how to use the wing when it is not in use.

Selectmen have also formed a committee to move forward with plans for constructing a community or senior center in town. During its one-year tenure, the committee will look at possible designs and costs of the center and

bring proposals to the Board of Selectmen.

The committee will have its first meeting in January.

Officials have also been on the prowl for meeting space for boards and commissions, which has been short and difficult to come by since the closure of the Old Firehouse on Center Street. Last October, selectmen, closed the Old Firehouse – which was used for a senior center and meeting space – due to a mold infestation.

Also Wednesday, selectmen learned the Board of Education had given them the go-ahead to use the elementary school’s music room for meetings weeknights between 5 and 10 p.m. Anderson said he had tried to convince selectmen to move Wednesday’s meeting to the school to give the room a try but said selectmen weren’t keen on the last-minute change.

“We will schedule our next meeting there,” Maguire said.

Portland Police News

11/15: Louis Alexander, 70, of 109 Apple Tree Lane, was charged with driving under the influence and failure to drive right, Portland Police said.

11/19: Amy Mogulnicki, 42, of 6 Jordan Lane, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

11/19: Matthew Gromko-Stamm, 22, of 37 Childs Rd., East Hampton, was charged with operating under the influence, failure to drive in proper lane, following too close, narcotics not kept in original container, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of narcotics and

possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, police said.

11/24: Michelle Kovalik, 34, of 77 Lake Plymouth Blvd., Plymouth, was charged with reckless driving, police said.

11/26: Renee Cottrill, 37, of 7 Grove St., was charged with improper use of marker plate and insufficient insurance, police said.

11/27: Thomas Truszkowski, 44, of 5 Riverview St. Ext., was charged with operating unregistered motor vehicle and insufficient insurance, police said.

Obituaries

Hebron

Robert Arthur Dupre

Robert Arthur Dupre, 86, of Hebron, passed away at home with his wife Bev at his side Thursday, Nov. 28. Born Jan. 24, 1933, in Putnam, he was a son of the late Ernest Joseph and Diana (Plasse) Dupre.



Bob was a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church and attended St. Mary's Parochial Elementary School and Putnam High School. In 1967, Bob married his beloved wife, Beverly Maryann (Damm). The couple moved to Hebron in 1971, raising their family there. While working full time and supporting his family, Bob graduated from Manchester Community College, with an associate's degree in respiratory therapy.

Bob was a proud Navy veteran who served our country during the Korean War. He was a member of the American Legion Post 95 in Hebron. He worked for Pratt and Whitney Aircraft for 38 years until his retirement. Bob enjoyed giving back and serving others, and was honored in 1992 by P&WA for his many years of community service and leadership to Hebron Boy Scout Troop 28 and Explorer Post.

Bob was a lifelong outdoorsman. He enjoyed years of adventures, fishing, hunting, hiking, canoeing, and camping with friends and family throughout New England and Canada. Bob instilled his love of nature in both his children. After numerous hiking trips with the Hebron Explorer Post, Bob and his son became members of the Appalachian Mountain 4,000 Footer Club. At the age of 70, he climbed his last 4,000 foot mountain with his daughter.

Bob was always very handy and enjoyed working on various projects including planting every tree in his yard, building an addition on his home, and completing numerous community service projects with the scouts. Throughout his retirement, Bob traveled extensively throughout the US with his family especially enjoying the wonders of the US National Parks. He stayed connected with old friends by attending many PHS reunions. Bob enjoyed meeting friends daily for breakfast in Hebron. He also enjoyed sitting in his favorite chair reading and watching the wildlife in his own backyard. Bob loved all animals and had many pets over the years but he was deeply attached to his golden retriever, Jake.

Most importantly, Bob will be remembered as a devoted and loving husband, father, and grandfather. He will be forever loved and missed by his wife of over 52 years, Beverly; son, Daniel (Beth) Dupre, of Marlborough; daughter, Judith Dupre (Aaron Schaeffer), of Arlington, Va.; sisters, Pauline LaPlante of Sunrise, Fla., and Ann Desantis, of Wallkill, N.Y.; grandson, Austin; honorary grandsons, Tim and Paul along with their mother, Marie; caregiver, Jhonny; as well as numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to both of his parents, Bob was predeceased by siblings, Madeline, Sylvia and Raymond Dupre; and his brother-in-law, Robert Desantis.

Special thanks to doctors Brodie, Goetz, Korkmaz, Reale, and Carta as well as the staff at Masonicare for their care and compassion.

Calling hours were held Thursday, Dec. 5, at Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Today, Dec. 6, there will be calling hours from 9-10 a.m. at the funeral home followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at 10:30 a.m. at St. Columba Church in Columbia. Burial with full military honors will follow in the Connecticut State Veterans' Cemetery in Middletown.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Hebron Volunteer Fire Department, 44 Main St., Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Michael James Hines

Michael James Hines, 49, of Andover, husband of Heidi (Carter) Hines for 18 years, died suddenly of natural causes Saturday, Nov. 30, while hiking at one of his favorite spots.

The son of Annette (Veronesi) Hines and the late Michael John Hines, he was raised in Kensington and graduated from Berlin High School. After graduating, he worked at Newington Children's Hospital, where he discovered his passion for helping people. He became a certified orthotist and worked at Hanger Clinic for over 25 years. He was well known for his gentle compassion and his willingness to go above and beyond for all his patients. He was an avid fisherman and loved being outdoors.

His wife Heidi was his soulmate and best friend. He was a loving father to his two girls, Elisa and Michela, who were the center of his life. He was always involved in their sports whether it be coaching or supporting them on the sidelines. He beamed with pride for their every achievement.

In addition to his wife and daughters, he will be missed by his mother Annette, his mother-in-law PatsyJean (Daog) Carter of Hebron, his brother Kevin Hines and his wife Amber of Berlin, his brother Ryan Hines and his wife Celine of Berlin, and several cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his father Mike and his father-in-law Bernie Carter.

Michael will be missed for his great sense of humor, his selfless giving to others, and his love of family and cherished friends.

Funeral services will be held today, Dec. 6, at 9 a.m., from Erickson-Hansen Funeral Home of Berlin/Porters, 111 Chamberlain Highway, Kensington, with a funeral liturgy at 10 a.m. at St. Paul Church on Alling Street, Kensington. Burial will follow at Maple Cemetery, Berlin. Calling hours were held at the funeral home on Thursday, Dec. 5.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Elisa and Michela's College Fund at Charter Oak Federal Credit Union, 893 Main St., Willimantic, CT 06226.

Share a memory of Michael with the family in the online guestbook at ericksonhansenberlin.com.



Colchester

Patrick Joseph Small

Patrick Joseph Small, 65, passed away Friday, Nov. 29, with his best friend, Bill Phillips, by his side. Born in Trenton, NJ on September 4, 1954, he was the son of the late Michael and Eileen (Dunphy) Small. As a young man, Patrick met the love of his life, Lori Nolin; the couple were married on June 4, 1983, spending over 41 years together in love.



Patrick worked for Pratt & Whitney as an inspector for 45 years, recently retiring in October. He was known as a funny and witty guy who had a fantastic sense of humor. He could entertain his family and friends with humorous stories and jokes for hours. His biggest passion was his Harley Davidson, which he owned for 28 years. He also enjoyed collecting vintage signs, restoring Tonka trucks, reading, watching detective shows, attending plays at the Goodspeed Opera House, his wife's cooking (especially her baked stuffed shrimp) and tending to his 14 acres that he called Judd Brook Farm. He was a devout Catholic who attended church every Sunday and is now eternally with the Lord. He will be missed by many and never forgotten.

In addition to his wife, Patrick leaves behind his treasured son, Michael Small and his girlfriend Kaitlin as well as her son Hunter, all of Marlborough; his sister; MaryAnne Wahle and her husband Tom; his mother-in-law, Lois Nolin; his sisters-in-law, Debbie, Karen and Tammy; his brother-in-law, Greg; his French son, Max; as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members and friends.

In addition to his parents, Pat was predeceased by his brother, Michael Small; his father-in-law, Delmas Nolin; and several Bolton buddies, including Chip, Jim, Mikey and Tommy.

Godspeed and happy trails, Patrick Small, until we meet again.

A memorial honoring Patrick's life will be held Saturday, Dec. 7, at 10:30 a.m., directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the CT Humane Society (cthumane.org/Donate).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Richard Eisman

On Tuesday, Dec. 3, Richard Eisman, loving husband and father of three children, passed away at the age of 78. He was born July 28, 1941, in Hartford, to the late Richard and Marion (Borders) Eisman.



He was a graduate of Glastonbury High School, class of 1959. He worked for 34 years at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and was manager of Assembly & Test. On July 3, 1963, he married his soulmate, Sharon DonCarlos. They raised two sons, Darrin and Craig, and a daughter, Stacie, of Colchester.

Richard was a man who was everything to his family and always put them first. His grandchildren were the joy of his life and he never missed an event. He loved the outdoors and later in life developed a love for photography. He will always be remembered for his love of people and conversation and never left anyone a stranger.

Richard is survived by his wife Sharon; his son Darrin and wife Jill, of Golden, Colo.; his son Craig and wife Elisa, of Brighton, Colo.; his daughter, Stacie Luizzi and her husband Dominick of Colchester; and seven grandchildren, Jocelyn, Jeremy, Valerie, Marley, Jessilyn, Graciela, and Emilie.

His family will receive friends Wednesday, Dec. 11, from 5-7 p.m., at Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to the American Heart Association, www.donatenow.heart.org.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Anne K. Barber

Anne K. Barber, 98, of East Hampton, widow of Alton Barber, died peacefully Saturday, Nov. 30, at Portland Care and Rehab. Born April 14, 1921, in Detroit, she was the daughter of the late Karl and Francisca (O'Fario) Koznoski.

Anne was a longtime resident of East Hampton and a communicant of St. Patrick Church. Anne was also a member of the East Hampton VFW Women's Auxiliary.

She is survived by her sons, Allen Barber of Rocky Hill, Patrick Barber of East Hampton; daughters, Ann Lesnewski and Sandra Kowalsky of East Hampton; eight grandchildren, 14-great grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her son, Alton Barber Jr.; her brother, Emil Koznoski; and three sisters, Lottie Golet, Bernice Leaghty and Jenny Koznoski.

Funeral services will be private at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton VFW Women's Auxiliary, 20 North Maple St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Kenneth Lawrence Stula

Kenneth Lawrence Stula, 88, of Athens, Ga., passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his loved ones Sunday, Nov. 24.

Born in Colchester to Ferdinand and Irene Melnyk Stula, Ken was raised in Colchester and received his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from Loyola University. He practiced pharmacy for several years before being drafted into the Army during the Korean War. While serving in Korea, he received his black belt in judo and continued practicing and teaching for many years.

After the war, he moved to Athens, Ga., and received his law degree from the University of Georgia. He practiced law in the Athens area for 50 years. He was the state court solicitor for the Western Judicial Circuit from 1970-1990, past president of the State Bar Association, and a member of the Fresh Sign Hunting Club. He was also a member of the Roman Catholic Church and attended St. Joseph's Catholic Parish and the University of Georgia Catholic Center.

Along with his parents, Ken was preceded in death by eight of his nine siblings: John Stula, Michael Stula, Bruno Stula, Eddie Stula, Fred Stula, George Stula, Alice Hardy, and Sr. Helen Stula.

Ken is survived by his wife of 60 years, Joy Von Edwins Stula; their three daughters: Page (Terry) Stula-Posey, Kimberly Joy Stula, and A. Dawn (Joe Brutzman) Stula; four beloved grandchildren: Kenneth Nicholas Posey, Helen Joy Posey, A.J. Stula Brutzman, and Ava Stula Brutzman; sister, Fran Zawacki; and several nieces and nephews.

A funeral Mass was held Saturday, Nov. 30, at the UGA Catholic Center. The family received friends Friday, Nov. 29, at Lord and Stephens, East Chapel. Following the funeral Mass, there was a reception at the UGA Catholic Center fellowship hall. A graveside committal service was on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 2 p.m., at Athens Memory Gardens following the reception.

Lord and Stephens Funeral Home - East, Athens, Ga., is in charge of arrangements. For online condolences, visit lordandstephens.com.



Hebron

William Jerome Wade Jr.

William "Bill" Jerome Wade Jr., 45, of Chaplin, formerly of Hebron, passed away peacefully Nov. 29 at Backus Hospital. Born in Bristol Sept. 11, 1974, he was the son of Lyne (Carriere) Wade and the late William Wade Sr. Bill was raised in Hebron.



Known to be a hard-working man, Bill successfully helped to run the family business, Capital Burner and Boiler Repair in East Hartford. He loved the outdoors, spending as much time as he could hunting and fishing; however, Bill's greatest joy in life was in being a loving father to his children, Brittany and Cameryn, whom he loved beyond measure.

In addition to his mother Lyne, Bill will be forever loved and missed most of all by his children, Brittany Marie Wade and Cameryn William Wade along with his former wife, Katherine Orlando, of Old Saybrook; brother, Steve and his wife Michelle Wade, of Burlington; sister, Lori Lanagan, of Hebron; nieces and nephews, MyKenzie, Reilly, Hunter, JayCee, Owen, Ella; great-niece, Peyton; great-nephew, Bentley; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Calling hours will be held today, Dec. 6, from 4-6 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Calling hours will again be held Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9:30-10:30 a.m., followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron at 11 a.m. Burial was private.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hartford Children's Hospital (giving.hartfordhospital.org/donate).

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

From the 'even a stopped clock is right twice a day' department: President Trump is to be applauded for last week signing into law a bill that makes animal cruelty a federal felony.

The PACT Act – which stands for Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture – expands a previous law passed in 2010. According to CNN, the new law states that a person can be prosecuted for crushing, burning, drowning, suffocating or impaling animals or sexually exploiting them. Those convicted would face federal felony charges, fines and up to seven years in prison.

Current federal law prohibits animal fighting and only criminalizes animal cruelty if people create and sell videos depicting the act, CNN said.

All 50 states currently have laws in their books against animal cruelty – but now, with Trump's signature last week, federal authorities can go after the wrongdoers and won't be bound by state laws. They can also prosecute criminals if the cruelty occurs on federal property, CNN said.

The bipartisan bill was introduced by Republican Sen. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania and co-sponsored by three other senators, including Connecticut's own Richard Blumenthal.

"There's no place in a civilized society for maiming and torturing animals - period," Blumenthal said, according to CNN.

In signing the law, Trump said it would help Americans be "more responsible and humane stewards of our planet." For once, I completely agree with him.

It takes a special level of evil to torture an innocent animal. I grew up with dogs and cats and know firsthand what delightful friends they can be. It breaks my heart every time I read one of those awful stories about gruesome acts performed by people on dogs or cats – sometimes for revenge, sometimes for grotesque fun. There is absolutely no excuse. I'm happy to see these criminals get the treatment they deserve.

* * *

As a longtime fan of his films, I'm looking forward to HBO's new documentary on Mel Brooks, which will debut Dec. 13. Brooks is the genius behind some of my favorite films – *Blazing Saddles*, *Young Frankenstein*, *Spaceballs*. And, with Buck Henry, he co-created one of my favorite TV shows growing up: the fantastic 1960s spy comedy *Get Smart*. I used to videotape that show nightly when it aired on Nick at Nite in the early 1990s.

Not only is Brooks hilarious, but he's also

very wise. I recently found some great quotes of his – some make you laugh, some make you think, but all of them are classic Brooks.

"If you're quiet, you're not living. You've got to be noisy and colorful and lively."

"Rhetoric does not get you anywhere, because Hitler and Mussolini are just as good at rhetoric. But if you can bring these people down with comedy, they stand no chance."

"You've got to be brave. If you feel something, you've really got to risk it."

"Life literally abounds in comedy if you just look around you."

"Oh, I'm not a true genius. I'm a near genius. I would say I'm a short genius. I'd rather be tall and normal than a short genius."

"He who hesitates is poor."

"Bad taste is simply saying the truth before it should be said."

"Everything we do in life is based on fear, especially love."

"Look, I don't want to wax philosophic, but I will say that if you're alive you've got to flap your arms and legs, you've got to jump around a lot, for life is the very opposite of death."

"Hope for the best, expect the worst. Life is a play. We're unrehearsed."

"Every human being has hundreds of separate people living under his skin. The talent of a writer is his ability to give them their separate names, identities, personalities and have them relate to other characters living with him."

"It would be hypocritical of me to take issue with anything in questionable taste, seeing that I invented bad taste in films."

"As long as the world is turning and spinning, we're gonna be dizzy and we're gonna make mistakes."

"I have always been a huge admirer of my own work. I'm one of the funniest and most entertaining writers I know."

"Feeling different, feeling alienated, feeling persecuted, feeling that the only way to deal with the world is to laugh – because if you don't laugh you're going to cry and never stop crying – that's probably what's responsible for the Jews having developed such a great sense of humor. The people who had the greatest reason to weep, learned more than anyone else how to laugh."

"My liveliness is based on an incredible fear of death. In order to keep death at bay, I do a lot of 'Yah! Yah! Yah!' And death says, 'All right. He's too noisy and busy. I'll wait for someone who's sitting quietly, half asleep.'"

* * *

See you next week.