

RIVEREAST

News

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Twenty-one World War II veterans were honored at the Middle Haddam home of Pierre and Margaret Faber on Saturday. The veterans, who came from as far away as Vermont and ranged from 92 to 103 years old, were: top row, Charles Holland, Army Air Corps; George Ruhe, Army; Seb Giacco, Army; Herb Stearns, Army; Joe Stanley, Navy; and Russell Waldo, Navy Air Corps; middle row, Hunt Voelker, Army; Carroll Gilson, Army; Ernest Peterson, Navy; Angelo Bartolotta, Army; Dominic Perrone, Navy; Bud Haines, Merchant Marines; Vin Volpe, Army; front row, George Birner, Army; Paris Kollias, Army; Walter Budney, Army Air Corps; Winthrop Guptill, Army Air Corps; Richard Bolles, Navy; Charles Alex, Army; Harold Bailey, Army Air Corps; and Donn Trenner, USO.

by Elizabeth Regan

Almost two dozen World War II veterans were feted Saturday on lush grounds overlooking the Connecticut River as part of one Middle Haddam family's effort to honor the dwindling cadre of service members.

It was the eighth dinner event hosted by Pierre and Margaret Faber. The event started in 2011 with fewer than 10 veterans and continued this year with 21. Attendance peaked in 2013, with 55 veterans enjoying appetizers, dinner and dessert served by volunteers.

Some veterans this year came from East Hampton and surrounding towns. Others arrived from points as far away as Vermont. They served in all the theaters of the war, covering Europe to the Mediterranean to the Pacific.

"Thanks are due," Pierre Faber said in a toast. "You're the generation that established America as the greatest superpower the world has ever seen. And those of us who come after, we enjoy the freedom and the prosperity you helped to set up."

Pierre Faber, born and raised in South Africa, became an American citizen in 2004.

The dinner, while typically held in late summer, was moved this year to the beginning of June to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Allied Invasion of Normandy.

D-Day is recognized as the turning point in WWII. More than 160,000 Allied troops from the United States, Great Britain and Canada converged on a 50-mile stretch of French coastline on June 6, 1944, to lay the groundwork for the destruction of the Nazi forces in Europe.

More than 9,000 Americans were killed or wounded on D-Day, according to the U.S. Department of Defense.

"I think what's really special about D-Day is that it was a microcosm of what was happening in all the other theaters of the war," Faber said. "All the extraordinary events, all the exceptional bravery, the ingenuity, the tenacity, all the incredible features of what happened at D-Day was really just representative of what the American soldiers were doing everywhere else."

One of those soldiers was George Birner Sr., who was brought up in East Hampton and now lives in an assisted living facility in Vermont. He said he had not finished high school when he enlisted in the U.S. Army.

"Uncle Sam got me right around the neck, put me right in the Army in New Haven," he said.

Birner participated in the Battle of the Bulge,

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D-Day Veteran Looks Back on Experiences

by Allison Lazur

Walter D. Karrenberg of Colchester was just 20 years old when he parachuted out of a B-47, landing in Normandy, France on June 6, 1944.

He was part of the 326th Engineer Battalion, Company C, a unit of the 101st Airborne Division of the United States Army. The C Company was paratroopers, Karrenberg said.

Upon jumping at about 2 a.m. on D-Day, Karrenberg's duffle bag with all his supplies – attached to him with a 15-foot rope – was ripped from his body, falling to the ground and lost forever.

At just 125 pounds, Karrenberg was carried by the wind to a field where he landed by himself, hiding in hedgerows with other infantry soldiers he met up with shortly thereafter.

While hiding in the hedgerows, Karrenberg said he remembers the sound of American machine guns.

"I hear the American machine guns behind us, we didn't do anything about that, but out in the field about 50 yards away, a lady's milking a cow and we're saying 'get down, get down' because bullets were going overhead and she just kept milking the cow," he said, chuckling.

Traveling down the hedgerows, Karrenberg said he and the other soldiers approached a little shack with a single door.

"Coming out of the shack was German patrol and they machine gunned us," he said. "So I laid on the ground and a hand grenade went off and I got shrapnel in my leg. So then we surrendered because we had no place to go."

Karrenberg, 95, was a prisoner of war in Germany for nearly 11 months; he recalled working for a blacksmith and being interrogated by the Germans in Frankfurt nearly a month after being captured – yet still exchanging jokes with fellow POWs throughout the entire experience.

"They put us in a jailhouse all by ourselves and they gave us cookies and everything," Karrenberg remembered. "Then we went into a room and a German officer who spoke English interviewed me and asked what outfit I was with and I told him I would only give him my name and serial number. I had my patch on and he said, 'I know that patch, that's 101st Airborne' and I said, 'Yeah, well, I guess.'"

He remembers passing another infantry soldier during interrogation, and promptly asking the other POW what happened to him.

Karrenberg said the soldier responded by saying the German officer had asked how many people were on the ship he was on, to which the soldier responded: "I don't know, they didn't introduce themselves."

The Germans then slapped him, Karrenberg said.

The POW was then asked what kind of ship he had been on, Karrenberg said, to which the POW replied: "It was like a big canoe."

They both laughed, Karrenberg said.

While a POW, Karrenberg worked in Falkenberg, Germany as a blacksmith, extending the railroad yards, dumping sand, loading coal and laying track.



Walter D. Karrenberg, a D-Day veteran and German POW, sits with his wife Anna Karrenberg in their home in Colchester. This November will mark 72 years of marriage for the couple.

"I got soup because I was working for the blacksmith," he said, adding that other American POWs didn't get soup.

In 1945, he traveled to Leipzig, continuing

the railroad work, where he was eventually liberated when Americans captured the city.

"The night I was liberated the German po-

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which began roughly six months after the Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy. More than 19,000 Americans died in the freezing, desolate Ardennes forest spanning Belgium, France and Luxembourg during the month-long battle.

The fight caused a bulge 60 miles deep in the Allied line as German soldiers pushed forward in an attempt to recapture Antwerp Harbor.

Birner said he arrived in the Ardennes as part of the 99th Infantry Division during the initial week of the battle.

"The first platoon went in first, right into the Battle of the Bulge, and most of them didn't come back," Birner said.

He described himself as fortunate to have been in the second platoon one day later.

The U.S. Army Center of Military History credits the 99th Infantry Division in the early days of the Battle of the Bulge with fighting heavy resistance from the Germans and "holding firm against violent enemy attacks" at the westernmost edge of the Ardennes.

Birner came home and settled in New Britain, where he married and started his own automotive business.

It was at the Fabers' celebration that Birner

discovered he had gone to grade school in East Hampton with fellow WWII veteran Hunt Voelker.

Voelker, 95, is a member of the local fire department and a former East Hampton selectman.

Like Birner, Voelker recalled entering the Army as a very young man – though he made it out of high school first. He was at his graduation ceremony in June 1945 when the man handing him his diploma slipped in a sheet of paper directing him to the American Legion the following morning.

The next thing he knew, he was being sworn into the Army in New Haven.

Voelker started out as a medic at a military hospital in Framingham, Mass., where he was made the ward master of about 150 men paralyzed in the war. He was assigned next to a military facility in Brentwood, N.Y. for service members experiencing what is now recognized as post-traumatic stress disorder.

"Every week they got shock treatment, trying to make them forget what's wrong," he said.

Voelker remembered holding down soldiers as they convulsed from the procedure.

"I would rather have been on the front lines, to be honest with you," Voelker said. "But you

don't get a choice. It wasn't anything about choice."

Other local veterans seated in the Fabers' yard – while volunteers passed hors d'oeuvres and tended bar under a dry, blue sky – included Portland residents Paris Kollias and Ernest Peterson.

Kollias was the grand marshal of this year's Portland Memorial Day Parade. The 94-year-old served in the U.S. Army from June 27, 1944 to Dec. 7, 1945 as part the 135th engineer combat battalion in numerous campaigns, including the Battle of the Bulge. He was wounded by shrapnel that wasn't removed for two months, he said.

Peterson, 93, was a signalman on the destroyer escort U.S.S. John M. Birmingham. The ship protected convoys of men and supplies on numerous trips to Europe and Africa.

Peterson, whose father founded the Portland-based Peterson Oil Company, is one of three sons.

"My mother always wanted a girl, but it never happened," he said.

Instead she got three boys who, it turned out, would all end up in WWII at the same time.

Peterson's brothers were both in the Army; Arthur served in the Pacific, while Paul flew

with the Air Corps in the European theater.

"My father, he was involved in politics and he was on the go all the time, but my mother was home all alone. It was tough on her," he said.

Ingrid Swanson Moss, Ernest Peterson's granddaughter, said she's seen an article cut out of the newspaper in the early 1940s about her grandmother spending one Christmas with no idea where any of her boys were.

Then Paul Peterson was shot down and held as a prisoner of war by the Germans at the tail end of the war. He was forced into a 500-mile, 86-day forced march across Germany that his brother said claimed the lives of most of the captives.

Paul's imprisonment ended when the war did, according to his brother.

Moss, who is married to a major in the U.S. Army Reserve and is pregnant with their third child, marveled at what her grandmother must have gone through.

"We think about that now and just can't imagine what that would've been like," she said. "But all three of them made it home."

Ernest Peterson echoed his granddaughter.

"Everybody got home safe," he said.

D-Day Veteran cont. from Front Page

lice came and put us all in jail at night and we were all in jail and then all of a sudden at 12 o'clock we look and there were no guards around and the gates were open so we snuck out of the jail," he said.

Discovering a warehouse next to the jail full of food, they ate.

Karrenberg said he then hid in the cellar of a nearby apartment building until he heard machine gun shots upstairs in the hallway.

He said he went up the stairs and peered into the hallway where he was met with American machine gun fire.

"I said 'Hey, I'm a Yankee,' and that's how I got liberated," Karrenberg said.

Karrenberg, a Manhattan native, wasn't always on the path to be a paratrooper of the 101st Airborne Division – dubbed "Screaming Eagles."

His height – at about 5 feet 3 inches – and a paratrooper's salary played a part in putting him on track to be involved with one of World War II's most pivotal battles.

"I was 17 years old and I wanted to join the Navy and they said I was a quarter inch too short," Karrenberg said. He said he spent about a year doing various exercises to try to grow that last quarter of an inch, but was unsuccessful. So, he recalled, "I said, 'The heck with the Navy,' and I joined the Army."

In 1942, Karrenberg joined the Army working as medic at Camp Lee (now Fort Lee) in Prince George County, Va., and then as an orderly at Camp Drum in Jefferson County, New

York.

"I was an orderly boy in the hospital and then somebody says 'we're looking for a paratrooper and, you get \$50 a month and I said 'ooh, that's good because I was getting \$30 a month at that time,'" he said, adding, "I sent all my \$50 to my mother back home."

From there, Karrenberg said he traveled to Fort Benning, Ga., for paratrooper training – where he remembers vividly the challenges associated with jumping.

"We had to pack our own [para]chutes after you jumped," he said. "I was about 115 pounds; I was light, and at the edge of the jump field they had cactuses – I always landed in the cactus. So at night when I went down to pack my chute I had to take all of the cactus out of my chute and after five jumps I got my wings."

Karrenberg recalled travelling to Fort Bragg, in Fayetteville, N.C., and then on an English ship from New York to travel overseas.

"We went up to St. John's, Newfoundland because the ship had trouble and it docked there; we were there for about two weeks," he said.

Located off Canada's Atlantic Coast, Karrenberg said he remembers cliffs where Canadian residents lived.

At the same time every day, soldiers would gather in a spot on the ship to view the cliffs, he said.

"At 3 o'clock we'd go down there and a lady would come from work and raise her dress – the whole battalion was at that side of the ship," he said, laughing.

From there, Karrenberg said he got on an

American ship traveling to Liverpool, England and then on a train to Redding, England.

Karrenberg said he remembers the entire division gathered to be addressed by British Prime Minister Winston Churchill about a month before D-Day.

When asked by the *Rivereast* if he remembered what Churchill said, Karrenberg responded with "Gee I don't know. He didn't speak the New York English like I do with my New York accent."

* * *

Walter and Anna Karrenberg met at the respective ages of 16 and 15, on New Year's Eve 1940. Anna, now 93, recalled kissing four boys that night – one of whom was Walter.

"When I kissed him, it was just different," she said.

From there, the two continued to see one another even after Walter left for the Army in 1942.

"He would write to me all the time," Anna said.

A telegram received by Walter's mom on June 29, 1944 informed her that Walter was missing in action.

"I was a sad sack; I couldn't smile, I couldn't laugh," Anna said.

On July 29, another telegram saying he might be a POW was received and then again on Aug. 2, 1944, a third telegram confirmed he was a POW, Anna said.

Shortly thereafter, Walter's mother received another telegram from the Army, saying that upon Walter's arrival he would call her.

Anna vividly recalled the day she was able to see Walter again.

She said she was meeting a girlfriend, who was perpetually late. After waiting for some time, her girlfriend finally arrived, only to blurt out, "We are going home; Wally's home."

Anna said it had been two years since they last saw one another and when they finally re-united the couple "just looked at each other, we didn't know what to say."

Walter and Anna married on Thanksgiving Day Nov. 27, 1947, and this November will mark 72 years of marriage.

"The first 50 years were the hardest," Anna joked.

Walter joined the Air Force in 1951, after the Korean War broke out, and the couple stayed together traveling to places such as West Palm Beach, Fla., and Alaska.

When Walter was stationed in Alaska, Anna used a \$312 check recently received from the German government for Walter's time as a POW to fly to be with him.

The \$312 was for every day Walter was a POW – \$1 per day, Anna said.

In 1967, Walter was discharged from the Air Force as a technical sergeant and went on to work for the Long Island Lighting Company for about 15 years, retiring at the age of 60. He and Anna wound up eventually moving to Colchester to be closer to their family.

Walter and Anna have two daughters and two sons, and continue to live independently in a home filled with memories of friends, family – and an unforgettable time in history.

Colchester Library Memorial Honors Beloved 6-Year-Old

by Allison Lazur

The memory of DeMarcus S. White will live on at Colchester Elementary School through a dedicated section of the school's library that is now filled with things the 6-year-old loved.

DeMarcus died Feb. 21, 2018 from complications from the flu – a tragic death that rocked the community.

A week after his untimely passing, resident Melanie Hathaway, who at the time had a daughter that was the same age as DeMarcus, said she visited Colchester Elementary to discover teachers and staff handling the situation "beautifully."

It was then that the idea came about to establish a memorial in the school's library.

Hathaway said she approached O'Meara the following May with the idea to establish a memorial in the school's library that combined what was unique about DeMarcus with what the school needed while making sure to do something the family would be okay with.

So Tuesday evening, friends, family, school staff and administration filed into the library to attend the official dedication of the DeMarcus S. White Memorial.

Colchester Elementary School Principal Judy O'Meara addressed those in attendance and through tears recalled DeMarcus' "contagious smile" and holding his hand to walk him into school after being dropped off by his mother in the morning. O'Meara also called DeMarcus' mother, Michelle Henderson, "an inspiration."

The memorial includes a blue bookshelf, and on a center panel, additional hues of green and white, positioned on a sidewall in the library and filled with books about the ocean and its animals – something DeMarcus loved.

The bookshelf was constructed by Steve Stanulonis of Westchester Woodworking. O'Meara said because Stanulonis donated his

time, labor and talents only a small portion of the \$3,400 raised through donations was used for supplies. The remaining funds will be used for library resources including books to continue to fill the shelf.

Two live goldfish and a crayfish live in a neighboring aquarium, while a painting of DeMarcus' face, depicting that contagious smile, overlooks the bookshelf while being surrounded with ocean creatures constructed from tissue paper and acrylic paint.

Henderson said Tuesday she felt the portrait of her son was an accurate representation of who he was and what he loved, adding "he was a special, little guy."

"They did an amazing, amazing job and I'm just glad people will remember him – that he left his imprint," Henderson said.

She said DeMarcus' love of all things related to the ocean began when she brought him to Florida.

"It was his first time in the ocean and he just loved it," Henderson said.

After that trip, she said DeMarcus would often joke about running away to Florida.

The painting, completed by 2018 Bacon Academy graduate Cassie Bernier, was created on a 24" by 24" canvas.

After attending DeMarcus' funeral last year, Bernier said she discovered he liked ocean-related things, as well as goldfish.

From there she said her goal was to create something that would reflect his personality, not just a portrait of his outward appearance.

"I wanted to make it bright and colorful and educational so students would be able to see different aquatic animals and be able to point them out and see his face and remember it," Bernier said.

Below the portrait, a sign created by Scott Lawrence of Sign Professionals, reads: "In Joy-



The DeMarcus S. White Memorial was dedicated Tuesday evening to honor the 6-year-old Colchester Elementary student who died from complications from the flu on Feb. 21, 2018.

ful Remembrance of DeMarcus S. White."

O'Meara said a Lego wall created by Colchester Elementary School custodians Steve Lombardo and Ed Ninteau will be arriving soon as a moveable part of the memorial. Constructed on wheels, the wall will be able to be utilized by multiple classrooms throughout the school.

While the ceremony began solemnly, it concluded with chatter and smiles as those who knew DeMarcus exchanged stories and fond

memories.

Hathaway said she was "thrilled" with the memorial, adding "it was more than I could have ever expected."

While the memorial will be able to be visited in the library, Hathaway enabled attendees to take home a small remembrance of DeMarcus – a postcard with a print of the portrait depicting the smile remembered by those who knew and loved him.

\$56.39M Budget Heads to Referendum in Colchester

by Allison Lazur

At a town meeting Tuesday night, approximately 40 residents filed into town hall to send the proposed 2019-20 \$56.39 million budget to voters at a referendum next week.

The spending plan, comprised of school, general government and capital costs, saw a \$1.02 million, or 1.85% increase over current year spending.

The current proposal would result in a mill rate of 32.84 mills up .56 mills from the current mill rate of 32.28, an increase of 1.73%.

One mill is equivalent to \$1 in tax per \$1,000 of assessed property, meaning a 32.84 mill rate would result in a resident paying about \$8,210 in taxes on a home assessed at \$250,000, an increase of \$140.

The proposed town budget totals \$15.16 million, an increase of \$334,555, or 2.26% — and is a spending plan First Selectman Art Shilsky said he is "fine" with.

"I'm comfortable with the budget; it's a very modest increase," he said.

New additions to the town budget include \$30,985 for a new paramedic program which would provide Advanced Life Support (ALS)

services to residents.

The cost of the majority of the program is deferred to the 2020-21 fiscal year.

ALS includes life-saving measures only a paramedic can provide, such as starting an IV, having the equipment carried by a paramedic to monitor heart health or the ability to handle a diabetic emergency.

The program would also cut down on response time for outside paramedics coming from Middlesex Health Marlborough Medical Center or a Norwich-based commercial ambulance company.

The total projected cost of the program is approximately \$350,000 for the first year and \$450,000 for the second year.

The projected date for initial paramedic program steps would be April 2020, with full implementation of the initial phase projected for January-July 2021.

The paramedic program was the topic of interest this budget season, with increased meeting attendance due to the regular presence of Colchester Fire Department members.

Board of Finance Chairman Rob Tarlov said

aside from fire department members, overall meeting turnout was "very, very low" this budget season.

Tarlov said he wasn't sure what the low turnout meant for next week's referendum.

"Whether there's a lack of interest or people are burnt out from attending [budget meetings] the last couple years, I think both budgets are fair," he said.

He said his philosophy – and likely the philosophy of the rest of the finance board – is "you don't send a budget to the voters for the first time that has cut services," adding that there aren't many new initiatives in the proposed spending package.

"Our budgets are up a lot less than other towns surrounding us," Tarlov said.

Just last month Rivereast town Marlborough approved a 2019-20 budget with a 5.54% increase while Andover approved a 10.64% increase.

The school budget totals \$41.24 million, an increase of \$687,778, or 1.70% and includes a long-term sustainable technology plan.

The proposed budget includes \$74,843 for

technology, but total funds for technology clock in at \$274,843.

The decision to use \$200,000 of unexpended Board of Education funds from the 2017-2018 budget year earmarked for school capital to offset the total technology cost was made by finance board members last month.

The proposed budget also includes \$130,000 for the implementation of new curriculum after having zeros in that line item for the past two years.

Superintendent of Schools Jeffrey Burt said he believes the current proposal is a "balanced budget" and that he is "hopeful" voters next week will see that.

"I appreciate the hard work the Board of Education, Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen have done to bring forward a balanced budget that meets both the needs of the district and the needs of the community," Burt said.

* * *

Voting in the budget referendum will take place Tuesday, June 11, at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave. Voting will take place from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Meet the RHAM Valedictorian and Salutatorian

by Sloan Brewster

The valedictorian and salutatorian of the RHAM High School Class of 2019 are good friends who enjoy the outdoors – as long as it's on TV.

Erica Deskus, valedictorian, and Justin Han, salutatorian, both of Marlborough, met with the *Rivereast* Wednesday and laughed about how much they love the TV show *Survivor* – but said they are not equipped to survive in the environments depicted on the show.

"We would not survive for more than three days," Han said.

"We're not outdoor people," Deskus said.

Still, they said they have chatted amongst themselves about going on the show. Later in the conversation, when Han shared that he was planning to explore the outdoors when he heads to Cornell University this fall, Deskus mused that maybe they will make it to the show one day after all.

"My potential roommate, he actually grew up on a farm and he loves the outdoors," Han said. "For me, being somebody who hasn't done all the hiking and canoeing, Cornell will be a place for me to go outside my comfort zone and immerse myself in the outside."

Han is planning to major in nutritional science at Cornell with the hope of helping people eat healthier.

"I'm an advocate for healthy eating across the world and across the country," he said.

Over the summer, he tried to help his family eat healthier and one time made macaroni and cheese, adding butternut squash and cauliflower into the sauce.

Everyone enjoyed the dish, he said.

Deskus said she is going into the honors mathematics and statistics program at the University of Connecticut. While she isn't certain how that will translate into her future career, she knows math majors and people who can work in finances are in demand, she said. She also likes the subject matter.

"I like that it's problem-solving and trying to get to the single right answer," she said. "I like that there's no way to say something in between – and the process of getting there, I think, is kind of fun."

As far as both are concerned, English is the worst subject. It's not "as clear-cut" as math and science, Han said.

Still, Han took on Advanced Placement [AP] English.

"It helped me to be a better writer and think more analytically and think in a more abstract way," he said.

Deskus, despite finding creative writing more challenging than writing papers on factual matters, embraced a creative writing class this year. She said, to her surprise, she found that while it was "a little bit tricky," she liked it more than expected and even enjoyed writing poetry, "a little."

They reminisced about high school memories, including a small class in honors globalism they took together as freshmen. They said they enjoyed the small intimate class and getting to know their fellow classmates and had fun, doing outside-the-box things such as bowling in the hallway.

As far as teachers go, they have different favorites.

For Deskus, it's statistics teacher Alan Bukowinski.

"He's really funny and goofy," she said. "He just made it really entertaining and I just enjoyed the class a lot. Mostly because I had him for a teacher and I enjoyed it so much that that's what I decided I wanted to study."

Bukowinski, for his part, was very frank about Deskus.

"She's awesome, great student," he said. "She was always one step behind me in stats class, asking questions two chapters out; very, very smart."

When he wrote a letter of recommendation for her, Bukowinski said he felt like he wasn't qualified enough because "she's just incredibly smart, an incredibly high-flyer."

She is also down to earth, willing to help her fellow classmates, likes having fun and is "well-rounded," he added.

"She's not all school," he said. "I'm looking forward to see everything she can do with her future."

For Han, AP biology teacher Alexa Mitchell

is his favorite.

"She really made the class fun," he said, and added that she inspired him to study nutritional science in college.

Han also recalled a stop in Ecuador on a school trip to the Galapagos over the 2018 summer, during which Mitchell was a chaperone.

"We had definitely bonded because we salsa danced one night and I think that's a moment that I still talk about today," he said.

Mitchell remembered the dance as well – and said Han was an exemplary student who always scored highly in class assessments.

"He was a curious student, he is always very detail-oriented and I think that's why he excels," she said.

In addition, he is self-reflective, focused on self-growth and receptive to feedback, learning from it and making corrections.

Mitchell said it was good to see Han going into a field that interests him.

"He has really strong abilities to understand science and a personal interest in nutrition, and he enjoys cooking," she said. "He'll do great no matter what he does."

Deskus and Han imparted a memory of an excursion with a group of shared friends to an escape room at Puzzle Theory in South Windsor. With a two-minute window left, they solved the jungle-themed mystery and got out of the room.

"It was very exciting," Deskus said. "It was kind of spooky."

She laughed when she shared that at one point a loud noise went off inside the room when a box opened – causing them to scream.

On their way out of Puzzle Theory, she said, an employee told them they were fun to watch.

Han, who plays clarinet and sax, spoke of a trip to Disney World with RHAM band last year, describing every day as a "new adventure" involving riding "crazy rides" and laughing and chatting about memories.

When asked what they dreaded most about next year, they had different ideas.

Deskus said having a roommate would be a challenge – and was also concerned about having a regular job.



Erica Deskus, left, and Justin Han are the respective valedictorian and salutatorian of the RHAM High School Class of 2019.

Han said his biggest fear was blending in with everybody at Cornell and making friends he can trust. He was also concerned about figuring out how he was going to get around with no car.

On the plus side, though, Deskus said she's looking forward to the flexibility that comes with figuring out her own schedule and finding clubs, volunteer opportunities and ways to get involved.

Han, meanwhile, said he was looking forward to being on the Cornell campus and exploring all it has to offer, including the discovery of the great outdoors with his roommate.

They both said they wouldn't have made it to where they are without the support of friends, family and teachers.

"I'm just really grateful for the RHAM community and my whole family for supporting me along the way to be a better version of myself," Han said.

Tierney in 'Prime' of His Career in Hebron

by Sloan Brewster

Town Manager Andrew Tierney is getting a 4% raise.

The raise, which goes into effect July 1 and was unanimously approved by the Board of Selectmen in April, is larger than the 2% hike awarded to Tierney last year.

The increase will bring his salary from \$126,321 to \$131,374.

"You need to act positively when you have a positive employee," Board of Selectmen Chairman Dan Larsen said. "There's a lot of bigger fish out there that would like to gobble him up."

Giving him a bigger raise was a way to entice Tierney into staying around, according to Larson and Selectman Gail Richmond.

Richmond said Tierney had been offered another position.

"He gives a lot of time to the town, night meetings and whatnot, and we don't want to lose him," Richmond said. "There's a lot of jobs out there, but there was one in particular he was offered."

Tierney clarified that he had been asked to submit his resume for the open town manager position in East Hampton, but did not do so.

"I want to make that clear – my resume isn't out there," he said.

Tierney – who was director of public works for 17 years before becoming town manager six years ago – said he has spent a "good portion" of his career in the town and has gotten to know the community.

He said he has been approached by "headhunters" for other postings as well and that many towns are searching for experienced town managers.

"[There] seems to be a void in town managers," he said. "There's a huge amount of openings and a lot of pressure on town manager associations for experienced town managers and my name keeps coming up, because I'm not at the end of my career."

Towns including Bloomfield, Tolland, Berlin and Bolton are looking for new town managers, he said. Andover is looking for a town administrator.

At 55, Tierney said he's the average age of town managers "so I pop up with headhunters."

Tierney said he enjoys working in Hebron and that it's "in good fiscal shape."

"Hebron's been very good to me and I totally love and respect the people in this community and I've got a lot of time vested in making it grow and want to continue doing that," he said.

After nearly two and a half decades in the town, Tierney said he has a long standing relationship with his staff and that it "seems like a family."

Still, he said headhunters have actively tried to get him to apply for open positions, reiterating that he has not done so.

"I'm in the prime of my career," he said. "I don't want to scare anybody, I'm very happy,

but there are other options."

Despite the shortage of people applying for town manager positions, Tierney spoke in Haddam Wednesday about switching to a town manager from a first selectman form of government. He said he was asked to give the talk.

Tierney said he believes town managers are a better option than first selectmen for a number of reasons, including that a first selectmen "gets in on a popularity contest" versus the experience that gets a town manager hired; preparing for elections takes time away from their job; and there's more turnover with first selectmen.

"Continuity. Continuity with the state, continuity with your community," he said of the arguments in favor of town managers. "You have to have continuity year after year to follow things through."

A town is a multi-million dollar business, he said. Hebron, for example, has a roughly \$11 million town budget – "and you've got to have somebody in charge without political pressure."

Richmond said selectmen are "very pleased" with Tierney.

"We think he's been very good to the town and the continuity has been irreplaceable."

Larson said Tierney shows "solid leadership" and has proven to be an exemplary town manager.

"He's a big part of the reason that Hebron

keeps moving forward," he said.

Larson gave Tierney kudos for resolving water shortage issues that led to a ban on outdoor usage in certain areas of town last year.

"It's been good, positive leadership that's been able to get those problems resolved," he said.

Larson cheered grants Tierney has secured, including those that have extended trail systems and brought sidewalks to town.

He also lauded Tierney and town staff for the town's receipt last October of bronze certification from Sustainable CT, an award that shows that the town has put together environmentally sustainable practices.

Past accomplishments Larson and Richmond attributed to Tierney include bringing a gas line to the center of town and last May's opening of Colebrook Village, an assisted living community nestled in the Village Green District on John E. Horton Boulevard.

The board set five goals for Tierney to complete next year. Those are to establish a retreat for the board and town manager; develop a plan for economic development; create a plan for the Horton property, the property on John E. Horton Boulevard the town purchased earlier this year; move forward the sewer project, which includes repairs and upgrades of the sewers and pump stations; and amend the Capital Improvement Plan process.

Hebron Voters Give Go-Ahead to Lead Remediation Project

by Sloan Brewster

Voters at a special town meeting last Thursday agreed to spend \$1.22 million to replace pipes at Hebron Elementary School.

The plan is to dip into the town's unassigned fund balance – or rainy day fund – for the funding, approximately 54% of which would be reimbursed through a grant from the state Department of Administrative Services (DAS).

Hebron Elementary School Drinking Water Remediation Building Committee Chairman Malcolm Leichter said the percentages of the reimbursement could go down if the state does not approve the grant by the end of the month. The town submitted the application for the grant early Tuesday in the hope the state will approve it before the June 30 deadline.

Using the rainy day fund means the project won't raise taxes, officials said.

There will be \$4.92 million left in the fund once the \$1.22 million is taken out, Finance Director Elaine Griffin said.

Currently, there is \$6.34 million in the rainy day fund, which represents 17.59% of the town's budget.

Consulting engineer Ken Eldridge, of Silver Petrucelli and Associates, gave a brief presentation on the plan, which will entail putting in new closed loop, hot and cold water systems.

"We don't believe in cherry picking,"

Eldridge said. "Going in with a new piping system was almost a no brainer from the get go."

The replacement will include taking down and replacing walls in one spot and installing new water fountains. Eldridge said the old fountains are "just not potable."

"There's a whole bunch of stuff that goes with it as well, including electrical," he said.

Leichter said planning for the project was "done very meticulously" and included input from multiple state agencies.

"They agree we need to put in a whole new system," Leichter said. "This has been looked at by a lot of eyes."

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) Drinking Water Section is partnering with DAS as this is the first time DAS has dealt with a lead issue of this magnitude in a school, Leichter said. The agencies are working with the town and Sen. Cathy Osten, D-19, on the matter.

John Collins, member of the Hebron Elementary School Drinking Water Remediation Building Committee and Board of Selectmen, said the amount of lead in the water had exceeded the 15 parts per billion standard regulated by the state public health department.

While DPH can only regulate to 15 parts per billion, the Federal Environmental Protection

Agency (EPA) is now saying the only acceptable number is zero, Collins and other officials said.

"A guidance document came out from EPA last year that said all exposure to lead, especially with children, should be avoided," Collins said. "Lead is not a thing that should be trifled with."

Silver Petrucelli and Associates engineers have said that replacing all the pipes in the school puts the town ahead of the curve in the event of new EPA regulations, as the town would instantly meet them.

Another question was whether the DPH had any concerns about any children who were in the school before it was found that the lead numbers had spiked.

The answer was no, officials said; and that once the lead was found, no more water was consumed in the school.

"All these tests have been ongoing," Leichter said. "As soon as we were detected with lead, water fountains were shut off, cooking was eliminated."

Diane Del Rosso, Board of Finance member, spoke about how many mitigation systems "that didn't fix the problem" had already been installed in the school.

In 2017, the school put in an injector system to treat the water with zinc orthophosphate, a corrosion inhibitor, and initiated a flushing protocol to keep water constantly running through the pipes. Superintendent of Schools Timothy Van Tasel has said the treatment system proved less effective than anticipated.

According to Eldridge, the project will be put out to bid this summer in anticipation of awarding the contract in the fall. From that point, some work will be completed next year when school is not in session and will be completed next summer in time to start school in the fall of 2020.

In the meantime, students will continue to drink bottled water, he said.

On Tuesday, Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the engineers were designing the project and putting together a request for proposals.

The source of the lead, which was first discovered in November 2016, is believed to be solder used in piping in the wing of the school that was built in 1963, Van Tasel has said. There was no lead problem in pipes in the wings added in 1988 and 2000, when the solder was no longer used.

While solder no longer contains lead, it will not be used in the project, Leichter said.

Burbank Tapped to Be Andover Interim Town Administrator

by Sloan Brewster

On the literal eve of Town Administrator Joseph Higgins' last day in office, the Board of Selectmen Wednesday named an interim replacement for him – and it's a familiar face.

First Selectman Robert Burbank was appointed in a tight 2-1 vote. In that role, he was the de facto town manager from 2006 to 2017, when Higgins was hired and many of Burbank's duties as first selectman were transferred over to him.

The job opening was posted early last month. Five applications have been received so far, according to officials.

Burbank's interim appointment came after a lengthy back-and-forth Wednesday night. Ultimately, board members Cathleen Desrosiers and Julia Haverl voted in favor of it, while Jeff Maguire voted against. Burbank abstained, and the oft-absent selectman Jay Lindy was once again not present.

Aside from Maguire, none of the selectmen sought re-election this year, and thus were attending their last meeting Wednesday. Desrosiers brought up a concern that there was no plan for who would fill in for Higgins until a replacement is hired.

Desrosiers said it was "just inappropriate"

to leave the office empty.

"It's business as usual, we need to have somebody in charge," she said. "No other town would leave it."

Her recommendation was to have Burbank – who will also not be returning with the incoming board – step in.

Burbank agreed but said he would not do it unless he gets paid, and that's where the circling conversations began. Maguire – who, starting July 1, will be the town's new first selectman – voiced disapproval that Burbank would not do it for free.

"So you'd only accept it as a paid position?" he asked.

"Obviously, it's fulltime and I can't work my other job," retorted Burbank, who runs his own business doing title searches. "You don't have a side job when you're [town administrator]."

With that, Haverl – who will also not be returning – made a motion to appoint Burbank for the interim position, adding that the salary should be a weekly rate corresponding to Higgins' \$85,000 annual salary.

Maguire said that amount would be a problem and that he had approached the town administrator's administrative assistant, Linda McDonald, and asked her to pick up some ex-

tra hours to help from a customer service perspective.

"She does a really good job at what she does," Maguire said.

Desrosiers and Haverl did not think it was appropriate for an administrative assistant to fill in for the town leader. Haverl suggested both of them could share the job, with McDonald doing the customer service and Burbank signing documents and doing the official work.

With concerns over paying for both McDonald's additional hours and Burbank's salary, Desrosiers said she would not second the motion and it died.

"Cathy, what would get you to reconsider?" Haverl asked.

There was more back-and-forth discussion, with Maguire recommending McDonald get the extra hours and he and other selectmen take turns filling in, in the office.

Throughout most of the conversation Burbank remained silent, only making a couple of comments about how much work it takes to run the town.

"When you do that job, it's full time," he said. "I don't think any of you, until you do it, realize how much is involved on a day-to-day ba-

sis."

Desrosiers said she would not have time to work for free as she has a full-time job and reiterated her concerns about having McDonald filling in.

"I don't know if the administrative assistant to the town administrator can do this work," she said. "There's work to be done here."

Then McDonald, who was present at the meeting to record minutes, chimed in.

"I'm just going to say for the record that I'm not taking any extra hours," she said. "I'm not taking extra hours."

While Maguire still said Burbank should do the job for free, Haverl ultimately remade the motion to appoint Burbank with a salary corresponding to Higgins' salary. This time, Desrosiers seconded the motion and it passed, with her and Haverl in favor, Maguire opposed and Burbank abstaining.

After the meeting, Maguire reiterated that he would have filled in for free and that while he may need to budget his time, preventing him from doing it fulltime, there would have been a way to make it work, including having McDonald fill in.

"I can only tell you I'm disgusted," he said.

East Hampton Police News

5/24: After an investigation into a car versus fence motor vehicle crash on Smith Street, Christopher Kishimoto, 63, of 14 Dziok Dr. was issued a summons for failure to drive right, operating under suspension and failure to carry a driver's license.

Also, from May 20-27, officers responded to 19 medical calls, two motor vehicle crashes, six alarms and made 25 traffic stops, police said.

Stolen License Plate in Hebron

State Police are looking for information regarding a stolen license plate after the plate was reported missing last week.

At approximately 9 p.m. on May 27, state police responded to Hope Valley Road for a report of a missing Connecticut trailer license plate.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Troop K at 860-465-5400.

Vandalism Spree Reported in Colchester

Colchester Police are looking for those responsible for a number of vandalism incidents that occurred during the overnight hours between May 28 and 29.

According to the department's Facebook page, Noel's Market, Stop & Shop, the town's Parks and Recreation concession stand building, and two dugouts were vandalized with spray paint.

Police said the suspects were captured on Noel's Market surveillance video spray painting over the automatic door motion sensor.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to contact Colchester Police at 860-537-7270.

Portland Crash Causes Road Closures, Power Outages

by Elizabeth Regan

A collision involving a truck and a utility pole on Main Street Tuesday evening resulted in road closures and power outages near the corner of William Street and Main Street that lasted into the morning, according to officials.

Fire Chief and Public Works Director Robert Shea said Wednesday that emergency responders were alerted to the crash at 7:32 p.m. the night before.

The crash knocked down the utility pole and the tension pole across Main Street and resulted in many downed wires, Shea said.

The fire department put in a priority call to Eversource Energy due to concerns about the wires surrounding the truck, Shea said. He described the utility company's response as "re-

ally quick."

The driver of the single utility truck involved in the crash was taken to Hartford Hospital for evaluation, Shea said.

Some affected power customers were restored soon after Eversource's arrival, according to Shea; the rest were out of power for most of the night.

The power outage affected the high school, where a band concert and a Board of Education meeting were being held. Generators kicked in right away and power came back less than an hour later.

Shea said Main Street in the area of the crash reopened around 9:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The crash is under investigation.

Starbucks, CVS Likely for Elmcrest Site in Portland

by Elizabeth Regan

As demolition preparations begin on the site of the former Elmcrest Hospital, details about commercial tenants are beginning to emerge.

Contract negotiations with Starbucks and CVS are in the final stages, according to Portland Economic Development Coordinator Mary Dickerson.

She said this week that Danbury-based developer Dan Bertram gave the status update at a recent Middlesex Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Bertram, of BRT General Corporation, is undertaking the project with the DiMarco Group of Rochester, N.Y.

Bertram did not respond to phone and email requests for comment.

Dickerson said the demolition permit authorized in May 2018 was paid by the developers last week with a \$5,703 check. Crews were expected to be on site this week to conduct environmental assessments for hazardous materials like asbestos and lead.

Bertram has indicated demolition will begin

this summer and construction will begin in the fall with the hope that Starbucks and CVS will open in 2020, according to Dickerson.

The site has been vacant for more than a decade.

The Brainerd Place project, approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission over a year ago, includes two residential buildings with 238 units and 108,510 square feet of commercial space. A tax abatement agreement authorized in 2017 by the Board of Selectmen gives the developer a break on more than \$3 million in property taxes over 14 years.

Dickerson said the pad site for the CVS has already been approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission with a pharmacy drive-through, though the commission will still have to authorize aesthetic details under Village District review provisions in zoning regulations.

The Starbucks, which she said would also have a drive-through, would go into a new building designed to evoke a 19th century carriage

house, Dickerson said.

The site contains an actual carriage house built in 1852 that is slated for demolition.

Protections in the zoning approval and tax abatement specify that three of the site's historic homes will remain on the site. The structures are included in the Marlborough Street Historic District on the National Register of Historic Places.

The local demolition permit authorizes the removal of upwards of 20 buildings on the site as laid out in the developer's plans, including houses on the side of Perry Avenue adjacent to the project.

All but one of the parcels on Perry Avenue are currently under the ownership of a host of limited liability corporations associated with the project. The holdout is 10 Perry Avenue, where 90-year-old Donald R. Markham has lived his whole life.

"I'm still here," he said this week.

Markham told the *Rivereast* he is exploring

other housing options in town.

"I haven't made up my mind to move yet because they haven't found a place I want to go to," Markham said. "It's up to me and my sons what we do."

Markham said he and Fred Hassan, who owns the brunt of the project property, initially came to "more or less of an agreement" back when the plan was to use only the back portion of his yard for the project. The plan now hinges on demolishing the 1.5-story cape.

Markham's property is valued at \$132,800, according to the tax assessor's database.

His family moved in two years before he was born, he said: "For 92 years, it's been my home."

While the local permit authorizes demolition, construction cannot begin until a \$1.67 million bond is posted to the state Department of Transportation.

State Department of Transportation spokesman Kevin Nursick said this week developers have not yet posted the bond.

Board Hopes to Save Portland Middle School Sports

by Elizabeth Regan

The Board of Education this week expressed hope they will be able to avoid cutting middle school sports, though members did not rule it out completely.

Options on the table include a pay-for-play framework that could – based on preliminary figures – cost middle and high school families up to \$300 per year.

The school board met Tuesday to grapple with a \$217,000 cut to the proposed 2019-20 education budget that was ordered by the Board of Selectman after the spending plan failed at its first referendum last month. The budget passed on May 29 with no further reductions.

Middle School student Ryan Clarke attended Tuesday's meeting to plead for sports. He said the program fosters important relationships with coaches whom athletes can look up to and go to with their problems.

"I think it's a really good connection that someone as young as that could have with an adult," Clarke said.

School board members during their discussion also spoke about the benefits of sports.

Vice Chairman Meg Scata said eliminating the program would result in "more behavior issues, more kids just sitting around, not exercising."

While the school board declined to take any action on eliminating the middle sports program at Tuesday's meeting, they said they would like to see more information about potential sources of savings – including the pay-to-play option.

Figures from district business manager Stephanie Fragola show that charging athletes \$75 per sport with a cap of \$300 per family at both the middle and high schools would yield \$42,225 in revenue. Charging \$100 per sport with a \$400 cap would yield \$56,300 in revenue.

Board of Education student representative Olivia Runte, a high school junior, implored

school board members to make sure any pay-to-play program has provisions for families that cannot afford to pay.

Data about statewide pay-to-play fee structures compiled by the district shows East Hampton High School charges \$100 per sport with a \$500 cap. The RHAM middle and high schools, covering Hebron, Andover and Marlborough, charge \$170 per sport with a \$510 cap, according to the document.

Superintendent of Schools Philip O'Reilly said he is hopeful an agreement he is negotiating with a private special education program looking to rent space at Brownstone Intermediate School will provide enough revenue to save the middle school sports program.

The program, run by the Hartford-based Oak Hill School, is for elementary-aged students with intellectual, behavioral or multiple disabilities.

O'Reilly did not disclose the lease fees under consideration, but said it is "safe to say" it would be enough to fund the middle school sports program. Any agreement would likely be finalized by July 1, according to O'Reilly.

But some school board members expressed concern about using the possible revenue source for sports when the lean budget is also threatening academic programs and staffing levels.

Despite tight fiscal constraints, the school board on Tuesday voted to add a kindergarten teacher to prevent unmanageable class sizes in the unexpectedly large incoming class. In order to fund the kindergarten position, the district will look at shrinking fifth grade by one teacher since it is expected to be one of the smallest grades in the school system in the coming year.

O'Reilly said fifth grade class sizes if reduced by one teacher would range from 18-19 students per class in the subjects of math and lan-

guage arts, with classes of 22-23 students in science and social studies.

O'Reilly cautioned that there are "a significant" number of students in that grade who have been identified with special education needs that require extra attention and resources.

"You never want to look at just a number, folks," O'Reilly said. "You also have to look at needs."

But he also stressed throughout the meeting that all the options on the table came from school administrators who were tasked with coming up with possible reductions that would have "the least amount of impact" on students.

"I don't like robbing Peter to pay Paul," he said of swapping out the fifth grade position for a kindergarten position. "I don't see a lot of other options."

One possibility would be to move a preschool teacher to kindergarten and hire a part-time preschool replacement. But school board Chairman Sharon Peters said she doesn't think the idea "makes any sense" since it would leave a \$37,745 hole in the budget.

School board members said they will continue to search for budget savings that will allow the district to both add a kindergarten teacher and keep the fifth grade teacher.

School board member Laurel Steinhauser reiterated her discomfort with prioritizing restoration of middle school sports over saving the fifth grade teacher and ensuring the high school civics program can expand from a half-year to a full-year.

Steinhauser and Scata advocated instituting the pay-for-play framework for funding middle school sports while earmarking the potential lease revenue for academics.

Still others noted the town has a healthy rainy day fund – or undesignated fund balance – that could be used to ease the burden on the educa-

tion budget.

First Selectman Susan Bransfield told the *Rivereast* last month that the newly approved budget already includes a \$300,000 cushion from the town's undesignated fund balance. The rainy day fund amounts to 19% of the total operating budget, she has said.

The comfortable fund balance has helped the town secure a AA+ bond rating that translates to favorable interest rates on bonding projects. It's also an important source of funding in case of emergencies, according to Bransfield.

Bransfield at a joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Education last month pledged that selectmen will be receptive to school board requests for additional appropriations that may arise in the coming school year.

While school board members did not come to a decision on middle school sports by the end of Tuesdays meeting, they did address \$158,211 of the mandated \$217,000 reduction. Cuts included dropping fifth grade from the 1-to-1 Chromebook that provides a dedicated tablet computer for each student in grades 5-12; leaving a full-time technology department position unfilled; and reducing the textbook and supplies line item in every department's budget by 10%.

They also cut the high school assistant wrestling coach and eliminated the middle school girls softball team due to a lack of players. Athletic Director Chris Serra said there are only five middle school softball players currently, with only three set to return.

The board will also require families of students in Advanced Placement classes to pay for their exams. Financial aid provisions are in place at the state level to assist qualifying families.

The school board is scheduled to meet again on June 18 to discuss how to address the roughly \$60,000 it still needs to cut.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Roger Samuel Adamy

Roger Samuel Adamy, 90, formerly of Venice, Fla., passed away Monday, April 29, at the Saybrook at Haddam.

He was born in Manchester June 22, 1928, to the late Samuel Adamy and Ruth Frances Adamy (Massey). In high school, Roger lettered in soccer and was a member of the Hi-Y. After graduating from Manchester High School, Roger proudly served his country in the United States Navy from 1946-48. He was on the carrier USS Philippine Sea with Rear Admiral Byrd and the mission "Operation High Jump" South Pole Expedition. This cruise was carrying the first ever DC3 transport planes, the largest transport planes ever launched from a carrier deck.

He is survived by his daughter Cynthia Chotkowski (Adamy) and fiancé Edward Kelley (Cromwell) of East Hampton, son Mark Adamy of Nyack, N.Y., and stepson Paul Karrer and wife Mira, of Monterey, Calif.; sister and brother-in-law Ruth (Adamy) and Ron Sloan of South Carolina; and three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. He was predeceased by his brother, David Adamy.

A celebration of life, with full military honors, will be held on Saturday, June 8, from noon-3 p.m. at Chateau Lé Garí, 303 S. Main St., Marlborough.

The family requests that no flowers be sent, but instead donations be made in Roger's memory to Middlesex Health Hospice Program at Middlesex Health Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Colchester

Anita Joyal Huse

Anita Joyal Huse, 65, loving wife of Oliver Huse and devoted mother of three, passed away unexpectedly Monday, May 27, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident. Born March 6, 1954, in Norwich, to Ramuald N. Joyal and Loretta T. Grandchamp, where she had 12 siblings whom she loved.

Anita had a passion for life and embraced every minute enthusiastically. She loved music and dancing and had a beautiful smile and an infectious joy. She was a hard worker and spent much of her life caring for others, both professionally and personally. She embraced adventure and lived in many different places including Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, California and Vietnam.

She had a true pioneer spirit who was resourceful, creative, and most of all kind which made her a pleasure to be with. She was very active as one of Jehovah's Witnesses and she tirelessly volunteered to help others to learn about the Bible.

Anita was predeceased by her father and mother (the latter of who died when Anita was 12) and three of her siblings: Susanne, Diane and James.

She is survived by her husband Oliver; her son, Lucas Livingston, his wife Nha Nguye; sons, Orion and Nebo Huse; two grandsons, Lam and Laken Livingstone; stepmother, Therese Joyal; sisters, Denise, Jeannine, Louise, Charlene, Annette, Paula and Danielle and brothers Thomas and Phillip along with many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held Sunday, June 9, at 4 p.m. at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 297 Westchester Rd., Colchester.

In lieu of flowers you may kindly donate to the Worldwide Work of Jehovah's Witnesses: <https://apps.jw.org/ui/E/donate-home.html#donate>

Additionally, a Go Fund Me page has been set up to assist with expenses related to her unplanned death: <https://www.gofundme.com/anita-c-joyal-huse-memorial>.

Colchester

Yvan L. Soucy

Yvan L. Soucy, 60, of Colchester, died unexpectedly Monday, May 27, in a motorcycle accident. Yvan was born in Canada and raised in Maine before moving to Connecticut. He was the son of the late Maurice T. and Anita Soucy of Connor Township, Maine.

Yvan moved to Colchester, Connecticut in the early '90s. He was a hardworking man and a jack of all trades. There wasn't anything he couldn't do. He belonged to the Laborer's Union Local #230 working for King's Construction Company. He was an avid outdoorsman. He loved to spend his time hunting and fishing. He was a lover of animals, especially his best friends Lilo and Hunter.

Yvan was a great man and will be missed by many. Surviving Yvan is his daughter Allison Soucy of East Windsor, as well as his significant other Doreen and her daughter Ashley of East Hartford. He also leaves behind his siblings, Josee Strachan and husband Robb of Calgary, Alberta Canada; Bobby Soucy of Connor, Maine; Norman Soucy and his significant other Camille Desire of Woodland, Maine; Nelson Soucy of Connor, Maine; Gerald Soucy and his wife Jenelyn Lacson Soucy of Quezon, Philippines; and Jim Soucy and his wife Tammy of Connor, Maine.

Friends may celebrate Yvan's life Saturday, June 8, at 6 p.m., at the Knights of Columbus in East Hartford, located at 1831 Main St., East Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation to Bolton Veterinary Hospital, 222 Boston Tpke., Bolton, CT 06043.

Portland

Carol Haynes

Carol L. (Cook) Haynes, 79, of Middletown, wife of the late Dr. Richard F. Haynes, passed away on Friday, May 31st at her home, The Village at South Farms. She was born in New Orleans, La., on Nov. 27, 1939, daughter of the late Ewing and Louise (Sedlock) Cook.

She met her husband Richard at Southeastern Louisiana University. They were married over 50 years. She has been bereft since he passed away in 2014. She lived in Monroe, La., most of her life. They moved to Connecticut to retire near family.

Carol is survived by two daughters and their spouses, Allison (Charles) Whitaker and Melissa (Christopher) Kagan. She has many grandchildren, Caroline (Mac) Whitmeg, Elizabeth Whitaker, Nathaniel Kagan and Lillian Kagan. She also has a dear brother, Dr. Ewing Cook and sister-in-law Mignon (Dyson) Cook with their children Stephanie (Eric) Nelson, Wil (Jan) Cook and Wesley (Michele) Cook.

Carol taught in the Ouachita Parish school system in Monroe for over 30 years. She loved teaching middle school science and was always a student favorite. Carol was happiest in the kitchen and in the garden. She was well-known to have a messy house and impeccable vegetable and flower garden. She truly expressed her love for others with food. Strongly influenced by her New Orleans roots, her meals were always rich and spicy. Even after moving into assisted living, she continued to cook in their kitchen. She threw a party to thank the staff at The Village every year that she would cook entirely herself.

Carol was to the very end a sassy Southern lady with endless generosity, humor and lots of love.

Her family would like to thank The Village at South Farms. She loved living there the last five years of her life – she thought she ran the place. The staff there is beyond special to her whole family. They would also like to thank Dr. Adriel Kramer of East Hampton for his devoted care of Carol.

Funeral services and burial will be private. The Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland is in charge of arrangements.

Colchester

Carl B. Larkin

Carl B. Larkin, 72, of Colchester, passed away Saturday, June 1, in Waterford at the Bayview Health Care Center, where he had been residing. Born in Norwich Oct. 1, 1946, he was a son of the late Clarence and Jeanette (Heroux) Larkin.

Carl retired several years ago after a long career in construction, working in many different areas and with several different companies. He married Sandra Kaiser Oct. 19, 1976. She predeceased him Dec. 22, 1996.

Carl will be missed by many people whose lives he touched. He leaves three children, Jordan Larkin, Carl B. Larkin, Jr., Eddy Strong; three step-children, Phyllis, Sandra, and Joseph; three brothers, Leonard of Norwich, Clifford of Preston and Willie of New London, and numerous grandchildren, extended family and friends. He was predeceased by a brother, Leroy Larkin.

Calling hours will be held today, June 7, from 4-6 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will follow at 6 p.m. at the funeral home. Burial will be held at a later date in the New St. Andrew Cemetery in Colchester.

Donations in his memory may be made to benefit his memorial C/O Leonard Larkin, 48 Woodrow Ave., Norwich, CT 06360.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Peder A. Samuelson

Peder A. Samuelson, 78, of Portland, passed away peacefully Tuesday, June 4, at Middlesex Hospital, surrounded by his loving family. He was a lifelong resident of Portland.

Peder is survived by his wife of 56 years, Frances; his son, Jason Samuelson and his wife Lorraine and his daughter Cynthia Mazzotta and her husband Sebastian; two grandchildren, Caden and Ty. He is also survived by his sister, Susan Adinolfo and her husband Richard, as well as many nieces and nephews.

Peder was predeceased by his daughter, Sharon Elizabeth Samuelson; his parents, Nels and Audrey Samuelson; and a sister, Beverly Johnson.

The funeral will be held Saturday, June 8, at 10 a.m., in St. Mary Church, Portland. Burial will be in the family plot in St. Mary Cemetery Portland at a later date. Friends may call at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Friday, June 7, from 5-7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to St. Mary Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.