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East Hampton resident Sarah Barney, sitting, and her mother Judy Costen have been taking life one day at a time since Barney was severely injured in a Dec. 26, 2018 rollover car crash. The crash sidelined what had been the young woman's promising career as a dancer and aerial acrobat.

Injured Acrobat Faces Future with Fortitude

by Michelle Richmond

There is an old adage that states, "When life gives you lemons, you simply make lemonade."

For 19-year-old East Hampton resident Sarah Barney and her mother Judy Costen, that philosophy has been their daily mantra since a Dec. 26, 2018 rollover car crash on I-91 in Middletown sidelined what had been the young woman's promising career as a dancer and aerial acrobat.

Barney, who began dancing when she was just four years old, was employed as a dance teacher at The Studio in East Hampton when she sustained major injuries when a yet-to-be-identified driver ran her 2003 Jeep Liberty off the highway.

She was rushed by Life Star helicopter to Hartford Hospital's Intensive Rehab Unit where she remained until Jan. 24 for treatment of a lumbar spine fracture and two broken legs, which required placing a series of metal rods, plates and screws into them.

That hospital stay was followed by outpatient rehab at the Bone and Joint Institute until a severe bacterial bone infection – discovered in April – sent her back to the Institute for another 63-day stint and 23 more surgeries.

That infection necessitated the removal of two inches of bone from her leg to flesh out the bacteria. Doctors had to take muscle from her abdomen to cover the leg wound and removed bone from her pelvis to put in her tibia to replace the spacers that had been holding her leg in place.

"I guess you could say that she no longer has a six-pack because it's now a five-pack," quipped Costen.

"And now I have body parts all over my

body," Barney added. "I also blew out both my knees, so I had to also deal with that on top of everything else."

Barney's sense of humor, along with her self-described "high tolerance to pain," has managed to sustain her throughout her nearly nine-month ordeal, which now includes 40 surgeries.

And while she's not able to walk without using a walker, she has obviously come a long way since the incident and is making slow, steady progress. She has also managed to maintain a positive attitude – and a sense of humor – which she credits to her dance background.

"I think the strict discipline I've had as a dancer since I was a child has helped me with this. I have to discipline myself or I won't get healthier," Barney noted.

"When something like this happens, you have no choice but to just get through it," said Costen. "As a mother, it hasn't been easy watching this. Sometimes I just have to walk away and take 15 minutes to disassociate, but you do what you have to do. If anything, this has brought us closer."

Costen, who has a child daycare in her home, added, "I'm just a caregiver. It's what I do. When Sarah has a doctor's appointment, I just pack up the kids and we all go!"

Both women have high praise for the Bone and Joint Institute where they say they've made "lifetime friends."

"They were amazing," Costen said of the institute. "Sarah was there for 63 days and the staff went above and beyond. They even let us set up her room as a dorm room and they allowed her to go out in her wheelchair for fresh

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Mom Hopes Citizenship Question Leads to Change

by Sloan Brewster

When Ester Cherry's son was asked if he was a U.S. citizen, she decided to use the incident to elicit change.

Brazilian immigrants, Cherry and her son Bruno, a 16-year-old sophomore at RHAM High School, moved to Hebron from Farmington three months ago. Eager to enroll Bruno in his new high school, Cherry downloaded all the necessary paperwork from the district's website and made an appointment to go to the school on July 30.

During the appointment, a school counselor looked at Bruno and asked if he was a citizen, Cherry said. In an interview this week, she declined to name the counselor.

"I'm not mentioning her name because she was following orders," Cherry said. "She called her supervisor in front of me. It was the school system that's at fault."

Bruno was unsure how to answer.

"He looked at me, he said, 'Mom, am I?' because he knew we were applying for U.S. citizenship this year," Cherry said. "I told him we're green card holders."

The counselor then said she believed she would need to see his green card to verify he was not in this country on a visitor's visa – saying she could not enroll him if he was, Cherry said. She then confirmed with her supervisor that she did need to see the green card.

At that point, Cherry said she did not mind giving the document.

"I just give them what they ask for because I'm very proud that I can," she said. "After six years of trying, my green card came. I'm very happy to have it and I love to show it."

When she got home, though, she did some research, and learned it was an illegal question.

"They're not supposed to ask about status, never mind deny enrollment," she said.

According to both state and federal law, she is correct.

The U.S. Department of Education's online fact sheet states that while school officials may verify a child lives within the district, they may not ask about citizenship or immigration status.

Also, according to the department, states and local educational agencies must provide all chil-

dren – regardless of immigration status – with equal access to public education at the elementary and secondary level.

In Connecticut, the law also states that school officials may not ask immigration status and must provide children access to public schools, regardless of immigration status as long as they live in the district, according to the state Department of Education.

Armed with that information, Cherry returned to the school.

"I went in and I told her that I'm not going to bring his green card because this is illegal," she said, adding that the official did not relent. "We walked out of the school without having him enrolled."

Cherry went home and started making calls, including to U.S. Senator Chris Murphy and the American Civil Liberties Union.

Murphy's office contacted her and said someone from his staff would contact the state Department of Education about the matter, she said. The ACLU has not returned her call, Cherry said this week.

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Ester Cherry

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air – something they never do.”

“Some of the nurses would just come and hang out with me,” said Barney. “Even though they were my nurses, they would just stay and chat with me. It really helped me.”

In fact, they were so supportive that prior to Barney’s most recent surgery, her orthopedic surgeon Dr. Steven Davis uploaded a video of her in the operating room with her anesthesiologist and two residents, to social media app Tik Tok. It can also be seen on Costen’s public Facebook page: JudyNovakBarneyCosten.

The support from East Hampton residents has been “overwhelming,” according to both women.

“We’re so grateful for all the support our family and friends have given us throughout this journey that we want to try to give back,” said Costen. “So we’re planning a blood drive to help put back into the bank what Sarah used.”

The blood drive – which will also help celebrate Barney’s 20th birthday – is set for Thursday, Sept. 12, from 2-7 p.m., at the East Hampton VFW at 20 North Maple St. Donors are asked to call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-

2767) for an appointment or text or call Costen at 860-301-2830.

“If people aren’t able to donate, we could use volunteers for that day and to make baked goods to give the donors,” said Costen.

Looking back on the last few months, Costen had this to say:

“We have days when both of us are ‘done,’ and Sarah tells me that her heart hurts. We just ask each other if we can just sit and cry for a couple of hours and every once in a while you just have to do that. But then we just pick ourselves up, have some ice cream and keep on going.”

“When sudden, scary life changes come up you must take life one day at a time,” added Barney. “And if that’s even hard, take it one breath at a time. It’s easy to let the world make you bitter. Be soft with yourself, stay humble in your heart and stay focused on what burns in your heart.”

“We know that this isn’t going to be forever,” Costen concluded. “We keep on reminding each other of that and it helps.”

Citizenship cont. from Front Page

Then, a few hours after she left RHAM without enrolling her son, the school called her, asked the date when Bruno entered the country and said he could come in and choose his classes. When Cherry went in this time, she had print-outs of documents from the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice stating that officials cannot ask immigration status.

She gave them to the counselor, who said she had also found the documents.

“She said, ‘Well, I actually have the same paper because after you left I actually did some research and I should not ask that, so he’s all set,’” Cherry said the counselor told her.

But Cherry was still not satisfied with the women’s response as she did not say she would look further into why she had been told to ask for Bruno’s green card. She decided to follow through with media outlets she had already called, in the hope her story would prevent the same thing happening to someone else.

“They’re not supposed to ask and what if I didn’t have it,” Cherry said. “I didn’t understand how a school that big could be asking that.”

Peter Yazbac, communication director for the state Department of Education, said the department has been in contact with the RHAM school district since the incident took place and that Superintendent of Schools Pat Law is retraining the counselor who did the initial intake interview with Cherry and Bruno.

“We’ve issued guidance to make sure districts are aware of the law and effective protocol for enrollment,” he said.

Included in the guidance the department sent is a three-page brochure entitled Tips for Designing A Lawful and Effective Enrollment Process, which states that districts should not request documentation of citizenship or immigration status from a student or parent.

Law did not respond to requests for comment for this story, and RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie said he could not comment.

One reason Cherry said she opted not to just let the incident go once Bruno was enrolled is that she has been “mistreated” in the past for her immigration status and wanted to use “the power of humiliation” to usher change.

People don’t know the stories of the undocumented people they humiliate, she said. Like-

wise, many undocumented folks don’t understand the law, and unlike her, may not do their own research.

“There are a lot of people who don’t speak English, they don’t know their rights,” she said. “We can use the law.”

In 2005, Cherry emigrated to the U.S. from Brazil, where the then-single mother was raising her son with very little money.

“Some days I’d eat once a day – crackers – because that’s all I could afford,” she said.

Undocumented when she first arrived, she applied for asylum, which she was denied. In 2007, she met and fell in love with Todd Cherry. They secretly married in 2010.

In 2012, they had a public wedding and by then her son, who had remained with Cherry’s mother in Brazil, had been granted a green card and was able to be there.

“He walked me down the aisle,” she said.

In August 2016, Cherry was issued her green card, she said. She is applying for citizenship this year.

Cherry has an associate’s degree from Tunxis Community College and has completed work towards her bachelor’s in environmental systems and human ecology at the University of Baltimore. She has applied to the University of Connecticut, where she plans to complete her studies. Since UConn – to her dismay – does not offer the same degree, she said she will major in general studies.

She worked for Blue Water Baltimore taking water samples to study for water pollution control and said she loves working in the field and lab.

While in Maryland she said she received an award for a study she was going to do on oysters in Chesapeake Bay to observe the effects of runoff and water pollution on oysters. When she got pregnant, she couldn’t continue the work.

“We were going to do experiments,” she said. “The whole effect that humans are leaving on nature, that’s what fascinates me.”

She plans to get a teaching certificate.

“I love biology, I love science so I think I can use my passion to teach others,” she said. “And who knows? Maybe someday I’ll be able to work in the field again.”

Hebron Man Sues Town Following Wife’s Death

by Sloan Brewster

A Hebron man is suing the town and local property owners for the wrongful death of his wife.

According to the suit, filed in Rockville Superior Court in May, Glen Hadley, of Jagger Lane, is suing Richard and Jill Cole, of East Street, Kevin Kelly, director of public works and tree warden, and the town.

Hadley’s attorney, Rick Conti, of Diana, Conti & Trulia, LLP of Manchester, said he could not comment further as it’s a pending case. He also would not divulge the amount Hadley is seeking, though the lawsuit indicates it is in excess of \$15,000.

The suit is a response to an accident that took place on June 20, 2017, when a tree limb fell in front of a 2017 Subaru Outback driven by Hadley’s 76-year-old wife, Ruthanne Hadley. The limb struck Hadley’s car and Hadley herself, according to a police report written at that time. Hadley subsequently lost control of the vehicle, went off the side of the road, striking a sign and hitting a group of trees before coming to a stop.

Hadley, who, according to police, was wearing a seatbelt, was pronounced dead at the scene.

According to the lawsuit, the tree, described as “a rotting and/or decaying tree,” penetrated the windshield and impaled Hadley.

The suit alleges that Hadley suffered painful mental and physical injuries before her death, terror and fear, was deprived of her life and that her husband’s estate incurred funeral expenses – and that he has been deprived of her love and companionship.

The suit claims that the tree was on the Coles’ property and they “knew or should have known” about its decaying condition.

“The injuries and losses suffered as a result of this incident were caused by the carelessness and negligence of the homeowners,” the lawsuit states.

The suit lists nine ways the Coles allegedly caused the incident, including that they failed to inspect the tree and determine if it constituted a danger to travelers on East Street. It also states that they failed to determine the tree was

rotted and decayed and constituted a hazard, that they did not have the tree trimmed or cut down, “failed to remedy this dangerous condition when they knew, or should have known that this condition could cause injury” and failed to take precautions to protect people from the dangerous condition.

The Coles could not be reached for comment for this story.

The suit goes on to claim that a portion of the tree, namely the limb in question, was hanging in the town’s right of way.

The suit alleges that, since the tree was hanging in the town’s right of way, its care fell within Kelly’s responsibilities. Thus, according to the suit, Hadley’s injuries were also caused by his carelessness and negligence.

The suit alleges that Kelly had failed to inspect, cut down, cull or trim the tree – creating a “dangerous defective condition” on the roadway.

Kelly said he could not comment because he is listed in the lawsuit.

Town Manager Andrew Tierney said the ac-

cident was “a very unfortunate thing.”

While acknowledging the town was named in the suit because the plaintiffs “believe a portion of the tree was hanging over the right-of-way,” Tierney said it was a matter between Hadley’s insurance company and the property owners.

“We consider it an act of God,” he said. “As far as we know, the tree was not on town property,” he said.

Tierney also has doubts about the claim that the tree was hanging in the town’s right-of-way.

“I’m not sure how that can be determined after the tree had fallen down so I really can’t speak to it too much,” he said.

The lawsuit has not been to court yet, according to the state judicial branch website.

According to the website, the most recent movement in the case was an extension filed on Aug. 28, in which Glen Hadley agreed to give the town and Kelly until Oct. 9 to respond to written questions and documents pertinent to the suit.

Portland Residents Approve Brownstone Land Purchase

by Michelle Richmond

Portland residents turned out in full force on Wednesday night to settle once and for all the fate of the property located on the west side of Brownstone Avenue owned by former Connecticut Tar & Asphalt Co.

Brownstone Intermediate School was packed beyond capacity with the overflow of residents lined up along Main St. to cast their vote on Portland's "hot topic," which had been in discussion since 2013 when town officials started working on buying the property at a cost of \$385,000.

The purchase was approved with 329 residents voting 'yes' and 70 voting 'no,' with two abstentions. Town officials stated that they were "thrilled" with the outcome of the vote and "pleased with the number of people who turned out."

"I'm very proud of the number of people who turned out," said First Selectman Susan Bransfield. "It takes an effort to come out and vote and this has been a resounding turnout. This just proves that people are proud of their town."

A remediation grant was secured in 2016 from the state Department of Economic and Community Development for \$775,000, which is how much the town's consulting environmental engineer said it would cost to clean up the site, which has been designated as a "contaminated brownfield." The grant can only be released upon purchase of the properties.

Connecticut law defines a "brownfield" as "any abandoned or underutilized site where re-development and reuse of expansion has not occurred due to the presence or potential presence of pollution in the buildings, soil or groundwater that requires investigation or remediation before or in conjunction with re-development, reuse or expansion of property."

The brownfield site, encompassing 5.2 acres on the Connecticut River at 222, 230 and 248 Brownstone Ave., was petroleum storage and distribution operation of Port Oil Company before it was vacated some 10 years ago, leaving five large oil tanks on the site.

Officials have been eyeing the site for sev-

eral years. A "purchase-and-sale intent" agreement on the price of the property was signed by First Selectman Susan Bransfield and the town subsequently received two grants in connection with restoration of the property.

The first grant was used to determine whether or not the ground had absorbed oil and related chemicals and how much the land was affected during its years of use as an asphalt depot.

"This vote was first step in having the property legally acquired until the town is accepted into the Connecticut Brownfield and Liability Relief Program," said Mary Dickerson, Portland's Land Use/Economic Development Coordinator.

"Once accepted, we can move forward and take title of the property and begin the clean-up with the grant money we received," Dickerson added. "There's a lot of work ahead of us and this is the first step. You have to push the big stone up the hill and now we know just how big that stone is."

"I'm thrilled with the turnout," Bransfield

said. "In all my years as First Selectman this has been the largest turn out we've had for a town meeting. With 82 percent voting 'yes' and 18 percent voting 'no,' we have a solid statement to move forward with the development and clean up, allowing for economic development and proceeding with the grant we got from the State."

Bransfield received a congratulatory email from Binu Chandy, Deputy Director of the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development on Thursday, stating that, "We will now proceed with the DECD Assistance Agreement process."

Bransfield also stated that she eventually hopes to establish a revitalization committee.

"This is a community investment and I intend to capitalize on it," she said. "I want everyone to participate in this. I also want to thank everyone who came out to vote and to town employees, commissioners and selectmen who helped with this. We started this project in 2013 and it's been a long process."

New Agreement Expands Colchester Animal Shelter Use

by Karla Santos

The town of Colchester recently renewed and expanded its relationship with the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, now allowing the organization to use the Colchester animal shelter to hold local dogs.

For about a year, the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (NECCOG) Animal Services Program was in charge of picking up the animals found in the area of Colchester. Those animals were then taken to the NECCOG facilities in Killingly. But now a second contract has been added, allowing those animals to be cared for right in Colchester.

"They are going to be covering this area using our dog pound on Old Hartford Road," First Selectman Art Shilosky said. "Now with them leasing our pound, you lose your dog in Colchester or something in this area, you can go right to our dog pound."

Colchester's dog pound is one of NECCOG's most recent additions to its animal services program.

According to John Filchak, executive director of NECCOG, the Colchester pound holds from 10 to 12 dogs. Cats will continue to be taken to the Killingly facility. The organization serves 19 towns including Colchester.

During an interview on Aug. 18, Filchak told the *RiverEast* that the new Colchester facility was undergoing minor renovations.

"There was just some code issues with the state," Filchak said. "The state regulates animal shelters so there was some ventilation issues and some fencing issues that we had to take care of. Those are being done in conjunction with the state so that we are compliant with their rules and then we will be operating there."

Filchak said this week the code issues have since been addressed, although some more cleaning needs to take place before the new facility is open.

The animal shelter in Colchester "has been there for as long as I can remember," Shilosky said. He said the town had formerly had its own

animal control officer, then it joined the Animal Control District and it later partnered with NECCOG.

NECCOG has had the overall program in place since 2004.

"Now since they've been in our regional program, we discussed the opportunity to bring back that shelter into ours and it seems like a win-win for both not only Colchester but our towns that we serve in the south and for the program overall," Filchak said.

The benefits NECCOG provides by having a Colchester facility include a short distance drive to retrieve a dog and an animal control officer available on a 24-7 basis

"An officer will be operating out of that facility so that response times will be quicker for people in the area and it just makes this program stronger [overall]," Filchak said.

NECCOG has a total of five officers that operate on a rotation.

"We always have an officer or more avail-

able to respond to whatever the issue might be," Filchak said. "We have officers that go out on routine calls and then go out in response to residents."

In addition, NECCOG officers in the Colchester facility are responsible for feeding and caring for the animals. NECCOG also takes care of adoption services.

According to Filchak, NECCOG's program is cost-effective to the town because there are animal control officers available at all times.

Filchak said NECCOG pays Colchester \$4,000 per year for the use of the pound.

"It works out well for everybody," Filchak said. "We've been able to place more than 6,500 animals since 2004."

Filchak added that NECCOG has not had to euthanize any of its rescued animals because they have enough space to hold them.

One of NECCOG's future plans is to add another vehicle in the southern region for better response times.

Blish Park Fireplace in Marlborough to be Repaired

by Karla Santos

After mulling their options, town officials have decided to repair the Blish Park fireplace, after it was damaged by vandals in July.

First Selectman Amy Traversa announced the decision during Tuesday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

The options considered were to completely replace the fireplace, to fix it or to take it down. Traversa said "a lot of people" provided input about what they wanted the future of the fireplace to be. Traversa said that Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Barbara Lazzari, Planning and Development Director Peter Hughes and Parks and Recreation Department Director Ray Bull all played roles in the final decision.

On Tuesday's meeting, Selectman Evelyn Godbout said she's "happy" the park will continue to have the fireplace. "I think it adds to the culture," she said.

Traversa said the total cost of fixing the fireplace could range from \$25,000 to \$35,000.

"We are looking to keep the same basic fireplace that we have now and then restore it to its pre-explosion condition," Traversa said.

Traversa said one of the future plans with the fireplace could be to add a gate to lock it when it's not in use.

"Having an unlocked one probably presents a liability that we just don't need," Traversa said. "This way if somebody rents out the pavilion or wants to have a fire, we'll have notice that they want to because they'll need to ask for a key."

The fireplace at Blish Park was damaged via a July 24 fire. Police said a group of five told officers they had gathered sticks to make a fire in the community chimney. The five said the fire appeared normal until an explosion occurred inside the chimney, causing chunks of brick to fly off.

Police said Tyler M. Chita, 18, of Bolton, and four juveniles – who weren't identified due to their ages – were each charged with third-degree criminal mischief.

Lazzari said she thinks most people are on the same page when it comes to fixing the fireplace.

"We need to repair that," Lazzari said in a phone interview Wednesday. "We don't want to just leave it like that and obviously that's the focal point down at the pavilion. We very much would like to have it repaired and I think that's the direction we're all going in, we're all in agreement with that."

Woman Arrested in Portland 2018 Drug Incident

by Michelle Richmond

Portland police arrested 20-year-old Waterbury resident Jameise Edison on Sept. 1 in an incident related to a November 2018 event at the Citgo station located at 421 Gospel Lane in Portland.

Edison was charged with operating a drug factory – marijuana controlled substance, possession of narcotic, possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and weapons in a motor vehicle, Portland Police said

According to Capt. Ron Milardo, after months of trying to locate her, Edison was apprehended by Waterbury police on an unrelated incident.

"At 1 a.m. on Nov. 1, 2018 Portland police officers noticed an unoccupied car at the closed Citgo station," Milardo said. "Two individuals were standing by the store window and when police approached the couple they jumped into their Toyota with out-of-state plates and sped off."

"The officer yelled for them to stop, but they took off going north on 17/17A at a very high speed," said Milardo. "The officer was in high pursuit but lost them."

Eventually, the officer came upon a one-car accident rollover into a telephone pole on Main Street and Glastonbury Turnpike.

"On arriving at the scene they heard people in the vehicle yelling, 'Come on, the cops are here. We have to go'," Milardo stated.

The driver – a man – and passenger Jameise Edison were transported to Hartford Hospital.

According to Milardo, the smell of marijuana came from inside of the vehicle and illegal narcotics were found in and around the vehicle.

"We applied for a warrant for the girl for illegal possession of a controlled substance, illegal manufacture, distribution and dispensing of a prescription and weapons in a vehicle," said Milardo.

"All of this was found in her purse, with her ID," he added. "An arrest warrant was applied for but we couldn't find her until this week because she's out of Waterbury."

On Sept. 1, Edison was arrested on a \$100,000 bond, which she posted the same day. She is scheduled to appear at GA 9 court in Middletown on Sept. 9, 2019.

Marlborough Health and Safety Fair Returns Sept. 15

by Karla Santos

The Marlborough Health and Safety Fair is coming back on Sept. 15, offering a wide array of safety and health related attractions for children, adults and senior citizens.

The event is hosted at the Marlborough Fire Department, 7 Hebron Rd. from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair is free, funded by the Roy B. Pettengill Ambulance Association and the Marlborough Fire Department.

Mark Merritt, rescue captain for the Marlborough Fire Department and chief of service for the ambulance association, said that while the event has activities for people of all ages, one of the efforts this year has been to offer more attractions for senior citizens.

"We are trying to get a few more things for seniors to come so it's a multi-age group event but yeah there's stuff for everybody to do," Merritt said.

Kevin Asklar, Marlborough fire chief, said the planning team always tries to offer new things at the event to keep the public's interest.

Asklar also said that the event is a good time for the fire department to interact with the public outside of emergencies. The goal of the event is to help residents live a lifestyle with health and safety in mind, he added.

The event, which is always done around the same time of the year, was started 20 years ago

to honor fire prevention month, which is October. But now with October also being breast cancer awareness month, breast cancer has become part of the event's focus.

Hartford Hospital Mobile Mammography bus will be on board at the event doing on site mammograms. Individuals interested in a mammogram can call to schedule their visit in advance but walk-ins are also welcome to stop by.

Event attendees will also be able to receive Automated External Defibrillator (AED) training, Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training and training on how to use fire extinguishers.

The idea is to help educate people in terms of what to do if an emergency happens.

"In reality, people that witness these emergencies are going to be beating the fire department and ambulance there, you know, nine times out of 10 and they can really make a huge difference," Merritt said.

The Marlborough Health and Safety Fair will also have blood pressure screening available as well as Middlesex Hospital nurses, Middlesex paramedics and more.

In addition, Rivereast Dental, Chatham Health and a drug take back program will be on board at the event.

Merritt said the Connecticut State Police will attend the fair to showcase a trailer in which parents will be able to learn what police have seen over the years "like where kids are hiding drugs," Merritt said. The truck will also help parents be aware of signs of addiction and suicidal ideations.

AHM Youth Services and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) will also be in attendance at the fair.

"We have the CHIP Program which is done by the Masons and they come out and they do child identification with DNA and everything," Merritt said. "They send it home with the parents, they don't keep anything on file."

The goal is for parents to keep that DNA demonstration or child identification packet in a safe place in case their child is ever missing or adopted.

A Life Star helicopter will also take part in the event. The helicopter will land at the Middlesex Health Marlborough Medical Center, where people will be able to tour the helicopter.

The safety part of the fair will include an interactive smoke trailer that uses training smoke and children will be able to use fire gear to practice.

"It's a great photo opportunity for parents," Merritt said. "It teaches them all about how to get out of a burning building safely and getting down low and crawling out."

The event will also include a Jaws of Life demonstration, a live fire demonstration, a seat belt convincer, car seat inspections, fire apparatus, and poison control information.

Free lunch will be served including hot dogs, hamburgers, fruit, popcorn and drinks throughout the event.

First Selectman Amy Traversa said the fair is an educational tool.

"Not only does the fair present hands-on learning opportunities and access to services like Mobile Mammography, but it's a timely reminder and provides meaningful information on how to stay safe," she said.

Traversa said she has attended the fair several times and "what always catches my attention is how engaged the kids are with the hands-on activities, she said. "It's always exciting when Life Star lands and you can see the kid's excitement."

Individuals looking to participate in the event or those looking to offer a service related to health or safety at the fair, can contact Merritt at 860-295-9692.

Republicans Head to Polls Next Week

by Karla Santos

In less than a week, Colchester Republicans will be able to vote on which selectmen and treasurer candidates they'll see on their Election Day ballots in November.

A primary will take place Tuesday, Sept. 10. The primary was forced after incumbent town treasurer Brenden Healy and incumbent selectman Stan Soby failed to win endorsement for re-election at the Republicans' July caucus. The two then successfully petitioned for a primary.

Healy is primarying against Steve Schuster, who was endorsed by the Republicans.

Soby, meanwhile, is seeking to be one of the three Republican Board of Selectmen candidates listed on the November ballot. He is looking to unseat one of the endorsed candidates – David Gesiak, Denise Mizla or Taras Rudko.

Both Soby and Healy said they are hoping people turn out at Tuesday's primary.

"I certainly would hope that people would go out to vote," Soby said. "It is both a right and a responsibility we have as American citizens to use the ballot to select those from among us who will lead us and serve in that capacity."

"I would think that this is an opportunity to implement the democratic process and I'm certainly asking for folks' vote," Healy said. "It's certainly an exciting time in local politics so I would hope folks take the time to vote."

Healy, who is also chairman of the Colchester Republican Town Committee, said he feels encouraged about the primary because of the response he received from the Republicans who showed their support to have his name on the ballot.

Healy said that if he is re-elected he plans on continuing to "focus on maximizing investment returns for the town of Colchester's in-

vestments."

He added that he has worked hard to implement cost savings on banking fees and in other areas of the town's finances.

"If I don't win than that means the voters have spoken and we'll go back to supporting the Republican ticket and running an election for November," Healy said.

Soby, who has served in the town's Board of Selectmen for 13 years, said he is happy with the way some things are running in Colchester and gives credit to a team effort and to all of the people who devote their time to help make the town successful. Soby said moving forward with the senior center building committee and the middle school renovation are examples of successful work in the town.

"I would like to certainly continue to be part of that effort on behalf of folks living in town," Soby said. "Again, we are just trying to get our message out to folks, encourage people to vote and look at folks' records of accomplishment as they make their choices as they fill out the ballot."

Soby, who is also vice chairman of the Republican Town Committee, said he wants to continue to stay engaged with the town even if he doesn't get re-elected.

"I want to be able to contribute in some way."

* * *

Polls will be open from 6 a.m.-8 p.m. Republicans in voting districts one and three vote at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave., and those in districts two and four will cast ballots at the Abundant Life of the Assemblies of God Church, 85 Skinner Rd. To find out which district you are in, go to colchesterct.gov/town-clerk/pages/voting-election-information.

East Hampton Police News

8/20: Torrie Derisi, 34, of 12 Mark Twain Dr., was issued a summons for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating an un-insured motor vehicle, East Hampton Police said.

8/24: Shelly Black, 40, of 175 Oak St., New Britain, was issued a summons for traveling unreasonably fast, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and misuse of plates, police said.

8/26: Benjamin McNaughton, 44, of 33 Hodge Rd., Marlborough, was arrested and charged with driving under the influence, police said.

Also, from Aug. 19-25, officers responded to 13 medical calls, five motor vehicle accidents, five alarms and made 24 traffic stops.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Charlene Culbert Ford

February 26, 1947 – July 19, 2019

Charlene Culbert Ford of Ormond Beach, Fla. and East Hampton, passed away peacefully Friday, July 19. She was born in Houlton, Maine, daughter of the late Charles and Sylvia Culbert.

Charlene moved to Connecticut at an early age and attended local schools. She was a member of Christ Community Church and Saint Stevens of East Haddam. In 2012 she moved to Ormond Beach, Fla., and became a member of the Crossroad Calvary Church. Charlene was always able to see when there was a need and lend a helping hand or volunteer her time.

Charlene is survived by her loving husband Oliver of 32 years; son John and his wife Carol Witherly, and daughter Terry and her husband Michael Perry; four stepchildren, Karen Ford, Jonathan Ford, Douglas Ford and the late Bonnie Ford; and her loving five grandchildren, John, Johnny, Corrie, Caroline and Thomas.

Charlene was one of seven children, Gary and Margaret Culbert of Holly Hill, Fla., Wayne and Michelle, Cliff (deceased) and Chris Culbert, Carletta and Ken Benjamin, Eddie Culbert, and Ellen and Jim Kraczkowsky. She is also survived by several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at Christ Community Church, 50 Orchard Road, East Haddam, Saturday, Sept. 14, at 2 p.m., followed by a celebration of life. Burial will be private.



Marlborough

Mandy Irene Beach

Mandy Irene Beach, 54, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully at Hartford Hospital Monday, Sept. 2, surrounded by her family. She was born Nov. 2, 1965, in Chelmsford, Essex, England, to Wayne and Heather (Longmuir) Beach.

By the age of 6 she found a stray cat, which she secretly cared for in the woods. As a teenager she worked and cared for horses at a local farm. She used to say, "All animals, if treated well, will never betray you." Thus her devotion to animals became a mainstay of her life. After high school, she attended Manchester Community College where she earned a degree in bookkeeping and accounting that landed her numerous jobs, finally working for Restaurant Equipment Paradise. Mandy was blessed with an uncanny ability to reach people in a deep and resounding way.

She was predeceased by her mother Heather, and survived by her son Shawn (Brandi Cyr); grandson Bexley; her father Wayne; stepmother Ann (Chapman); brother Paul; sister Natalie (Jay Fazzino); brother Carlton (Meegan Bowne); two stepsisters, Julie and Janette Chapman; plus nieces, nephews and of course her dog Rocky.

She always maintained that she was born 100 years too late and should have been brought up on a farm. Even so she surrounded herself with those she loved providing care and comfort through all phases of their lives. "The ties of love not even death can sever- sorrow will pass but love abides forever."

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS, is a debilitating neuromuscular disease. Connecticut has an ALS association which donations may be made to in memory of Mandy at ALS Association CT, 4 Oxford Rd., Milford, CT 06460. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family.

To leave online condolences, visit spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.



Portland

Jeannette Parker

Jeannette (Moquin) (Woynar) Parker, 83, of Portland, died Sunday, Aug. 25.

A funeral Mass will be at St. Mary Church, 45 Freestone Ave., Saturday, Sept. 14, at 9 a.m.

Colchester

Patricia Jane Russell

Patricia Jane Russell, 80, of Colchester, passed away into the arms of her Lord Tuesday, July 23, at Middlesex Hospital after an extended illness. She was predeceased by her parents Elmer and Charlotte (Dittman) Russell and her sister Ann Jane Russell.

Pat was an English teacher at Rocky Hill High School for many years. In 1980 she received Jesus Christ as her Lord and savior and attended Faith School of Theology in Charleston, Maine. She returned to Colchester Assembly of God in 1980 where she helped build a Christian school called Faith Academy. She worked as a devoted teacher at the Christian Academy for many years. Pat also created a Berean Bible school at the church, where many were prepared as ministers and Christian workers. She also created a Berean Bible school at Transformation Assembly of God in Oakdale where she worked closely with the lead pastor, the Rev. Shirley Ellis.

Pat was an amazing woman of God who lived a loving, compassionate, sacrificial life for her Lord Jesus. She loved the Bible and teaching others how to live out a real Christian life that truly pleased the Lord. Even in her final days she was preparing more Bible classes to teach at Transformation Church. She will be greatly missed by her church families at Abundant Life and Transformation church and especially by her adopted grandchildren the Ojedas!

A memorial service will be held at the Abundant Life Church, 85 Skinner Rd., in Colchester, on Tuesday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Abundant Life Church.



Colchester

Hilda Teitelbaum

Hilda "Hindie" (Schuster) Teitelbaum, 87, widow of the late Samuel Teitelbaum of Boca Raton, Fla., formerly of Colchester and Garden City South, N.Y., passed away Thursday, Aug. 29, in Boca Raton, Fla. Born on the 4th of July in 1932, she was a daughter of the late Rueben and Bessie Schuster.

Hindie was a warm and loving woman who was ever-devoted to her family. She and Samuel raised their family in Garden City South, N.Y. He predeceased her in 2014 after 64 years of marriage. Hilda was a very active member of the Congregation Shaaray Shalom Synagogue and the Sisterhood in West Hempstead, N.Y., while living in Garden City South. She was also a member of the Ahavath Achim Synagogue in Colchester. During her time in Florida, she served as president for the condo association where she resided in Boca Raton, Fla.

Hindie will be forever loved and remembered by her sons, Ron (Natalie) Teitelbaum and Brian Teitelbaum; grandchildren, Bess (Bill) Brown and Evan Teitelbaum; great-grandson, William Samuel; special nephew, Marty Schuster; brother, Israel "Tully" Schuster, and numerous extended family and friends.

In addition to her parents and husband she was predeceased by her siblings, Bernard "Ben" Schuster, Morris "Maesch" Schuster, Paul "Pinny" Schuster, Sarah "Sudie" Hurwit, and Beatrice "Bookie" Simon.

Graveside funeral services will be held Wednesday, Sept. 4, at noon, at the Ahavath Achim Cemetery on Taintor Hill Road in Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to Congregation Ahavath Achim, P.O. Box 5, Colchester, CT 06415.

The Aurora McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester has been entrusted with care of arrangements. For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Norwich

Tekla Czuchrey Wirhun

Mrs. Tekla Catherine Wirhun, known as Tess to friends and family, passed away Tuesday, 27 Aug. Tess was born Nov. 8, 1929, in New Haven, CT, to Teodozy and Maria (Brodowa) Czuchrey, immigrants from the Zalishchyky region, Ternopil State, Ukraine.

She graduated from Commercial High School, New Haven, in 1947. On July 4, 1953 she married Raymond John Wirhun (deceased Feb. 7, 1986). The family moved to Terryville, where they raised their three children. She and Raymond moved to SE Connecticut to be closer to their grandchildren.

Tekla was a professional in office management. In retirement, she extended her very active life of serving others, as a volunteer, in many civic and church-related organizations. She was active in politics, and served as the Registrar of Voters for the Town of Plymouth from 1973-1978. She was first an active member of St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church (UCC) in Terryville, and then St. Mary's UCC, Colchester. She served many years as a member of the Connecticut Ukrainian State Day Committee. She worked in recent years with the Adventures in Life Long Learning, at Three Rivers Community College, Norwich. She also was a Friend of Slater Museum, Norwich CT, a Friend of Harkness Memorial Park, Waterford, and had been a Literacy Volunteer with the Rose City Senior Center, Norwich, CT.

Proud of her native heritage, Tekla worked on many lectures and exhibits that showcased Ukrainian culture. She co-created a Ukrainian folk-dance troupe through her parish in Terryville. Known for her excellent culinary skills, Tekla worked diligently in many church kitchens raising funds for her parish. Having a veritable 'green thumb,' one of Tekla's joys were her extensive, beautiful gardens. She deeply loved her family, friends, community and church, and avidly enjoyed the fine arts, music and traveling.

She is survived by her sister, Anne Cusack of Florida; her three children, Nancy Riella, of Colchester, Peter Wirhun, of Atlanta, Ga., and Paul Wirhun of New York City, N.Y.; grandchildren Michael Riella of Washington, D.C., Stephen Riella, of Ft. Worth, Texas, Evan Wirhun and Alex Wirhun of Atlanta, Ga. She is also survived by several great grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be held at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester, CT, at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 14.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials in her name be sent to: St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church, Colchester, or Adventures In Lifelong Learning Scholarship Fund/Three Rivers Community College.

Colchester

Linda Ives

Linda Louise Ives, born Feb. 5, 1952, originally from Colchester, passed away after a long illness Sunday, Aug. 25.

She is survived by her husband, Robert William Ives of Colchester; daughters, Kim Kopp of Telford, Tenn., and Tina Maxey and husband, Jeff of Leicester, N.C.; stepson, Robbie Vincent Ives of East Hampton, Mass.; grandchildren, David, Brittany, Adam, Devin, Brooklyn, and Georgia; great-grandsons, Aiden and Davian; brothers, Paul, Robert and Norman Nadeau, Jimmy LaCroix; sisters, Beverly Stieger, Elaine Romagnano, and Shirley LaPanne; and several nieces and nephews.

Linda is preceded in death by her mother and step-father Beatrice and Fernand Nadeau; brother, Richard Nadeau; nephew, Robert Hayman; and granddaughter, Danielle Kopp.

She will be loved and missed by all. The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at Cornerstone Village for the love and care they gave to her.



Hebron

Doris Luetjen

Doris (Verilli) Luetjen, 84, of Hebron, beloved wife of the late David G. Luetjen, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, Sunday, Sept. 1. She was born May 29, 1935, in Manchester, daughter of the late Daniel and Mary (Stevenson) Verilli.

Doris was raised in Manchester, attended local schools and had been a resident of Hebron since 1959. Prior to her retirement she was employed as an office administrator for the State of Connecticut.

Doris enjoyed spending time fishing along with David on their boat the "4D's." She was a gifted artist who mastered One Step Painting and she was a talented crafter. Doris enjoyed knitting and sewing and her greatest joy was spending time with her daughters, grandchildren and their families.

She is survived by her two daughters, Dawn and Jim Gulizio of Colchester and Doreen Hussey of Andover; her six loving grandchildren; Justin Hussey of Lebanon, Danielle Hussey of Andover, Colton Brodeur and his wife Danielle of Colchester, Cassandra Brodeur, Lexis Gulizio and Vincent Gulizio, all of Colchester; and four great-grandchildren of Colchester and Andover.

Her family would like to extend a special thank you to all that helped care for her whom were like her family, including Christine Eells, Maureen Laprad and Elsie Navarro.

All are welcome to join the family for a time of visitation at Manchester Funeral Home, 142 East Center St., Manchester, today, Sept. 6, from 6-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Dementia Society of America (dementiasociety.org).

To leave an online condolence, visit manchesterfh.com.

