

RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Fifteen Hebron residents received their Connecticut Wartime Service Medal in a ceremony last week. Charley Williams, Chief of Staff for Veterans Affairs in the state, State Representative Pam Sawyer, and State Senator Edith Prague were all present to honor the veterans, who have served for at least 90 days during war or conflict time.

Hebron Wartime Veterans Receive Recognition

by Sarah McCoy

Hebron wartime veterans were honored last Thursday, Nov. 8, in a ceremony thanking them for their service to our country.

Local and state dignitaries gathered at the Russell Mercier Senior Center to present 15 of the town's veterans with the Connecticut Wartime Service Medal.

While the history of the medal goes back to the Civil War, this is the first time in recorded history that the award has been presented in Hebron. After World War I the state stopped handing out the award, but in 2005 the General Assembly revived the honor.

In Hebron, 37 veterans were eligible to receive the medal, which is given to those individuals who have served over 90 days during war or conflict time.

"It's a small honor for those who gave so much," Charley Williams, Chief of Staff for Connecticut Veteran Affairs, said Thursday after the presentation of medals.

In 2004, in response to mounting con-

cerns over the Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill and the desire to oversee the construction of veteran monuments, the state created the Veteran Affairs Committee. State Representative Pam Sawyer (R-Bolton), whose district includes Hebron, was one of the initial members of the committee. One of the group's first orders of business was to resurrect the forgotten medal.

"Anything we can do to honor our veterans is a step worth taking but this medal also shows support for our current military," Sawyer said.

To collect their award, veterans had to mail in proof of their service along with a formal application. When Senior Service Coordinator Sharon Garrard found out how many residents were applying for their medals this year, she decided to make it an event.

"It just didn't seem good enough to receive an honor in the mail," Garrard said. "These are veterans who deserve the rec-

ognition and time to be honored. When I looked out on the crowd, I saw the veterans' families just beaming with pride. That's the thank you our veterans deserve."

Several World War II veterans were honored last Thursday, including Joseph Dent, John Kulynyck, John Larkin, Stanley Lukas and Milton Porter, who all served in the Army during the war, and Warren Holbrook and Joseph Zachmann, who both served in the Navy during WWII.

Other Connecticut Wartime Service Medal recipients present at last week's award ceremony were: Donald Daigle, who served in the Air Force and Army in the Korean Conflict; Roger Krasusky, who served in the Air Force during the Persian Gulf era; Jardo Opocensky and Ronald Parkyn, who both served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War; Dale Roberts and Robert Warner, who both served in the Air Force during the Vietnam War; and Ken Sek and John Tuttle, who both served in the Army during Vietnam.

Andover School Board Defies State Mandate

by Jim Salemi

The local Board of Education sent a strong message to the state legislature Wednesday night by defeating a motion to provide tuition for two Andover students to attend a state magnet school outside the town's participating magnet school district, a direct defiance of recent legislation mandating that municipal schools provide student tuition for magnet schools of their choice.

The board unanimously defeated the motion, with a 6-0 vote (school board member Ted Sakelarakis was absent from the meeting).

In a separate vote, the school board directed School Superintendent Andrew Maneggia to ask state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal for assistance in pursuing the state to reverse the legislation. The board voted unanimously on that motion, made by Board of Education Chairman Jay Linddy.

"Since he asked for our help with the federal NCLB [No Child Left Behind] unfunded mandate, the attorney [general] should go after the state legislature," Linddy said. "If it's good for one side it's good for another. He should be able to take our case to the Capitol."

Board members looked dejected when the item regarding magnet school tuitions came up at the meeting, and when members spoke about it, emotions ranged from anger to frustration to disappointment.

The school board has just come off a tumultuous budget season, where voters rejected its spending plan twice. One board member, Michael Davidson, called legislators "out of touch," and that was his mildest criticism. Both state Sen. Edith Prague and state Rep. Pam Sawyer voted for the legislation.

"This is an arrogant piece of legislation based on an arrogant court decision," Davidson said. "They [state lawmakers] are reaching into our wallets again, and I'm tired of it. They couldn't care less about us, and they couldn't care less about the taxpayers. I'm not supporting this nonsense. I will not have this board raided again by these clowns."

"This is insane," Linddy added. "One way or another, it's going to get paid, but I certainly don't endorse this."

Linddy said the town will lose Education Cost Sharing (ECS) funds because of the mandate, since the school will be paying the tuition bill and at the same time lose ECS funding for the pupil transferring out of the school.

Linddy also cited a concern about possible tuition increases in subsequent years, which the board would have no control over, and the consequences the legislation will have on school programs.

Board member Danny Holtsclaw asked that his fellow board members vote against the payment.

"Unfortunately this town, this board, this administration, the faculty have done the best they can at putting forth a tight budget with no wiggle room," he said. "And we all sat back and watched it be sent back two times. We don't have \$5,000. The state needs to realize what's going on in these towns. We don't have the money. Vote it down."

Board member Scott Sauyet said he supports magnet schools, but he does not support the timing of the ruling.

"I don't like the fact it's coming in after the budget," he said. "We need to call the legislature and do something. We don't have the money."

And if the state, which has funded the troubled magnet schools entirely until the legislation went into effect in October, has the money, they're not spending it on the magnet schools.

Maneggia shed some light as to what is behind the legislation after conversations with officials from the state Department of Education.

"It seems the problem with the new piece of legislation is it's trying to address a couple of different issues," he said. "In many of the magnet schools there are many empty seats. Schools cost money. The state was paying 100 percent. That is not sufficient today."

Maneggia said it also appears lawmakers are using the legislation to comply with the recent Sheff v. O'Neill court decision, since students can attend schools in non-participating districts.

"I am not opposed to magnet schools," he said. "What I am opposed to is that now, we have a new line-item in the budget next year."

Recount Doesn't Change Hebron Election Outcome

by Sarah McCoy

After a Wednesday recount, the outcome of last week's elections for the RHAM Board of Education and Zoning Board of Appeals stand. The numbers, however, changed slightly.

Democrat Maryanne Leichter and Republican Thomas Tremont will still represent the town on the RHAM school board, and Democrats Cathleen Murphy and Cynthia Grinnell will still serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The recount showed that Tremont, an incumbent on the RHAM board, beat Democratic candidate Lorraine Davey by a single vote to win the election. Tremont received 857 votes and Davey garnered 856. (The initial Election Day results showed Tremont with 858 votes and Davey with 852.)

Leichter's vote total rose slightly; initially, he was reported to have received 899 votes, but Wednesday's recount left him with 909. Republican candidate Brenda Casoni, on the other

hand, lost a vote, going from 794 at the end of the day last Tuesday to 793 after Wednesday's recount.

On the Zoning Board of Appeals, the numbers also changed slightly. Murphy was still the clear victor, but the recount left her with 1,137 votes, whereas the initial Election Day results had her at 1,136.

The recount also saw Grinnell's margin of victory over Republican Jon Lesisko increase slightly. The recount left them at 901 and 889 votes, respectively, whereas the initial Election Day results has Grinnell at 902 votes and Lesisko with 896.

The recount took place Wednesday at the Town Office Building. It took nine election officials over six hours to hand count the 1,799 individual ballots cast by Hebron voters at the Nov. 6 election.

Colchester Outlines Zone Restructuring

by Jim Salemi

At a Zoning and Planning Commission meeting last Wednesday, Nov. 7, Town Planner Adam Turner presented residents with proposed zone changes that would transform a number of zones currently designated as commercial and residential into business park zones.

The town is named as the applicant for the regulation change, which would allow multi-family homes by special exception in a business park zone.

The proposal affects the zoning status of more than 700 acres of land.

Business park zones are a recent trend in city planning and design where commercial, light industrial and residential uses are all allowed in a campus-style park, and the aim of the changes is to attract more business and industry to help offset the residential local tax burden.

The changes would also help to curb projected population growth, where a study indicated that if all zones currently designated as residential, the population could reach 40,000 inhabitants.

"We had a major response [to the findings of the study, called the Plan of Conservation and Development], a concern over population issues," ZPC Chairman Jim Ford said following Turner's presentation. "The community thought that was not consistent with where they wanted to see Colchester go."

"The Plan of Conservation and Development provides a balance of uses. Tonight's hearing is on business park uses, which is a piece of the overall plan," he said to about 100 residents on hand for the hearing. The hearings are continued to the commission's next regular meeting, scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Norwich Ave.

While the majority of residents speaking to the issue since the last Plan of Conservation and Development was completed and presented last year overwhelmingly favored more business development, some of the neighbors of the zones proposed for a change of use made it clear they were not in favor of the plan.

"This plan is based on speculation. The town's been useless at bringing in business for the existing lots, and it's been difficult retaining businesses. This proposal is damaging to property owners and has a 'Field of Dreams' mentality," said resident Peter Lewis, who lives on Lake Hayward Road near the Route 11 interchange, one of the proposed areas for a business park.

Turner said earlier in his presentation that in towns that have built such parks, nearby residential property values have retained their values, and in some instances, property value increased.

Resident Tom Robbins, who lives near an area on Chestnut Hill Road, near the Route 2

interchange, slated for a business park, said he was astonished that the town is moving forward with the plan.

"I bought my house two years ago, and I was not aware of the change in the foreseeable future," he said.

Robbins added that he was concerned about pollution in the area, which was cited in the report.

Another resident whose property also abuts the Chestnut Hill area said he was concerned about his water supply, given that the town will drill more wells in the area to service the development, as well as run sewer lines to the area.

The state Department of Transportation is building a maintenance facility in the same area, and sewer and water service is already slated to be extended to that facility.

John Matheson, a representative of J. Healy Builders, spoke in favor of the application.

Matheson said banks have been reluctant to loan developers money for commercial development in Colchester.

"We keep running into a wall," he said. "The commercial financing is not coming fast enough to compete with the big box developers. With this kind of [proposal], we can attract commercial banks."

Resident Peter Carli, also a builder, said another obstacle to financing commercial project in town is a "lack of business diversity," meaning that banks feel that there isn't enough existing business to support a new enterprise, and that enterprise will look to other municipalities that could better suit the needs of the business and its employees.

Residential taxpayers have been funding 89 percent of the annual budget to run the town and schools, including unfunded state mandates, while commercial revenue makes up the remaining 11 percent. Ideally, Turner said, a ratio of 70 percent of funding coming from residential assessments and 30 percent from commercial assessments is considered fiscally healthy.

Aside from the issues exclusive to Colchester, the town, like many other municipalities, recently underwent a revaluation, where some property owners saw their assessments rise dramatically. Also, like all suburban and rural towns, the residential tax burden has been compounded by funding of state-mandated programs that the towns must fund with already-strained purse strings.

Colchester isn't alone in scrambling for more revenue to help make ends meet. Fewer dollars paid to the state in the form of taxes and fees are coming back to towns, as the state redistributes those taxes to send to the state's troubled cities.

Ironically, business parks in other towns are now designed to resemble early New England-style villages, constructed before zoning commissions and regulations existed.

Mixed Results on Andover CMTs

by Jim Salemi

The Andover Elementary School administrators' assessment of student scores on the last round of Connecticut Mastery Test scores was decidedly mixed.

On one hand, the administrators were pleased that the last two graduating classes of Andover Elementary who are attending RHAM Middle School now performed well on the state test.

However, they had some minor concerns about third grade through fifth grade reading and writing, and a more significant concern over the score of third-grade students in writing.

The CMT tests are administered to public school students in grades three through eight, and are designed to evaluate student performance in the areas of reading, writing, mathematics.

"There are three areas we're really taking a look at. We're not as happy with the results of third grade as we'd like to be," School Superintendent Andrew Maneggia told the Board of Education recently. But, he added, "We're pleased with the sixth-grade results, obviously, because the kids we're sending to RHAM did well."

In the sixth-grade writing portion of the tests, 70.2 percent of the students performed at goal or better. (There are five levels of performance on the grading scale - advanced, goal, proficient, basic and below basic.) In math, 89.4 percent of sixth-graders scored at

or above goal, while in reading sixth-graders also fared well, as 85.1 percent of the students met or exceeded goal.

Fifth-graders in math also performed well, with 73.2 percent reaching goal or better, compared with the state average of 66 percent meeting or exceeding goal. In reading, 58.9 percent of students achieved goal or better while in writing, 66.7 percent reached goal.

Seventy-five percent of fourth-grade students scored at goal or better in math on the test, compared to 62.3 percent of all state public school students who met or exceeded goal. In writing, 66.7 percent of fourth-graders achieved goal or better and in reading 62.2 percent met or exceeded goal.

In third-grade math, 57.1 percent of students performed at goal or better, slightly below the state average of 59.4 percent. But on the reading portion, 66.1 percent of third-graders met or exceeded goal in reading, compared with the state average of 52.3 percent. In third-grade writing, 51 percent of students met or exceeded goal.

Andover Elementary School Principal and Curriculum Director David Griffin said he and his staff will look at individual student scores and try and determine problem areas of performance of the respective student.

"We're using the results," he said. "We're compiling them and providing them to teachers."

Recount Changes Numbers But Not Winners in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

Though East Hampton Town Hall was closed Monday for Veterans Day, there were still plenty of people inside, hard at work.

Twenty-three people had gathered at Town Hall to recount last Tuesday's election ballots. The counters included both registrars of voters, Town Clerk Sandi Wieleba, election moderator Dave Simko, and 17 of the election volunteers.

The state mandates that should a candidate lose an election by less than 20 votes, or half a percent of the total vote, they are afforded the chance of a recount. Out of 14 Town Council candidates, seven were elected on Nov. 6. A mere 19 votes separated the winner with the least votes, Chatham Party member Susan Weintraub, and the loser with the most votes, Democrat Terry Concannon.

Democratic Town Chair Barbara Moore, just elected to the Board of Finance, asked for the recount, so workers did just that in the Eaton E. Smith Meeting Room at Town Hall, starting at 8 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10.

However, nine hours later, they realized that the day's recount was incorrect.

"When we did the recount," Simko said, "we came up with some numbers that told us the recount had a problem."

Simply put, the numbers were just too far off from last Tuesday's figures. Simko said some of the numbers were "very high" in comparison to the Nov. 6 results.

Simko chalked much of the discrepancy up to the transition to a new voting system, which used paper ballots as opposed to voting machines.

Simko said, "It's the first time we've ever counted that many ballots," noting that the workers never had to comb through 3,600 individual ballots before. Simko said that, this year, East Hampton collected 134 absentee ballots, which is more on par with the number they would have to manually count on a given year. And, Simko said, "We were right on the nose [when recounting] the absentees."

Simko said that, at the end of Saturday, everyone in the meeting room seemed to suspect error. So, he said, "We started all over again on Monday."

The same team assembled again on Veterans Day around 8:30 a.m. But this time, "we did something different," Simko said.

On Saturday, he said, two people would go through the ballots, while one person would keep a tally. This time, though, the group broke the ballots into piles of 100. One person read the ballots, while two people kept a tally. After each pile, the two that were tallying would compare their results. If they did not match, they would go through that pile again. According to Simko, on at least a couple of occasions, the stack had to be read through six times before the two tallies were reconciled.

Around 3:30 p.m., the group came up with results that they were confident in.

"Everyone went home, and everyone was tired," Simko said. He certified the results on Tuesday and sent them to the state.

But even then, this was not the end of the story. Later on Tuesday, after he had sent the certified recount results, Simko found an envelope of ballots in Town Hall. These 117 ballots had been counted on Saturday but not on Monday. So, Simko immediately called up the Secretary of State's office and said he found the new ballots, and sent along new certified recount results on Wednesday, incorporating those 117 ballots.

In the end, the race was not affected by the results of the recount, though the numbers did change. For instance, top votegetters were still Republicans Melissa Engel and Bill Devine, but the recount showed them receiving 1,587 and 1,505 votes respectively; last Tuesday's results

showed them at 1,597 and 1,518, respectively.

Also, the next two winners in line were still Democrats John Tuttle and Christopher Goff. But whereas last Tuesday it was reported they each received 1,308 votes, the recount showed Tuttle at 1,302 votes and Goff with 1,299.

The gap between Weintraub and Concannon, which set this recount in motion, grew slightly. The two ended up being separated by 21 votes instead of 19; the recount had Weintraub bringing in 1,200 votes instead of 1,201, while Concannon wound up with 1,179 votes instead of 1,882.

Simko said he remains happy with the new paper ballot voting machines, but he thinks "the state is going to have to do something about it." He said that the new machines weren't faulty, but workers should be sent to some sort of class to become better versed in their detailed operations. He said 24 towns across the state had similar problems with the voting results.

Simko said he did receive training on the new machines, but added, "There are things that [the state] has to get into in more detail." Simko also said he expressed interest in spending some time creating different scenarios on mock ballots, feeding them into the machine, and observing the results to better understand how it thinks.

Part of the problem, according to Simko, came from confusion over just what numbers were read by the machine. For instance, there were no eligible write-in candidates this year, but some voters mistakenly wrote candidates' names in anyway, and the machine automatically kicked these into a separate pile. Simko and the election workers assumed that, since these had been separated from other ballots, the machine had not counted any of these votes. So the workers later forced the ballots through, so that they'd be counted. However, Simko later found out from the state that the machine had already counted these votes.

The silver lining to this recount, according to Simko, is that any town that performed a recount is exempt from being chosen at random to perform an election audit, something 10 percent of the state's municipalities will be asked to complete.

Moore said Tuesday she was "a little disappointed that it didn't make a change [in the results] and a little bit confused as to why the numbers were different." However, she seemed satisfied with the performance of the 23 workers, saying, "They were very thorough. They spent two whole days down there."

Simko said Tuesday, "I would bet my life on yesterday's numbers," asserted Simko, and on Wednesday maintained that, despite the uncounted envelope, he was still confident in the numbers.

Simko added that he's "glad it's over," and said, "Depending on the repercussions of this, I don't know whether I'll do it again." Simko said he and the workers had been chastised concerning the errors.

"There were people looking over your shoulder," he said. Also, he said, "Someone was in the room taking pictures," adding that this was intimidating to some of those counting. "It's a good thing I've got thick skin," Simko said.

As for the criticism, Simko admitted that there were things that need to be improved. "Are we going to take steps to address it? You bet," he said, adding that the volunteers would meet soon to discuss strategies to improve election administration in the future. "It's a learning experience for everybody," he said.

Simko also showed the utmost faith in his team, predicting, "If I called them and said, 'Come on. We're doing another recount on Thursday,' they all would be there."

The new-look Town Council will hold its first regular meeting Tuesday, Nov. 27.

New Andover Town Hall Community Room Opened

by Jim Salemi

If you told former selectman Pete Maneggia that boards, commissions and organizations would be competing for meeting space by the end of the century, he would think you were joking.

Maneggia was serving on the Board of Selectmen in 1962, when the current town office building on School Road was completed. All Maneggia could think about after its completion was, he said, "what are we going to do with all this space?"

Maneggia told this story at a ribbon cutting ceremony Tuesday, where resident Kevin Meadows and town and state officials officially opened a new community room, added on to the 45-year-old Town Hall on School Road.

"I'd like to thank [state Rep.] Pam [Sawyer] and [state Sen.] Edith [Prague] for their assistance from the state," First Selectman Bob Burbank said at the ceremony. "This addition was built entirely with state and federal grants. For this, the residents of Andover are appreciative. We had a tough budget year and this kind of thing helps. It would not be possible if we had to do it on our own."

Burbank added that he was honored that the addition was opened on his watch, given the hard work of previous selectmen with making it happen.

"I'd like to thank the former first selectmen who initiated this prior to my term," he said. "I'd like to thank Ed Turn and Charlene Barnett who were instrumental in securing funds for the project. I know after many years of trying it finally came through, and I'm happy it came through on my watch."

Sawyer presented Burbank with an official citation from the General Assembly, congratulating the town for the completion of the new community room.

"A town hall can be quite the center for town events. Now we have access for so many more," she said, referring to the handicapped-accessible entrance and foyer included as part of the

project.

"And when you have a new room, you have lots of empty wall space" she said, before handing the citation to Burbank.

After the formalities, Burbank invited the 100 or so residents on hand for the opening to refreshments, provided by the Hop River Cafe, which prompted Prague to quip, "See? Now every once in a while our tax dollars are spent wisely."

The 1,225 square-foot addition was financed entirely with money awarded by a federal block grant, under the Americans with Disabilities Act grant program, and a state Small Towns Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant. It provides for handicapped access for the first time into the Andover town office building.

Until now, the offices in the building are not handicapped-accessible. Individuals in wheelchairs, for example, could access the lobby which is situated between floors in the building. A representative from the office where they had business then would come to the lobby to help the disabled individual with whatever business they might have there.

The state Bonding Commission approved the application for the STEAP grant in 2004. The project cost nearly \$1 million, according to Burbank. Half of the funds came from the state and the other from the federal government.

Ordinarily, the town would be required to come up with funds to match the grant provided under the STEAP program, though Burbank persuaded the state to waive the matching fund requirement because of the town's financial predicament at the time.

New electronic equipment was also installed as part of the project, which was provided under a Federal Emergency Management Agency grant.

The Meeting Room will be used for meetings of the town boards and commissions and other governmental and community activities and functions.

Marlborough School Board Races Remain the Same After Recount

by Sarah McCoy

The results of the two Board of Education races didn't change after the town conducted a recount late Tuesday afternoon.

Joseph Farrell, endorsed by the Democratic Party, and Republican Michael Turner will serve the town on the RHAM Board of Education. On the local Board of Education, incumbents Louise Concodello and Betty O'Brien will return to serve along with Ruth Kelly, Republican, John O'Toole, and Corinne Chappelle, both Democrats.

A recount of the RHAM Board of Education ballots was required after Turner claimed victory over Al Covino, Republican, and Russ West, Democrat, by just five votes at last Tuesday's municipal elections.

This week's recount actually cut Turner's margin of victory even closer. The recount left Turner with 743 votes, compared with 742 for

West and 741 for Covino. Turner and Covino had served on the RHAM Board of Education for the last four years.

Farrell remained the highest votegetter, with 791 votes.

On the local Board of Education, Concodello also remained the highest votegetter, with 854 votes. She was followed by O'Brien, with 804, Kelly, with 780, O'Toole, with 769, and Chappelle, with 671 votes. Republican Poppy Sun was the lone candidate not elected to the BOE. She finished with 652 votes.

A mandatory recount of the ballots is required when any race is within 20 votes.

Tuesday's recount took just over four hours, as election officials counted all 1,609 ballots by hand. Registrar of Voters Ann Kilby said there were no discrepancies between the vote totals and numbers of ballots.

Resident Heading to Africa for Volunteer Work

by Sarah McCoy

As Tiffany Brown pondered her upcoming graduation from the University of Connecticut, she decided to do something a little different with her life.

The Hebron resident and RHAM High School graduate is traveling to Africa on Jan. 12, 2008, to volunteer for a month. Brown said she doesn't know what she'll be doing once she gets to Tanzania, but it doesn't really matter to her.

"I could be helping with HIV and AIDS awareness. I could be volunteering with kids placed in orphanages or in hospitals," she said. "To me it's just important to go and pitch in wherever is needed."

The decision travel to Africa wasn't one Brown took lightly. She researched countries in need and programs to travel through before settling on Cross Cultural Solutions, a nonprofit organization that places and oversees thousands of volunteers across the world. Cross Cultural Solutions provides Brown an opportunity to live with the people of Tanzania and not apart from them. The total immersion, she feels, is key to learning a different culture and to understanding what the people of Tanzania need.

Brown said she chose Africa because she saw an overwhelming need. "I have had a fortunate life," she said. "I want to help those who didn't have the opportunities I had growing up in America."

Brown and two friends, Kristin Roberts and Nichole Tiernan, will fly from Connecticut to Tanzania for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. "Everyone that I've talked to says that the experience changes you more than you can help others," Brown said. "I just hope that both happen."

Before she can board the plane and begin her service, Brown must raise \$3,179 to offset the cost of room and board while she's there. With less than a month to go before payments are due, Brown is asking



Tiffany Brown of Hebron will travel to Tanzania on January 12 for a month-long volunteering stint. But before she can go, Brown needs to raise over \$3,000, to offset her travel costs.

for help. Anyone interested in making a donation to Brown can do so via mail or the Internet. Checks, made out to Cross Cultural Solutions, can be mailed to Tiffany Brown 109 London Rd. Hebron, CT 06248. You can also log onto <http://my.crossculturalsolutions.org> and typing Ophelia224 in the Sponsors section. All donations are tax deductible.

On Feb. 9, when Brown returns from Tanzania, she plans to take her African experience, as well as her bachelor's degree in psychology, out into the real world. "I know I have a lot to look forward to but, before I start my career, I want to give back to those who need a little extra help," she said.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Evelyn Marie Pasternak

Evelyn Marie (Wood) Pasternak, 87, of East Hampton, widow of Henry W. Pasternak, died Monday, Nov. 12, at Chestelm Health and Rehabilitation in East Haddam. Born in Hartford April 24, 1920, the daughter of the late Arthur and Florence (Hawkins) Wood, she had resided in East Hampton since 1949. Evelyn was a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church for more than 45 years where she also taught Sunday school, a Brownie Leader for the Connecticut Trails Council for 17 years, a member of the Wadsworth Chapter of the D.A.R., and the Connecticut Society of Mayflower Descendants. Evelyn loved her family, friends, and animals, watching the birds at her bird feeder and working in her flower garden.

Evelyn leaves to mourn her passing her loving daughter Cynthia Pasternak of Willimantic, and her two cats "Sweetie" and "Pretty Boy". She was predeceased by her brother Stancliff Wood. Funeral services were to be held Friday, Nov. 16, at 10 a.m. in the East Hampton Congregational Church, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will follow in the family plot in Center Cemetery in Coventry. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Thursday evening. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to East Hampton Congregational Church, P.O. Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424; or Protectors of Animals, P.O. Box 24, South Glastonbury, CT 06073. To leave online condolences or for directions please visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Portland

Richard Csere

Richard "Dick" Csere, 71, beloved husband of Eleanor Ericson Csere, of Portland, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 13, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Portland Aug. 6, 1936, a son of the late Julius and Julia Roney Csere, he was a lifelong Portland resident. He attended Portland schools and was a graduate of Hillyer College in Hartford. He had served an enlistment in the U.S. Army and was a member of the Portland Fire Department and the Drill Teams for many years. He was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Besides his wife Eleanor, he is survived by his two daughters, Karen Hanna and her husband, Robert of Portland, and Kristen Del Russo and her husband, Samuel of Sterling; his cherished grandchildren, Samantha and Sammy Del Russo of Sterling; his sisters, Ethel (Mrs. Salvatore) Puglisi and Jean (Mrs. Peter) Newsom both of Portland; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sisters, Marquerite Long, Grace Benoit, Catherine Luckhardt, Helen Foley, and Eleanor Milardo; and his brothers, James Csere and William Csere.

His family was to receive relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Friday morning (Nov. 16) from 8:45-10:15 a.m. when the funeral cortege will proceed to the Church of Saint Mary where a Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m. by Rev. John F. Ashe. Interment will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, gifts in his memory may be sent to the charity of one's choice. For online remembrances, visit www.portlandmemorialfh.com.

Marlborough Police News

11/1-Misale Centeno, 24, of Hartford, was arrested for DWI, driving with a suspended license, reckless driving and failure to stay in a lane, according to police.

11/1-Peter Stefoglo, 32, of Agawam, Mass., was arrested for DWI, police said.

Hebron Police News

11/4-Brian Poulin, 35, of 450 Church St., was arrested for disorderly conduct after calling 911 numerous times to tell police he was out of beer and would like the police to pick some up for him. Poulin was issued a summons and later brought by ambulance to Windham Hospital for evaluation, according to reports.

11/6-Police are investigating the theft of an X-Box video game console from the AHM youth center.

11/6-A Jones Street resident reported that the catalytic converter on his Toyota pickup truck was cut off and stolen, according to reports. Anyone with any information is asked to call Trooper Nolting at Troop K at 537-7500.

EH

East Hampton Police News

11/8-Justin Jeffers, 24, of 6 Mott Hill Lane, was arrested on a warrant for robbery, criminal mischief, assault and conspiracy to commit assault, police said.

Colchester Police News

11/5-Richard Kiro, 37, of 232 Boretz Rd., was arrested for assault, using a vehicle without permission, reckless endangerment, theft and interfering with police following a domestic dispute where Kiro allegedly threw an 18-year-old man to the ground then tried to drive away while holding the man's mother's arm inside the car as he backed out of the driveway, according to police.

11/9-A 12-year-old boy was hit by a car while crossing Broadway near Old Hebron Road last Friday, according to police.

Police said the boy, Devin Scott, who lives on Lebanon Avenue, suffered injuries to his head and chest. He was brought by Lifestar helicopter to Hartford Hospital. His condition has since been upgraded to good, according to published reports.

According to police, Scott was struck by a Jeep Grand Cherokee driven by Antonio Cabral, 52, of Monroe. Cabral was not injured.

Cabral was traveling west on Broadway when Scott, on the westbound shoulder, tried to cross in a diagonal direction to the other side of the road, police said.

11/9-Lenley Salizar, 23, of 280 Parum Rd., was arrested for driving with a suspended license and possession of marijuana, according to police.

Andover Police News

11/3-Police report they are investigating the theft of a catalytic converter cut out of the exhaust system on a truck parked at 187 Route 6.