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Mark Nolte, Alex Nolte, and Ryan DiPasquale (l-r) play their instruments at Wednesday's Jazz for Juniors practice.

Jazz for Juniors Taps Musical Creativity

by Sarah McCoy

"Dah, dah, dee, dah, de, dah, dah, do," instructs Dominic Marino.

It's not baby talk. It's part of AHMYouth Services' popular Jazz for Juniors program, now in its fourth year at the youth services bureau which serves Andover, Hebron and Marlborough.

Marino says the program emphasis creating music and building a story of sounds—it's not about notes, or regurgitating sheet music. Jazz for Juniors is about the "experience," Marino stresses.

Ten years ago Marino and his friend, Billy Michael, began Jazz for Juniors in Danbury. Six years later Board of Selectman member Victoria Avelis heard about the program and approached AHM Youth Services Director Joel Rosenberg with the idea.

Since then it has been a smash hit.

Every other week students from grade six and up head to AHM for lessons. But gone are the days of scales and chopsticks. Now students have the opportunity to contribute their own input and creativity into a song.

"We'll start with a beat," Marino explains. "Then the trumpet will jump in, then the bass—before you know it you've created a new sound."

For the past two years the Jazz for Juniors group has held two annual concerts, one before the holidays and another in the spring. That is when Robin Lane, a member of the AHM Board of Directors, first heard them play.

"I brought my sons," she explained. "And they were hooked. It is easy to see why. The program is so unique. It gives kids an outlet to shine."

As her eldest looks on, Lane smiles. "It is great for him to see kids that are not much older doing such great things," she observed.

Tristan Avelis, the current drummer in the group, has been a part of Jazz for Juniors for two months but has been playing for about three years. "It's different than other lessons," he explained. "We play jazz, rock, swing, all sorts of music. And we learn how to listen to music not just play what's written in front of us."

During the practice sessions each student has a chance to compose his or her own piece of music. Each student is also given a solo opportunity at each show.

This is the second year that the program has been funded through the Forever Young Foundation. Founded in 1993 by NFL legend Steve Young, the nonprofit foundation supports organizations that help children.

Currently the Jazz for Juniors program has eight participants. This number has fluctuated between eight and 14 depending on the time of year. Practices are held every other Wednesday at 4 p.m.

There are still openings for students interested in participating in the spring concert. Students should have some experience playing an instrument. All instruments are welcome.

In addition to the yearlong after school program, AHM will also continue to run the Jazz for Juniors summer camp. Dates for this have not been determined but anyone interested is asked to call AHM at (860) 228-9488.

History of Peters House in Hebron to be Investigated

by Sarah McCoy

The history of the Reverend Samuel Peter's House may get a little clearer but its future remains as murky as ever.

The Town of Hebron recently received a grant from the Connecticut Trust to study the structure's architectural history and to conduct title research on the property.

The town was awarded a \$3,000 grant with a \$3,000 required match. The Board of Selectmen voted to approve this match. It went before the Board of Finance for final approval Wednesday night.

In their grant application the Hebron Historical Properties Commission detailed what they hope to accomplish if awarded the grant. The two primary goals are to determine the architectural significance the Peters House and who lived on the property and when.

To tackle these goals, the town will look to John Obed Curtis and Bruce Clouette.

Curtis, a 40-year veteran in the field of historic properties, will do an in-depth field study of the property. He will then give an analysis of what he finds in a written deposition.

Curtis currently serves on the Review Board for the National Register of Historic Places for the State of Connecticut.

Clouette's job responsibilities will be to sift through all the documentation that exists on the property and try to make heads and tails from it. "To this day we are still uncovering documents," McCalla noted.

While most title searches end at the Town Hall, the Peters parcel won't be that easy. After Samuel Peters, a Tory, fled back to England, his land was seized by the state. Bit by bit tenants began to occupy the land, us-

ing landmarks to mark boundaries.

In the coming weeks Clouette, who has worked on the Peter's House in the past, will attempt to decipher the land records and the possible connection between the parcel and Cesar and Lowis Peters, the African American couple rescued from slavery by Hebron residents.

The Historical Properties Commission (HHPC) hopes that the work on the property can commence next week.

They anticipate being able to report the findings to the selectmen in about two months.

Town Manager Jared Clark said the findings might prove valuable, but expressed skepticism that they would significantly affect a decision on whether or not to retain the house as town property.

"There is certainly a market for historical homes," he explained. "Uncovering information regarding the property could result in a higher sale of the home in the future."

The sale of the house, in his opinion, is inevitable. "Given all else the town has to do, maintaining the house is just not something the town is equipped to do," he said.

Nevertheless, Donna McCalla of the Hebron Historical Society, HHPC Chairman Deena Watson, and a band of about 100 volunteers will continue their quest to preserve the Samuel Peter's House as town property.

"That is our ideal goal," McCalla explained. "But we have back-ups. We'd like to see a nonprofit organization willing to undertake the renovations and keep the building for public usage. Or, if nothing else, protect the home with strict regulations so McDonald's can't come in and knock it down."

RHAM Student Art Selected for Scholastic Awards Show

Eleven RHAM students have had their artwork selected for exhibition in the 2007 Connecticut Scholastic Art Awards Show.

Over 2,000 pieces of student artwork from all over the state were submitted for judging. Of that number, about 550 pieces were selected for showing in the exhibition at the Silpe Gallery at Hartford Art School.

Twenty-seven RHAM students submitted their artwork for judging and 11 had their work selected for the exhibition. The students will receive six Gold keys, allowing their work to continue on to the National Scholastic Art Award competition; 1 Silver Key, the highest award at the state level; and four Honorable mentions.

This year, five students will also be recognized for two special awards, "The Blick Art Materials Award Best in Computer Art, video & Film or Animation Group 2," and "The Koenig's Art Emporium Best in Drawing Group 1."

The Gold Key and Blick Art Materials

Award Best in Computer Art, Video & Film or Animation-Group 2 was won by Jimmy Boyle Chelsey Fisher, Ryan Pereira and Jack Taute.

RHAM High School students Andrea Godin won a Gold Key for Computer Art; Chelsea Clark took Honorable Mention in Design-Product; Cassandra Hartwell won Honorable Mention in Photography; Kayla Husin took Honorable Mention in Painting; Erica Kowsz took Honorable Mention in Ceramics & Glass; and Mike O'Halloran won a Silver Key in Painting.

RHAM Middle School Brian Culmo won a Gold Key in Drawing and Koenig's Art Emporium Best in Drawing 1 and middle school student Mike O'Halloran won a Silver Key for Painting.

The students will receive their awards in a ceremony Sunday, Jan. 28 at the Silpe Gallery. Their work will remain on view at the gallery through Feb. 2.

Rell Awards Colchester 'Schools Readiness' Funding

by Jim Salemi

The Colchester School District has been awarded a "School Readiness" grant for \$535,000, Gov. Jodi Rell announced this week.

The grant, which will be spread out over five years, will go towards preschool tuition for Colchester students, Superintendent Karen Loiselle said last Tuesday.

"It will cover preschool for 23 kids a year," Loiselle said.

Currently, 55% of Colchester preschool-age children attend preschool, compared with the state average of nearly 90%, Loiselle said.

"We have a Readiness Council to deal with these needs. There aren't enough slots," she said. The funding will also help the district's preschool program to become accredited.

"Early intervention is vital, as the coun-

cil sees it," she said.

Rell agrees.

"These projects are especially near and dear to my heart. I believe strongly that early childhood education – the time when our children are learning how to learn – is a truly critical stage, she said.

The funding for all projects in the state is expected to total \$2 million and will provide funding to 23 municipalities for 39 projects, the Governor said. The funding is expected to be approved by the state Bonding Commission.

Rell said that early childhood education holds "tremendous promise" for children, regardless of family income or background, to reach their full potential.

"Numerous studies show the connection between success in the early grades and success in later life," she said.

Colchester Schools Superintendent Presents Budget

by Jim Salemi

Schools Superintendent Karen Loiselle presented a \$33.8 million budget for the next fiscal year to the Board of Education last Tuesday.

The budget represents a nearly 6% increase over last year's proposed budget. That proposal represented a 12.7% increase. Last year's actual budget came in at 7 1/2% after referenda.

"This year's increase is a marked difference from last year's; Last year we had to fund the opening of the new elementary school," Loiselle said.

While the proposed increase of this year's budget is less than half of the previous year's, the principals of the town's four schools were still compelled to submit shoestring budgets on the orders of Loiselle.

The superintendent's budget is actually a compilation of individual budgets for each of the four schools.

This year, Loiselle and the board, reacting to data provided by the state that ranked schools according to teacher salaries, reached an agreement with teachers to grant them a general wage increase, or a cost-of-living-increase.

The board has been slow to keep up with salaries over recent years, as money earmarked for salaries was moved into other accounts to fund such things as programs, materials and to comply with state mandates. The mandates, handed down from the legislature, and are for the most part unfunded, leaving municipalities to come up with the funding.

"It's a crisis," Loiselle said, pointing to a chart depicting the rankings of teacher salaries. Colchester salaries came in third from the bottom on two different lists of 23 districts—one ranking salaries by Education Reference Group and the other by geographical proximity.

"Last year eight teachers resigned," said Loiselle. "The sole reason? Better salary. And the changes in salary are significant."

The difference between Colchester teacher salaries and those of Franklin—the highest ranked district in proximity to Colchester—is over \$12,000, according to

data provided by the state.

Traditionally, superintendent budget presentations to the education board have had themes. This year's theme was "Maximizing Resources to Improve Student Learning."

"We approach our budgets with rigor, strict parameters, scrutiny and standards," Loiselle assured the board and a handful of residents in attendance at the meeting.

She explained that the budget was approached much like household budgets in tough times: Borrowing from Peter to pay Paul.

"We reallocated money to meet needs of the district," she said. A priority this year was retaining quality teachers, as outlined in the district's goals.

Loiselle managed to cut over \$350,000 from principals' requests, and said she would be "aggressive in securing any competitive grants that comes along."

The capital reserve account was also dipped into to cover "critical" items such as repairs to a furnace at Bacon Academy High School that is leaking water and to upgrade the district's web page to better communicate with parents and residents, she said.

One item passed over, again, was the hiring of an additional guidance counselor

About a half-dozen parents during a public comment segment of the meeting urged the board to include an additional guidance counselor in the budget. The guidance office has been short-staffed for a number of years, leaving a number of students to complete college applications on their own.

The budget also eliminated "pay to play" for student participation on sports teams.

The board approved the measure two years ago, though it didn't take into account families with more than one child in the school system, participating in more than one sport. The bills for those families added up quickly, the board learned from feedback from parents.

The proposed budget also includes funding for safety and security items, such as a crossing guard and security cameras purchase and installation.

Fire Damages Commercial Building on Route 66 in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

An early morning fire damaged a building housing two businesses on Route 66 on Thursday.

According to East Hampton Fire Marshal Philip Visintainer, fire officials were dispatched to 127 East High St. at 12:53 a.m. to find the commercial building in flames.

"We arrived to find the fire heavily involved in the second floor," Visintainer said. "It was advancing very quickly." Matters were worsened by a southerly wind.

The building is composed of three sections. The section affected by the fire housed Hairitage Unisex Salon and Hair Trends.

The building is owned by Po Fong and her family, who also own Hung Won, the Chinese restaurant soon to return to the Shaw's plaza.

The Fire Marshal estimated that 25 other firefighters from Marlborough, Colchester, East Haddam, and Haddam Neck aided approximately 50 East Hampton fire personnel.

Firefighters were able to contain the fire in about an hour, using up to 20,000 gallons of water. Officials remained on the scene until about 3:30 or 4 a.m. to extinguish all smoldering debris and further assess the situation.

The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. "Due to the extent of the damage, it is not safe to get to [the source yet]," said Visintainer, who notified the State Fire Marshal's office.

Visintainer said he doubted the fire was caused by arson, speculating that it resulted from an accident or malfunction of some sort—possibly from the heating unit, which is fueled by propane.

As of press time, Visintainer was unaware of any injuries sustained by firefighters.

Due to the hour, there were no people on the premises when the fire broke out. The last people had left and locked up the building at around 7:30 on Wednesday evening, said Visintainer.

Visintainer noted that about half of the square footage of the building was destroyed by fire. There was also significant water damage to the structure.

While the salon's space and equipment were completely destroyed, Hung Won lost some restaurant equipment.

There has been some discussion of Hairitage and Hair Trends relocating to the undamaged part of the commercial area until they arrive at a permanent solution.

Visintainer estimated that the fire caused \$200,000 in structural damages, not to mention the destroyed property inside.

Portland Assault Suspect Flees Into Woods Off Route 66

Portland police used a dog Sunday, Jan. 20, to track down a man who had allegedly spent hours assaulting his wife at the Riverdale Motel on Route 66.

Police said the incident began with a phone call to police at around 7:30 a.m. on Sunday. The problem appeared to be a domestic dispute, according to Sgt. James Kelly, but that assumption changed after police located the victim.

"When we got the whole story, we learned it was a lot more serious," said Kelly.

The 44-year-old victim, who was not identified, said she had been held against her will by her husband, Ferdinando Amato, 36, of Hartford, and repeatedly beaten during the night.

Amato was released from jail about two weeks ago, after serving time for domestic violence against his wife, said police. The latest assault apparently stemmed from his resentment toward his wife over being incarcerated for the earlier violence.

"He repeatedly assaulted her by punching her in the face and stomach, and threatened to kill her," said Kelly. On at least one occasion, Amato also choked his wife, said

police.

The victim repeatedly made efforts to flee during the night, but was prevented from leaving by Amato blocking the door. She finally escaped around 7:30 a.m. and immediately called authorities on her cell phone.

Kelly said that Amato, realizing the police had been notified, fled into a wooded area behind the Riverdale.

Though Portland Police responded to the call, their K-9 unit was unavailable. Fortunately, West Hartford's K-9 unit was willing to help, and tracked Amato down about two miles into the woods.

The Fire Department and EMS Unit also responded to the situation.

Amato was charged with assault, unlawful restraint, and threatening. He is being held on a \$100,000 bond and appeared in court on Monday.

"We obviously appreciate West Hartford's assistance. That was instrumental in locating him on time," Kelly said.

Amato's wife sustained a number of scratch marks, as well as facial and head bruising, said police.

Road Clearing Mix-up Delays RHAM School Opening

by Jim Salemi

Unplowed roads in Andover resulted in a 90-minute school delay at RHAM last Tuesday.

RHAM teachers and faculty members were notified by phone of the delay. An email this week to faculty from RHAM Superintendent Robert Siminski apologized for the late phone calls informing them of the delay which was blamed on dangerous road conditions in Andover.

Siminski, who did not immediately return a phone call from the *Rivereast*, said in the email to staff and faculty that he determined that roads were safe for travel that morning after a brief and light snow storm passed over the region.

However, Andover officials contacted him that morning, stating that roads were unsafe for travel in that town, he wrote.

Officials, who were not identified in the email, said the reason for the unsafe conditions was that the town roads had not been plowed or sanded the evening before.

"The cause of the unsafe travel conditions was that the town did not treat the roads last evening, consequently the highway crew, unlike the crews in the other two towns [Marlborough and Hebron], could not finish their task to permit school to open on time. Again, my apologies for the late call," he wrote in the email.

Andover Public Works Foreman Ed

Kasacek this week declined to comment, referring the questions to First Selectman Robert Burbank. Kasacek did say that the reason for the delay in treating the roads was not budget-related.

Burbank blamed himself for the problem, saying it was an "error in judgment."

He said the town road crew is customarily contacted by police as to whether or not road conditions warrant treatment.

Burbank said Kasacek called him early Tuesday morning, asking permission to come in early after realizing the roads did indeed need clearing.

"He called and asked if he could come in at 5 a.m. and get on it. I said 'sure.' He then realized there was not enough time to clear the roads before buses began their routes... the evening before there was a dusting and the cars were blowing it off the roads. I determined that it would be foolish to bring in an entire crew to treat the roads after only a dusting. It was an error in judgment," Burbank said.

After Kasacek realized there was not enough time to clear the roads, he contacted school officials to apprise them of the situation, Burbank said.

Region 8 and Andover Elementary School were the only public school closing in the state following the snowfall Tuesday.

'Doodles' Put East Hampton Council Chair in the Hot Seat

by Michael McCoy

The rift in East Hampton continues with the filing of breach of ethics charges against Town Council Chair Alison Walck.

The charge revolves around some offensive doodles Walck allegedly drew on an agenda sheet last spring.

The material came to light after an Oct. 23 request by resident and town critic Jim Morris, who sent a letter to the five Chatham Party Town Council members, requesting documents in relation to Freedom of Information Act issues.

Due to the quantity of the requested documents, Morris brought Dale Ursin along to Town Hall to help examine the material.

"We unearthed, among other things, this doodle sheet," he said.

The "doodle sheet," as Morris called it, was an agenda for an East Hampton Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency meeting, dated April 26, 2006. Toward the bottom are located several images. They include a sort of smiley face with "F.U. BURT" printed on it, as well as what appears to be a human figure urinating on the word

"RAND."

They are apparently references to local developer Wayne Rand and local businessman Chris Burt.

On Dec. 20, Wayne Rand's legal counsel, Weinstein & Wisser, sent a letter to the Town Council and Town Hall entitled, "Notice of Violation of Code of Ethics."

In the letter, Attorney Kerry Wisser says, "It is axiomatic that the behaviors of Chairman Walck in illustrating a man urinating on the name "Rand" is both a violation of the Code of Ethics and the Code of Conduct."

He continues, "It is patently clear that Chairman Walck lacks the capacity to ever act in any official capacity...relating to any application or activity regarding Mr. Rand or any of his affiliated entities."

The letter went on to demand that Town Council investigate the complaint.

On Jan. 9 Walck read a written apology during a regularly scheduled Town Council meeting. She admitted to the doodling and failure to meet the higher standards of a pub-

lic official, but said that she merely drew what she heard and that it did not reflect her personal beliefs.

She later conceded, "It's a frivolous use of taxpayer dollars."

She further asserted, "It's a doodle. That's all it is...I heard it; I drew it; I doodled."

As to the allegations of Rand's counsel, she responded, "It's a politically motivated attack on the Chatham Party."

Reacting to the apology, Jim Morris said, "I thought it fell short of what it should have dealt with." He expressed incredulity that the doodles reflected what was being heard at the meeting.

"She failed to admit that the drawings were vile and nasty," he added.

Agreeing with Rand's counsel, Councilman Bill Devine said this week, "She should recuse herself from anything having to do with Wayne Rand."

Attorney Wisser said that the apology was appreciated, but noted, "It does nothing from legal standards."

He went on to say, "If I punch you in the nose and then tell you I'm sorry, it doesn't mean the police wouldn't respond to it."

Wisser continued, "This has been compounded by past action, because we are only now aware of what her beliefs are."

That was apparently an allusion to ethics charges that were brought against three of the Chatham Party Council members in February of last year. The charges accused those members of failing to recuse themselves from matters concerning Rand, when they allegedly had personal biases.

Though Walck was not one of the three, she did, in effect, serve as chair of the commission that explored those charges.

"I think her conduct was outrageous," said Wisser of the doodles and the implication.

The Town Council is in the process of filling the newly formed ethics commission with members. It is not completely clear whether the Town Council will act on the "doodling" issue before that commission is in place.

Marlborough Explosions are Due to Utility Company Work

by Sarah McCoy

Marlborough and other area residents can be excused if they think they're under some kind of bomb attack.

Over the past weeks, random explosions have periodically shaken homes in Marlborough and adjoining towns.

As it turns out, it's not the work of terrorists. It's the Connecticut Light & Power Co. (CL&P).

CL&P is replacing 40-year-old connectors on its high tension lights. The process utilizes a technology called imploding splices. The energy created by implosion enables CL&P to fuse the new connector to the transmission line.

It also creates a rather noticeable ka-boom.

Marlborough First Selectman Bill Black said residents from all corners of the town have called to ask about the explosions.

Because the work takes place 55 feet

above the ground, CL&P Spokesman Frank Poirot said that the noise tends to travel a considerable distance.

Work has been underway on high tension lines in Glastonbury, Hebron and Manchester, as well as Middletown and Portland.

Poirot said the work in the Marlborough area is scheduled to end at the end of this week and by February 2 in Middletown and Portland. After that, Poirot reported, CL&P would continue their work in the western part of the state.

The new connectors will provide a more efficient way to transmit energy throughout the state, he said.

"When connections are inefficient they result in line losses," he explained. "These new advancements will greatly reduce the number of line losses, resulting in a savings for CL&P and their customers."

Marlborough Selectmen Address Proposed Ordinances

by Sarah McCoy

The Marlborough Board of Selectmen addressed two growing concerns at a public hearing Tuesday night.

A proposed ordinance to establish penalties for land use regulations and a revised Water Pollution Control Authority ordinance were both brought to the public this week.

The Ordinance Establishing Penalties for Violations of Certain Land Use Regulations enables both the Inland Wetlands Commission and Zoning Commission to enforce their regulations by penalizing offenders. For zoning infractions the penalty would be up to \$150 a day and \$1,000 for each cited wetlands violation.

Under the current regulations, zoning violators first receive a cease and desist notice from the town. At that time, the resident can correct the violation or file an appeal with the Zoning Board of Appeals within 30 days.

The new ordinance would set up a separate course of action for the Zoning Commission. If the proposed ordinance is approved, the Zoning Commission could authorize Land Use Director Peter Hughes or Assistant Land Use Director Patrick Looney to give out a citation.

Once a citation is doled out, the resident has 10 days to request a hearing with a three-man hearing officer board. After the ruling from the hearing officers, the resident could then file an additional appeal with the state's Superior Court.

The fines begin to accrue upon initial issuance of the citation.

Zoning Commission Chairman Scott Miller was on hand Tuesday night to explain the need for this ordinance. "With the lack of a legal budget for [the Zoning Commission], it is difficult to enforce rules," he explained. "This ordinance gives us a tool for enforcement."

The proposed ordinance came in front of the Board of Selectmen last year. At that time the BOS requested that more due process rights be included for residents. Changes include having three individuals serving as hearing officers as opposed to one and having the Zoning Commission authorize the issuance of citations rather than the land use officials.

"Those two changes offer checks and balances," Miller noted. "The town is going above and beyond the state statutes to protect residents from potential abuse."

The steps taken by the Inland Wetlands Commission will be slightly different as there is no board of appeals. Instead, violators will appeal directly to the Superior Court.

Miller explained that the reasoning for this is because the Inland Wetlands Commission has a stricter scope of what is and is not a violation. Zoning boards have more discretion, thus a need for a board of appeals to maintain a checks and balances system.

During the public hearing on Tuesday, Al Daigle criticized the BOS for allowing only the First Selectman to appoint the hearing officers. He requested this be changed to the Board of Selectmen as a whole.

First Selectman Bill Black supported the suggestion but requested additional time to seek legal counsel.

The Board of Selectmen will review the ordinance again in February. If it is approved, the ordinance would be noticed for 30 days before it becomes effective.

The second ordinance discussed at Tuesday's meeting deals with the size of the WPCA Commission. Currently the WPCA has 11 members with four alternates. The commission asked that this number be altered to seven members and three alternates.

WPCA Chairman Jack Murray explained the two reasons for the change. "With sewer, the design phase complete—there is no need for a 15 member board," he said. "Additionally, it has become difficult to hold meetings because of quorum."

Murray reported that in the past year and a half the WPCA has not been able to conduct 20% of its meetings because it did not have at least six members present.

Under the new ordinance any current member who wishes to remain on the WPCA will be permitted to do so. As resignations are tendered the commission will make the transition to a ten-member board with seven regular members and three alternates.

The BOS approved this ordinance at their meeting on Tuesday evening. It will be noticed for 30 days before it becomes effective.

Portland Police News

1/8 – Joseph Engel Jr., 20, of 10 Taylor Dr., Portland, was charged with burglary and criminal mischief, said Portland police.

1/8 – Brian Moore, 20, of 278 Marlborough St., Portland, was charged with conspiracy to commit criminal mischief, said police.

1/19 – Karen L. Gray, 48, of 58 Liberty St., Middletown, was charged with prostitution, said police.

1/19 – Bryon G. Baxter, 45, of 133 McCormick La., Middletown, was charged with patronizing a prostitute and possession of less than 4 oz. of marijuana, said police.

1/12 – Brian Moore, 20, of 278 Marlborough St., Portland, was charged with

possession of alcohol by a minor, said police.

1/21 – Fernando A. Amato, 36, of 86 Webster St., Hartford, was charged with assault 3rd degree, unlawful restraint 2nd degree and threatening, said Portland police.

1/20 – Jared Vincuilla, 21, of 1058 Portland-Cobalt Rd., Portland, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, said police.

1/21 – John O'Keefe, 18, of 9 Hall Hill Rd., Portland, was charged with DUI, evading responsibility, failure to drive in proper lane, traveling fast and failure to carry license, said police.

Inspection of Car Leads to Prostitution Arrests in Portland

by Michael McCoy

Portland police arrested two out-of-towners Friday night, Jan. 19, in connection with what they say was an incident of prostitution.

The arrests were made after Officer Daniel Knapp came upon a suspicious-looking vehicle parked underneath the Arrigoni Bridge Friday night. When he investigated, Knapp discovered a man and woman inside.

According to police, Knapp later ascertained that the male, Bryon Baxter, 45, had picked up the female, Karen Gray, 48, in Middletown and paid her \$20 in exchange for sexual acts.

Further investigation of the vehicle also yielded the discovery of marijuana.

Baxter is being charged with patronizing a prostitute and possession of marijuana, and Gray will be face prostitution charges. Baxter and Gray, both from Middletown, will appear in court on January 30 and have been released on non-surety bonds.

Sergeant James Kelly pointed out, "We've been seeing an increase in vehicles under the Arrigoni Bridge over the last six months to a year." The vast majority of criminal activity occurring in the area is drug related, he added. "With narcotics, unfortunately, comes other crimes," he remarked.

"We're just going to continue with the proactivity in town, especially in that area," promised Kelly.

East Hampton Police News

1/8 — Jessica Estevam, 25, of 4 Wilkes Rd., East Hampton, was arrested for improper passing and operating without insurance.

1/12 — Kimberly Biondi, 50, of 7 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, illegal operation of a motor vehicle without minimum insurance.

1/12 — Joshua E. Goodwin, 26, of 35 Ogden Lord Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for failure to have tail lamp, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, and operating without insurance.

1/12 — Michael J. Wheeler, 18, of 34 Raymond Rd., East Hampton, was issued a ticket for possession of alcohol by a minor.

1/13 — Luis A. Sanchez, 31, of 56 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, was involved in a one-vehicle accident vs. a telephone pole, on Lake Drive, 50 feet north of West Street. Sanchez was arrested for traveling too fast,

operating without a license and evading responsibility.

1/16 — Heather Myjak, 24, of 197 East High St., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant for having a defective windshield, operating under suspension and failure to appear 2nd degree.

1/16 — Anthony M. DiPace, 24, of 2 Bevin Blvd., East Hampton, was arrested pursuant to a warrant for burglary 3rd degree and larceny 6th degree.

1/16 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested for burglary 3rd degree and larceny 6th degree.

1/18 — Justin Street, 18, of 56 White Birch Rd., East Hampton, Joseph Ford, 18, of 6 Summer Hill Rd., Middletown, and Jason Scaplan, 18, of 5b Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton, were issued tickets for simple trespass.

Marlborough Police News

1/24 — Jennifer Stulak, 26, of Manchester, was arrested for speeding and DUI, according to reports.

Andover Police News

1/19—Joseph Chester, 63, of Bloomfield, was arrested for DWI and failure to drive correctly, according to reports.

Colchester Police News

1/17—Galen Strickland, 31, of Hartford, was arrested for possession of marijuana following a traffic stop on Route 2, according to police.

1/17—Brian J. Bedard, 19, of 391 Westchester Road, was arrested on a warrant charging third degree arson, according to police.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Beverly A. Denler

Beverly Ann (Renkert) Denler 70, of Marlborough, passed away Saturday, Jan. 20, at her home after a lengthy battle with Alzheimer's, with her loving and devoted husband Charles by her side.

Born Dec. 17, 1936 in Jamestown, ND, daughter of the late Al and Laura (Peterson) Renkert, she had lived in Marlborough for the past 50 years.

Beverly was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who embraced life with a warm smile, sweetness and kind spirit that made everyone around her feel loved. She devoted her life to family and enjoyed cooking, sewing and taking walks.

She was very involved in the community with her children growing up, as a Girl Scout leader, Cub Scout leader, Sunday School teacher, and 4-H leader. She worked many years at the insurance company of Alexander and Alexander, and during the onset of her illness she retired from the Hebron Town Hall where she had served as the Assistant Tax Collector.

She is survived by her husband Charles E. Denler of Marlborough; a son, Charles Denler and his wife Kay of Highland Ranch, CO; a daughter, Laura Lee Denler of Colchester; a special and dear friend of the family, Tara Milardo of Colchester; a sister, Pamela Murzyn of Portland; a brother, William Renkert and his wife Geraldine of East Hartford; three grandchildren, Moriah, Jack, and Tyler Scott; also many cherished nephews, nieces and loved ones. She was predeceased by her son Scott and brother Leroy.

The family would like to thank the staff at Middlesex Hospice for their care and support during Beverly's illness. Funeral services were held Wednesday, Jan. 24 in the Marlborough Congregational Church with the Rev. Robert Faulhaber officiating. Burial was in the family plot in Marlborough Cemetery. Calling hours were Tuesday evening at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St, East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Weiss Hospice Unit c/o The Development Office 55 Crescent St. Middletown 06457.

Portland

Thomas M. Valeri

Thomas M. (Timmy) Valeri, 56, of Grove St. Portland, beloved husband of Christine (Marino) Valeri, died on Saturday, Jan. 20, at the Middlesex Hospital.

Born on Nov. 7, 1950 in Middletown, son of the late Thomas A. and Tina (Marcolini) Valeri, he had been a resident of Portland most of his life. Besides his wife he is survived by two sons, John Valeri and Ryan Valeri both of Portland; also several nieces and nephews.

Calling hours were Wednesday evening at the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St, Middletown. Burial will be in the family plot in St. John Cemetery, Middletown at a later date.

Those who wish may make memorial donations to the Middlesex Hospice Unit, c/o Development Office, 55 Crescent St, Middletown 06457 or to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105-1905.

East Hampton

John W. Gagnon

John Wilfred Gagnon, 49, of East Hampton, devoted husband of 28 years to Kimberly (Gilbert) Gagnon, died peacefully at his home on Thursday, Jan. 18, after a valiant battle with Juvenile Diabetes.

Born in Manchester on March 4, 1957, he was the son of Leonid W. and Frances M. (Lupacchino) Gagnon of Manchester. He was a dedicated employee of both Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and Chester Precision as a Senior Methods Engineer before he became ill.

John will always be remembered for his perseverance and sense of humor, his passion for fishing and love for his kitties. He devoutly cheered on and assisted with his daughters' athletic and academic endeavors, which meant the world to them. He was their biggest fan in life.

Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by the pride and joys of his life, his two daughters, Laura E. (Goose) Gagnon and Danielle F. (Miss Nelly) Gagnon of East Hampton; his loving sisters and brothers-in-law, Patricia and Bill Linn, Mary Gagnon, LaVerne and Charles Shattuck, Carol Lawton and Karen Liquindoli; also by his in-laws George and Eleanor (Fields) Gilbert, as well as many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and caring friends, especially Roger and Pat Arcisz.

Funeral services were held on Tuesday, Jan. 23, from the John F. Tierney Funeral Home 219 West Center St. Manchester with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. James Church, 896 Main St. Manchester, followed by burial in St. James Cemetery. Calling hours were Monday evening at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made either the Saint Mary of Czestochowa School 87 South Main St. Middletown, CT 06457 or to the Mercy High School Athletic Fund 1740 Randolph Rd. Middletown, CT 06457.

Colchester

Tarja H. Siluk

Tarja H. Siluk, 59, nee Tarja H. Lehtinen, beloved wife of Michael J. Siluk, and former associate publisher of the *Willimantic Chronicle* in the 1980s, passed away on Jan. 18, at home.

Mrs. Siluk, daughter of Hilikka A. Lehtinen of Colchester, CT, and the late Osmo I. Lehtinen, lived in Lake Mary, FL.

A long-time former resident of Canterbury and Griswold, CT, Tarja Lehtinen Siluk grew up in Forest Hills, New York and on Pachaug Pond, CT. She and her daughter Triina, with her grandchildren, summered every year in Colchester since the year of her father's death.

Born to two former military officers, she married yet another when she wed Michael J. Siluk on May 11, 1968 in Pachaug, CT., who was then with the Connecticut National Guard and U.S. Army, and now retired from military service. Together, they raised their two children and have four grandchildren.

Tarja H. Lehtinen Siluk is survived by her husband; son Eric Michael Lehtinen Siluk; daughter Triina Anne O'Rourke, all of Lake Mary, FL.; her mother Hilikka A. Lehtinen of Colchester, CT; sister Erja (Lehtinen) Mackin of Lake Mary, FL; and sister Merja Helen Lehtinen of Colchester, CT.

She also leaves her son-in-law Steven O'Rourke; four grandsons, Joshua, Clayton, Todd and Sean O'Rourke; her brother-in-law Nicholas J. Mackin of Lake Mary, FL; niece Deana Lynn Sakowski and her husband of Heathrow, FL; niece Nikki and sister-in-law Donna Siluk of Voluntown, CT; aunts Anja Helen Aaltonen, Mirja Salo Kokkonen, and Vuokko Lehtinen of Helsinki, Finland, their children and grandchildren; and her cousin Raila and her husband of Zurich, Switzerland. She was predeceased by her mother-in-law, father-in-law and brother-in-law, Michael, Donald, and Donald Siluk all of Voluntown, CT.

Mrs. Siluk was predeceased by her father, the late WW II fighter pilot and aerospace engineer Osmo I. Lehtinen and her three uncles, Eino Kokkonen, Elo Lehtinen, and Lasse Aaltonen, as well as two infant siblings.

Born April 26, 1947 in Finland, Tarja lived in Helsinki and St. Michaels (Mikkeli) Finland until she was 11 months old, when her family moved to New York to join their father after the war ended. She was the granddaughter of inventor and industrialist Yrjo and Selma Karolina Tornianen Lehtinen and Otto V. and Hilja Lind Kokkonen.

Tarja Lehtinen Siluk was confirmed a Christian in her family's faith at Grace Lutheran Church of Forest Hills, NY.

A grand niece of the late European impressionist painter Urho Lehtinen, Tarja Lehtinen Siluk was a promising student artist and oil painter in her own right.

Mrs. Siluk retired from the Institute of Internal Auditors in the late 1990s, after serving for many years in various managerial positions with newspapers, including *The Orlando Sentinel* (Chicago Tribune Company), associate publisher of the *Willimantic Chronicle* and assistant credit manager of the *Hartford Courant*, (then Times Mirror Company).

Educated at the Garden School, Russell Sage, and Forest Hills High School, she also attended and was graduated from Griswold High School. She earned an associate's degree from the University of Hartford and held a certificate in credit management from the Institute of Credit Management.

Mrs. Siluk served on committees of the American Credit Management Association, volunteered with Junior Achievement, and taught applied economics to many inner-city children.

Internment and burial will be private; memorial services for family and friends will be announced at a later date. Donations in her honor may be made to any charity of choice.

Colchester

Maxine Garvey

Maxine Garvey, 79, wife of the late John Garvey of West Ledge Dr, Torrington, formerly of Colchester died Thursday, Jan. 18, in Torrington.

She was born Jan. 7, 1928 in Camden, ME, daughter of the Late Trussel and Idella (Gensior) Wentworth. She is survived by a son, Kurt Rensikoff of Norwich; two daughters, Janet Blauvelt of Torrington and Deborah Guzzi of Monroe; eight grandchildren; and four great grandchildren.

Graveside services were held Wednesday at the State Veteran's Cemetery, Middletown. D'Angelo Funeral Home, 22 South Main St., Middletown had in charge of arrangements. Online condolences available at dangelofuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Kenneth C. Noack

Kenneth C. Noack, 69, of Myrtle Rd. East Hampton, died Sunday, Jan. 14, as a result of injuries sustained in a car accident.

Born December 15, 1937 in Meriden, son of Arline (Corves) Noack and the late Frederick Noack, he had lived in East Hampton for more than 50 years. Kenneth had served in the Air Force as an instructor for the Air Police. He had been a self employed truck driver before his retirement and had also worked as an electrical and metallurgical engineer at Pratt & Whitney. He had traveled in the Islands of the Philippines. He was married to Margaret "Terry" Noack.

Besides his mother, Kenneth is survived by his son Kenneth K. Noack and his wife Eva of Orinda, CA, a brother Keith Noack of Marlborough, a sister Doreen Fay of East Hampton, and his three beloved grandchildren Christina, Matthew, and Michael.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, Jan. 27, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton, with the Rev. William Hodge officiating. Burial will follow in Lake View Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home on Saturday from 9:30 a.m. until the time of the service.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1 East High St. PO Box 31 East Hampton, CT. 06424

Portland

Gary Thoms

Friend and colleague to many, father of two and uncle to 13 – devoted husband and family man – Gary Thoms passed in his sleep Sunday morning in his home in Portland, CT.

Survived by his loving wife Muffi; sons Troy and Richard; brother Douglas (brother Richard predeceased him), Gary's love of life and its simple pleasures will be greatly missed.

Gary was employed for over 35 years in the auto glass industry. He was also a long-time member of the Meriden Motor Boat Club where he served as vice-commodore, member of the hospitality committee and helped rewrite the club's constitution.

No holiday or event was complete without a meal from Gary, whose passion and flair in the kitchen was matched only by his love of music and Muffi.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, January 27 at the MMBC at 267 Airline Road in Portland, with a receiving line at noon and a service at 1 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the American Heart Association.

East Hampton

George P. Timko

George P. Timko, 85, of Windsor Locks and East Hampton, passed away on Monday, Jan. 22.

George was born on the family farm in the Kensington section of Berlin on May 4, 1921, to the late Michael and Anna (Kapa) Timko. He attended the Berlin School System.

George served in the United States Army during World War II. He fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was wounded in Florence from shrapnel. He was employed with Suburban Propane Gas in Windsor for 36 years as a serviceman. He was a member of the East Hampton Lions Club, the American Legion, the VFW and the Knights of Columbus which he was a 4th degree. George was an avid sportsman. He enjoyed spending time at Lake Pocotopaug.

He is survived by his loving wife, Irene (Slimskey) Timko of Windsor Locks to whom he was married 61 years; two sons, Donald George Timko of Windsor Locks and Thomas Timko of East Hartford; two daughters, Janet Timko of East Hampton and Shirley Connolly of Bridgewater, MA; a brother, Edward Timko; several grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by brothers, Michael Timko, Frank Timko and Joseph Timko and sisters, Anne Jefferson and Susan Andrews. He is also survived by his close friend, Charlie Nichols of East Hampton and was predeceased by a close friend, Tony Manafort.

Calling hours were Thursday evening at the Windsor Locks Funeral Home, 441 Spring St., Windsor Locks. A Mass of Christian Burial was scheduled for today (Friday, Jan. 26) at St. Mary Church, Windsor Locks on Friday, January 26 at 10 a.m. with a funeral procession gathering at 9:15 a.m. at the funeral home. George will be laid to rest in St. Mary Cemetery in New Britain with military honors.

In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be made to the East Hampton Lions Club, P.O. Box 153; East Hampton, CT 06424. For online expressions of sympathy please visit www.windsorlocksfuneralhome.com