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A Doberman Pinscher named Bender, left, was found Thanksgiving morning, no less than 11 days after being hit by a car. Bender is shown with his mother Eema, right, and their owners, Eric Handel and Jerri Alliton.

Portland Dog is Home for the Holidays

by Michael McCoy

A Portland resident received an early Christmas present this year when, Thanksgiving morning, he found his Doberman Pinscher puppy, still alive, 11 days after being hit by a car.

Resident Eric Handel, who lives on Gospel Lane with his fiancée, Jerri Alliton, and their two-year-old son Isaac, was draining coolant from a truck in his driveway on the afternoon of Sunday, Nov. 11. His dog Bender was outside with him, and seemed to be playing and making noise. Handel recalled telling him to quiet down and to get out of the street. But, before he knew it, he heard the screech of tires and “Bang!...Hit by a car,” Handel said.

After being struck, Bender immediately darted away, up a side street. Since he had just drained the coolant, Handel could not immediately hop in his truck, so he ran after Bender for about half a mile before returning home.

Handel said his property sits on a fenced-in 40-acre parcel, which is connected to 40 acres on the high school complex as well as a Jewish cemetery. So, Handel knew that the Bender would have a hard time wandering back to the property.

For the rest of the day, Handel and Alliton took separate shifts driving around, calling for Bender. They immediately

made up flyers and threw them in neighbors’ mailboxes, and also placed an ad in the *Rivereast*.

“Everyone was so supportive,” Alliton said.

Handel works as a design engineer for Respironics in Wallingford and, anticipating calls from those who might have a lead on Bender, he stayed home from work on Nov. 12. “I knew that if I didn’t do everything I could to find Bender,” Handel said, “I would be very unhappy in the years to come.”

In the days that followed, Handel would rise early each morning and, he said, “I would look until I was physically exhausted, and I would go to work, and I would stay until I just couldn’t take it anymore.” He would resume the search once he got home.

“I hardly worked any hours for those weeks, and they were very forgiving about it,” Handel said of his employers.

Alliton, a content manager for UnitedHealthcare in Hartford, is able to do a lot of her work from home, and this freed her up to help in the search.

“Everybody let us put up signs wherever,” she said. Handel said Rich Faraci of Faraci Construction let the couple put a large sign up on a piece of property he owned along Route 66. Handel also placed

a wooden sign on a trailer at the corner Main Street and Route 66 in town.

In addition to placing ads, posting and distributing flyers and hanging signs, Handel also tied his dirty T-shirts to trees, hoping Bender would recognize the scent and stay there until he was found.

Handel and Alliton said they received several calls from sympathizers and those who thought they may have seen Bender. One promising call came Nov. 19 from someone at Cottman Transmission on Route 66. “He said he saw a dog limping on his right front leg,” Handel said.

But, “I walked from the swamp to the marina,” Handel recalled. “Then I walked back, calling and blowing a whistle... nothing.”

Handel said people at Cottman would call frequently with reports of sightings. “They became very helpful,” Handel said.

Eventually, Thanksgiving Day rolled around, and Handel and Alliton were getting ready to visit Handel’s family in the Boston area. Handel said he remembers “actually thinking, ‘I’m not going to go. ... There is no way I’m going to be two and a half hours from here when I should be home looking for my dog.’”

He decided to go anyway but, before leaving, Handel took one last look around

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areas near Cottman Transmission, Portland Veterinary Hospital and Dr. Thomas Sullivan's dental practice, all located on Route 66 in town; these were the three areas where people most frequently reported that they saw Bender.

After that round of searching, Handel said he "relaxed about it a little" and the family – including another Doberman, Eema, Bender's mother – hit the road for Massachusetts. But they hadn't even made it past Manchester when they received a call from someone who had seen a dog near Sullivan's office.

"Somehow the sound barrier got broken and we got here in 10 minutes," Handel laughed.

Handel and Alliton began looking in the woods around the dentist's office. While searching, Handel came across an image in a pond that brought him a certain calm. "I called [Alliton] over to show her," Handel remembered. He said he told his fiancée, "Look at this swan; it's a sign."

Handel said he's "not a guy who believes in signs," but in this case he may have made an exception. "The swan was beautiful," he recalled, "and it made me feel better."

After Alliton looked at the swan, she turned around, and, Handel said, "There was Bender standing, looking straight up." Handel remembered the dog let out a sigh, as if to say, "They found me, they finally found me."

Handel immediately carried Bender to the truck. It did not take long, though, for Alliton to notice Bender had a bone sticking out of his right front leg. He was also covered with ticks and coyote bite marks.

The family dropped Bender off at the Animal Emergency Hospital in Rocky Hill, and then continued to Boston – and made it to Handel's parents' house in time for Thanksgiving dinner.

"So it worked out real good for me," Handel joked.

Though doctors in Rocky Hill thought Bender would certainly lose his broken leg, Handel and Alliton got a second opinion, telling them to try Ocean State Veterinary Specialists in Rhode Island. Ocean State addressed the broken leg with a treatment that involved cutting a hole in the bone where infection had set in. The wound is still open and draining and Bender's bandage is changed every other day. However, area veterinarians are still unsure if the leg can be saved.

Handel and Alliton estimate the treatment for Bender, who was named after a character on the TV series *Futurama*, will cost them between \$5,000 and \$10,000. A bulk of the money came from the funds brought in when the couple sold Eema's litter in April, including Bender's brothers and sisters. "The thought was [the money] would go for [Eema's] medical needs when she got old," Handel said, but the money ended up going to Bender's recovery.

Handel said Bender was a "walking skeleton" on their reunion, and doctors estimated that a couple more days in the woods and he would have lost the leg for sure or possibly even died. When Handel came back from Boston, he brought a couple of pounds of turkey with him, just for Bender. "It was a big treat for him," he said.

Handel and Alliton, who also have four cats, seemed most grateful for the response from their community.

"We couldn't have found him without the help of people in town," Alliton said. "They were just so nice." Handel said he planned to get rewards to several of those who were most instrumental in the return of the canine.

But the main thing, of course, is that Bender is back home.

"Needless to say, we got everything we need for the holidays," Handel said.

Changes for Old Cider Mill Lane in Marlborough?

by Sarah McCoy

Two proposals to the Conservation Commission could change the face of Old Cider Mill Lane.

Plans for a pond, gazebo, and dock at 9 Old Cider Mill Ln., and the re-proposal of an orchard at 17 Old Cider Mill Ln., were discussed at a Monday meeting of the Conservation Commission.

Joseph Sanford submitted an application with the Town of Marlborough last summer, proposing, among other landscaping changes, the creation of an orchard. His proposal underwent so many changes over the next few months that the Conservation Commission requested he withdraw the application and resubmit it when details had been ironed out.

On Monday night, Sanford, and his legal and engineering team, presented the revised plans to the Conservation Commission for the property.

In the new plans, Sanford is calling for a reduction in the number of the fruit trees to be planted on his property. According to Chris Ferraro, landscape engineer for this project, this would reduce the amount of material needed to grow the plants, thereby reducing the threat to Lake Terramuggus.

At last month's Conservation Commission meeting, Todd Harrington of Harrington's Organic Care delivered a presentation summarizing how only organic products would be utilized on this property to prevent an impact on the lake. The new proposal calls for the same organic products but less of them.

The Conservation Commission unanimously approved moving this application to a public hearing to be held on Jan. 7.

In addition to his property at 17 Old Cider Mill Lane, Sanford also has a contract to purchase 9 and 11 Old Cider Mill Ln., Planning and Land Use Director Peter Hughes reported. At Monday night's meeting the Conservation Commission held a Public Hearing on the plans from Peter and Amy Snyder, current owners of 9 Old Cider Mill Ln. The renovations include the installation of a 55 by 25-foot pond, a 36-foot wide gazebo, and a dock stretching 60 feet into Lake Terramuggus.

"Sixty feet isn't a dock," resident Dave Boston said. "It's a barrier."

A half-dozen additional residents echoed Boston's concern about what they felt was the extravagant length of the dock into the lake. A 1995 Lake Management Plan created by the town recommends a maximum of 25 feet for a dock that is connected to land. Currently there are about a dozen land-anchored docks and about the same number of floating docks on Lake Terramuggus.

In addition to the residents' concerns, commission members Jack Bray and Jim Montstream expressed concerns over the magnitude of the proposed gazebo. The structure would be suspended over wetlands on the property by eight to 10 pilings, Ferraro reported. While this limits the wetlands disturbance in that the gazebo is not technically on the ground, the eight to 10 pilings, each at 24-inch diameter, seemed excessive to some commission members. Chairman Don Hautman requested that a more detailed plan of the installation of the gazebo be presented at the January 7 meeting.

One aspect both sides seem to agree is the benefit of a proposed pond at 9 Old Cider Mill Ln. "There's no question about it. The pond is a benefit to the lake," Hughes said Monday night. "It should keep a large amount of sediment from ever reaching the lake."

Hughes said he has been in regular communication with Ferraro and that "conceptually everything has been addressed" in the proposed application.

Prior to continuing this public hearing to the Conservation Commission's next meeting, Hautman specifically addressed one repeated concern brought forth by residents – the issue of precedent. "I've been on this commission for 17 years so I think I know how the process works," he said. "We evaluate each application independently. It is not based on the actions of the commission in the past. To keep saying that if we approve this then we'll have to approve all similar future plans is wrong."

Due to the 70-day maximum for public hearings the Marlborough Conservation Commission will have to either decide on the application for 9 Old Cider Mill Ln. within that time period or schedule a Special Meeting.

The Jan. 7 meeting will be held at 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Video Shows Hebron Hostage Still Alive

by Sarah McCoy

It has been over four years since Jo Rosano of Bristol, and George Gonsalves of Hebron saw their son – but last week they learned that at least he is still alive.

Marc Gonsalves, who was born in Bristol and later moved to Hebron, has been held hostage by guerillas after his airplane went down over Columbia four years ago. Last week, his parents received proof that their son is still alive through a video seized in Bogotá on Nov. 29.

"Haggard, worn, tired," George Gonsalves said of the most recent images of his son. "But, most importantly, alive."

Rosano said she has been confident of her son's survival throughout the ordeal, but she relishes the proof. "He looks great under the circumstances," she said. "He's certainly skinnier and he looks sad and angry, but it's an absolute relief to see him."

Marc Gonsalves is filmed in the jungle, arms folded, looking deep into the camera.

In August 2003, he and two of his colleagues from Northrop Grumman, a global defense and technology company, survived a plane crash that took the lives of two others. But since then, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, has held the

trio hostage.

Marc Gonsalves, now 35, graduated from RHAM High School in 1990. Afterwards he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served for 8 years. Following his service, Gonsalves began his work for Northrop Grumman.

Prior to his capture, he lived in Key West, FL, with his wife, his daughter, Destiny, 13, and two stepsons, Cody and Joey.

Rosano has traveled down to Columbia three times since 2003, in hopes of seeing her son. While she hasn't seen him yet, she is confident of an imminent return. "I don't know why but I feel that he will be released to Venezuela," she said. "It is time for the drama to end."

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez had been in discussion with FARC representatives but these talks were stalled due to differences between Chavez and Colombian President Alvaro Uribe. "We were optimistic about a possible agreement," George Gonsalves said. "Despite the setbacks we are hopeful."

Meanwhile, he and Rosano continue to send messages down to Columbia radio stations with confidence that their son hears the broadcasts and they pray that they might be reunited soon.

Andover Teen Dies in Hebron Accident

by Sarah McCoy

A Sunday evening automobile accident in Hebron resulted in the death of a local teenager.

Zachary Choquette, 18, of Andover, passed away on Monday, after the pick-up truck he was riding in crashed into a large boulder and overturned on Route 316 Sunday. The accident resulted in the hospitalization of three other area teens.

Police reports indicate that Christopher Gonsalves, 17, of Hebron, was driving a 2003 Ford F350 southbound on Route 316 just after 6 p.m. Sunday when the vehicle veered off the road, striking a large boulder off the east shoulder of the road in the area of Fox Road.

The two rear passengers, Choquette and Peter Chase, 18, of Scotland, were both ejected from the vehicle and transported to Hartford Hospital. Gonsalves and William Siter, 17, of Hebron, were transported to Windham Hospital for minor injuries.

Gonsalves was discharged later that night, followed by Siter on Wednesday.

Chase was admitted to Hartford Hospital and placed in critical condition. His status was upgraded to stable on Monday and he was discharged later that day, according to a Hartford Hospital spokesman.

But Choquette, also admitted in critical con-

dition, passed away on Monday. He was in his senior year at Windham Tech High School, specializing in heating, ventilating, and air conditioning. His principal, Kirk Murad, described Choquette as well-liked and hard-working.

"He was a kid that was really coming into his own," Murad said. "Our student body is certainly taking the news hard."

Friends describe Choquette as kind and energetic. Tyler Hopson, who knew Choquette since the two attended kindergarten together at Andover Elementary School, described him as "someone everyone wanted to be friends with."

Choquette's hobbies included working on cars and playing basketball.

He is survived by his parents Michael and Diane Choquette and brother, Kyle, all of Andover.

The Choquette family will be receiving relatives and friends today, Dec. 7, from 4-8 p.m. at the Newkirk and Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford. A funeral procession will be held tomorrow, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by a 10 a.m. service.

Choquette's full obituary appears on page 31. State police are still investigating the crash and anyone with information is asked to call Trooper Corey Sutherland at 537-7500.

New Colchester Restaurant is Realization of Family Dream

by Sarah McCoy

A family dream has become a family reality with *Cibo*, a restaurant and lounge located in Colchester.

Brenda Smith of Colchester has always hosted family functions, and enjoys cooking up unique dishes and trying different things. For years Brenda, her brother Mark Grillo, sister Linda Klein, and parents Anthony and Marianne Grillo have thought about opening up their own restaurant. Then, at a family gathering earlier this year, Marianne put her foot down.

"She said, 'That's it. We're doing it,'" Linda recalled. "And that was that. We were going to do it."

Brenda began scouring the Internet, looking for a location, when she came across a listing right in Colchester; the former Marianna's building, and its equipment, were for sale.

"It couldn't have worked out any better," Brenda said. "It's five minutes from my home."

Cibo, pronounced "chee-bo," opened its doors on Sept. 13. The restaurant specializes in steaks and seafood but the extensive menu has something for even the pickiest eater. "I'd eat here and I'm fussy," Linda said.

Calamari and the seafood pot pie are two of the most popular items. And, the seafood zuppa, previously offered as a special, is being added to the regular menu. *Cibo* also offers a full kid's menu and, starting last weekend, a Sunday brunch.

Brenda is the restaurant's business manager. She and Linda are at *Cibo* all day every day, making sure the operation runs smoothly. Mark's wife, Paula, is the kitchen manager while Mark, Anthony, and Marianne are at the restaurant every weekend helping out where ever they can.

"It truly is a family affair," Brenda said.

Cibo, which means food in Italian, is certainly about eating well, but what stands out is the restaurant's atmosphere. When patrons walk through the main doors of the restaurant, they're faced with a choice. To the left is the dining room with two fireplaces, perfect for families, friends, or couples looking for a night out. To the right, though, is the lounge. With a full bar, 18 specialty martinis, and karaoke on Thursdays the *Cibo* lounge is a place to unwind with friends or by yourself. It's a place filled with familiar faces and new friends to be made.

"To me, it's like we're running two different restaurants," Linda said. "And, depending on what you're looking for, we have the perfect place for you."

Every day is something new at *Cibo*'s. From live music every Friday and Saturday night to all you can eat chicken and pasta on Wednesdays. The Grillo family welcomes everyone to *Cibo* for good food and good times.

"Come as you are. Jeans are fine. Dress up if you prefer," Brenda said. "We want people to be comfortable and feel like they're home."

Cibo has several upcoming events, including a comedy night on Dec. 15. The restaurant will also host a New Year's Eve party, with a five-course meal, champagne, and favors. Tickets for this event are now on sale for \$75 a person or \$140 a couple.

Cibo is open seven days a week, Monday-Thursday 11 a.m.-9 p.m., Friday and Saturday 11 a.m.-10 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m.-9 p.m. with brunch being served until 2 p.m. Reservations are recommended on weekends.

Cibo is located at 464 South Main St. and can be reached at 537-6261.



Linda Klein, left, and her sister Brenda Smith recently opened *Cibo* Restaurant and Lounge in Colchester. The restaurant specializes in steak and seafood and features a full bar. They are open seven days a week including Sunday for brunch.

New Play in East Hampton Explores Personal Impact of War

by Michael McCoy

A new documentary play being staged this weekend will explore the extensive, personal reach of war.

Eleven area students will perform *The Heart of War*, a one-act documentary play written and directed by Haddam Neck resident Elizabeth Namen, tonight and tomorrow, Dec. 7 and 8, at Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St. Admission is \$5.

The Heart of War is a 50-minute, one act play, put on by 11 kids from Epoch Arts, a nonprofit organization that seeks to initiate local kids into the arts. The kids range in age from ninth grade through college age.

Namen said she's "never been stimulated by war." But, her parents convinced her to watch a PBS program this past Memorial Day that documented various people's recollections of war, and Namen found herself quite moved.

"The first thing I thought is 'there's a heartbeat to this,'" she said, and later, she decided, "I've got to make a play out of this."

But, Namen said, "I knew I didn't want to make it political... I didn't want it to be like 'This is our statement on war.'"

As for the title, Namen said, "I wanted them to know that real people are affected by [war]. It's more than politics are people getting angry."

Namen asked students and staff members if they had family or friends who have served in the military. They then conducted interviews with the subjects, collecting stories and various perspectives of war. The interviews were conducted over three weeks in October, and Namen wrote the play during the first two weeks in November.

The play includes soldiers, mothers, daughters and others dealing with War World II and conflicts in Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Weekly rehearsals commenced in the beginning of October and picked up frequency two weeks ago. "Mini-productions are tough," Namen said of the short rehearsal period. However, the troupe hit the homestretch last Friday, Nov. 30, when rehearsals increased to nightly.

Frankie Bussolini, 17, an East Hampton High School student working in his first Epoch production, plays Bart Mazur, a 23-year-old soldier in the National Guard, stationed in Afghanistan. "He's really different from everyone else

in the play," Bussolini said. "He refused to be sad or feel pain... When he joined [the Guard], he basically became emotionless."

Contrasting the role with other parts he has played, Bussolini said, "It's difficult to remember I'm not supposed to show feeling." When delivering lines packed with pathos he would find himself getting caught up in the moment before telling himself, "Oh, I can't be mad... He has no emotions."

The reason Mazur's story came to Epoch was Jen Harris, 23, of Middletown, who befriended him during her two years in the National Guard. "I saw firsthand some of the struggles he had," Harris said.

When asked if Mazur was a different person since coming back from Afghanistan, Harris said, "In a way, yeah. He had this attitude that it didn't really matter... whatever happens happens."

Harris is Namen's cousin and has been involved in Epoch ever since its inception when she was 12. She is studying fine arts at Central Connecticut State University.

Harris' grandfather was in the Army, and when a recruiter came to her high school, she said, "I almost felt [joining the military] was something I should do for myself, as well as for my grandfather." When asked if she thought enlisting was a good idea in retrospect, she responded, "Absolutely. I learned a lot about leadership and working as a team. It really prepared me to be a better person."

Harris plays a 12-year-old girl named Ariana, whose father was sent to an island in the Indian Ocean to help the effort in Afghanistan.

Namen is the artistic director at Epoch Arts, while her husband Omer is the technical director. She studied theatre arts at Trinity College before working at Hartford Stage and the Oddfellows Playhouse. She joined Epoch (pronounced "epic") Arts in 2005.

In the past, the group performed adaptations of such works as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *James and the Giant Peach*.

But in recent years Epoch Arts has almost exclusively performed original pieces; the group has also added music and film departments, which are headed up by Nate Dudek and John Schroth, respectively.



Katie Claps, Michele Epstein and Jess Scroggin will play women whose sons, husbands and fathers are at war in a one-act play called *The Heart of War* this weekend at Epoch Arts.

Epoch Arts has a total of seven staff members and four teaching artists. Last year, the organization achieved 501C3 status and secured its own spot at the Brookside Industrial Complex on Skinner Street. Namen estimated that the organization would be able to purchase the building within the next couple months. "The building is a blessing and dream come true," Namen said.

Other events include improv comedy and a music series called "Brookside Nights," which features local youth bands. On Sunday, Dec. 16, Epoch Arts will also run a stunt combat workshop for kids in fifth grade or older. Namen estimated the organization puts on about a dozen events each year.

Epoch Arts offers a session of classes each season and the winter one will begin on Jan. 5. This batch of classes will include exploring the works of Dr. Seuss, a guitar workshop, the Film Spin Challenge, which culminates in a student film festival and improv comedy. Many of the classes are tailored to specific age groups.

Namen said interest in Epoch Arts has really picked up recently and participation varies

based on the event. About 50 students took classes during the fall session, 20 participated in October's haunted house and 70 were on hand for the last "Brookside Night."

Tuition for the nine-week classes is \$125. There is no prerequisite for involvement in Epoch Arts; all kids from first grade on up are welcome to join, regardless of where they are from.

When asked how else the nonprofit organization sustains itself, Namen said, "angels," alluding to an anonymous East Hampton family who has almost single-handedly kept the organization afloat financially thanks to more than generous donations.

However, because of the 501C3 status, the organization is now tax-exempt and accepts donations from any resident or business. Those seeking to make donations can send checks to Epoch Arts, 27 Skinner St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

The Heart of War will be performed Dec. 7 and 8 at 7 p.m. both nights. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 365-0337 or visit epocharts.org.

Hundreds Gather in East Hampton to Remember Bill O'Neill

by Michael McCoy

Not surprisingly, it was a standing-room-only crowd at St. Patrick's Church last Thursday morning, as around 500 people came to pay their final respects to former Governor William A. O'Neill.

O'Neill died at age 77 on Nov. 24.

O'Neill's widespread popularity was evident last Thursday, Nov. 29, when by 10:15, 45 minutes before a Mass of Christian Burial was to begin, every seat at St. Patrick's had been filled, aside from those marked "reserved" for family and other notable figures.

And there were many of those notable figures at the funeral, including Senators Christopher Dodd and Joseph Lieberman, U.S. Representatives Joseph Courtney and John Larson, state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, 2006 candidate for U.S. Senate Ned Lamont, and current Governor M. Jodi Rell.

Many local officials also attended the service, including East Hampton Town Council members Tom Cordeiro, Melissa Engel, and Christopher Goff, former East Hampton Town Manager Alan Bergren, Public Works Director and Interim Town Manager Robert Drewry, Administrator of Planning, Zoning, and Building Jim Carey, and Old Home Days Co-founder and dear friend of the governor Red McKinney. Portland officials, including First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield and selectwoman Kathleen Richards, also showed up.

Shortly after 10:30 a.m., when Rell was making her way to her seat, the buzzing of casual conversation that had been taking place in the church gave way to utter silence for about a full minute. The chatter began again once she had settled in her spot.

At 10:45 a.m., three pallbearers, including former East Hampton Town Council member Pete Brown, escorted O'Neill's casket into the sanctuary. Those in attendance immediately rose to their feet, and continued standing until

the Mass began 15 minutes later.

Father Charles LeBlanc, pastor of St. Patrick's, welcomed all the guests, saying he was certain that Nikki O'Neill, the governor's wife of 45 years, "is grateful to each and every one of you for your presence." Looking out at the myriad of people before him, he joked, "Today, you make me feel like the pope of East Hampton."

LeBlanc was joined by a number of local clergy, including Deacon Richard Breton, Bishop of Norwich Michael R. Cote, retired Bishop Daniel P. Reilly, and Archbishop of Hartford Henry J. Mansell.

Expressing hope that the faith of all in attendance could be strengthened as a result of the tribute to O'Neill, LeBlanc addressed Nikki O'Neill, saying, "Nikki, I marvel at your faithful love of your darling Bill."

O'Neill was a lifelong member of St. Patrick's, and a former altar boy at the church. "I am a better priest for knowing and serving the governor," LeBlanc said, adding that O'Neill was "a good Christian gentleman who brought honor and dignity to the office of governor."

LeBlanc also mentioned O'Neill's "gracious and unpretentious manner," adding, "His legacy is that he was the salt of the earth," while later speaking of his "Irish charm, grace, and class."

Following cantor Michelle Donahue's singing of "Ave Maria," attorney, political consultant, and close friend Jim Wade delivered the first of three eulogies. Wade said a survey had been conducted of O'Neill, asking people to describe the governor in one word. And the words that kept coming back, Wade said, were "honest, reliable, trustworthy."

Wade said "Bill O'Neill was not a proud person," but instead commented on how he was proud of those around him and the things that made him who he was.

Wade noted O'Neill's pride for his Irish heri-

tage. Wade recalled with fondness a trip he and O'Neill made to Ireland together. They eventually found themselves in a Limerick pub. Wade recalls O'Neill spontaneously breaking into a beautiful rendition of "We'll Meet Again," which elicited silence from the rest of the pub. Wade remembered thinking, "That's a side of O'Neill that the public doesn't get a chance to see."

Also, Wade said of O'Neill, "Oh did he love a parade! Especially if it fell on March 17."

Wade said O'Neill was also proud of being a Catholic, but said it was sacred to him and "wouldn't drag it out in an election year to get a few votes."

O'Neill's pride also extended, Wade said, to the Democratic Party, the state of Connecticut, and the office of governor – the last of which O'Neill believed "was a mantle of trust given to him by the people of the state," Wade said.

But O'Neill also showed plenty of hometown pride. "He was proud of East Hampton," Wade said. "Old Home Days was an event not to be missed." Speaking of O'Neill's former Belltown business, Wade said, "O'Neill's Taproom was the spot where old friends gathered and new friends were made."

Near the end of his eulogy, Wade had to fight back tears, but was able to finish. "So, there you have it," he said. "Bill O'Neill: reliable, honest, trustworthy. Old pal, because you lived your life...by that code, the people of Connecticut were proud of you."

Next, George Hannon, another advisor and close friend to the governor, addressed the guests. He talked about the houndstooth jacket that O'Neill frequently wore when he began serving on the Connecticut General Assembly in 1966. Hannon said that the coat consisted of "at least 14 colors" and O'Neill wore it with pride, despite jibes from his colleagues.

Hannon also said O'Neill frequently turned

down dinner plans to stay in with his wife. "Nikki's cooking a pot roast," was the governor's chronic reply to such invitations. Hannon figured that one-year, judging by the governor's excuses, Nikki must have made "87 pot roasts, 32 meat loaves, and 19 hot dog dinners."

Hannon recalled that after O'Neill left office in 1991, he, his wife, Bill, and Nikki would frequent the Governor's Tavern. Hannon laughed that Bill would always read the menu cover to cover before ordering "a half order of tenderloin tips and a side of mashed potatoes," without fail.

"He was my dear friend before he was my governor; he was my dear friend while he was my governor; and he was my dear friend after he retired from being governor," Hannon said.

The final eulogy came from Rell – and she led with a joke, saying, "Nikki, you told me I'd be first."

O'Neill assumed the office of governor on Dec. 31, 1980, when the late Ella Grasso resigned due to cancer; she died in February 1981. So O'Neill, Rell said, "steadied the state when its heart was broken."

Rell also addressed Nikki directly: "Thank you for sharing him with us. He absolutely adored you."

Rell said O'Neill "was a man of his word and a man of integrity."

Before exiting the sanctuary, guests joined in singing "We'll Meet Again," the same song O'Neill crooned years ago in Ireland. It is probably safe to say that those singing hoped the words would come true. They simply didn't know where and didn't know when.

Following the two hour service, the funeral proceeded down Route 66 to Middletown's Military Cemetery, where O'Neill was laid to rest. The day ended with a luncheon at Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant in East Hampton.

Construction Starts on Brownstone Arch Pavilion in Portland

by Michael McCoy

The Brownstone Arch Pavilion took a big step forward Tuesday when construction began on the new building, located next to the police station on Main Street.

This effort has been a long-gestating one and involves a piece of Portland history. Quarry workers used to haul huge pieces of brownstone with this arch, which would be pulled by oxen. If this image sounds familiar, it's because it composes the town's logo.

Such an arch, which dates back to the 19th century, is hard to come by. Many years ago, one of the quarry owners gave an arch to the town. It has been treasured ever since.

The arch had been displayed in front of the Brownstone Intermediate School, but it suffered over the years due to the elements. However, residents Eddie Chiabrero and Bill Long undertook a four-year restoration process in 1998.

In May, speaking about the arch, Howard Rosenbaum, chairman of the Arch Pavilion project, said, "It's the primary artifact that is left behind from the quarries."

In 2003, the Board of Selectmen commissioned the Brownstone Quorum to find a site for the arch, which measures about 31 feet long, eight feet high, and weighs more than a ton. Because weather was the undoing of the arch on the first go around, the subcommittee decided that providing the arch with a covering was mandatory. The committee ended up agreeing to house the arch in the parking lot between the police station and Bank of America.

Resident Richard Staub drew up plans for the pavilion at no charge, opting for a mortise and tenon design. The pavilion is 20 feet in width by 40 feet in length, is made of Douglas fir, and will have a cement floor. The site engineering drawings were prepared by town engineer Jeff Jacobson and Associates free of charge.

Though the town received a \$25,000 grant

from the state one year ago, the rest of the other \$40,000 has come from donations. The total cost also includes educational signage, landscaping, and a sign honoring Eddie and Joseph Chiabrero. Furthermore, special markers will recognize those who have donated \$500+ or \$1,000+. A brick walkway will also lead up to the pavilion itself. Donors may purchase bricks at \$100 a piece, which will contain an inscription of the donor's choosing.

Rosenbaum is responsible for a large chunk of the effort to see this project through and had originally hoped to complete the building and installation of the pavilion and arch respectively, by this year's Brownstone Festival. Though this did not happen, groundbreaking did take place two days after the festival, on Sept. 17.

As a result of this past Sunday's ice storm, the start of the construction was delayed a day until Tuesday. About a dozen people, many of them members of the Brownstone Quorum, showed up to watch the first stages of construction.

Rosenbaum estimated that the sides of the pavilion would be completely in place within days, while the roof would take a couple of weeks.

Brownstone Quorum President Jim Tripp said Tuesday, "It's nice to see this project getting underway. It's been a lot of work."

First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield was at the pavilion site on Tuesday, and said, "The town is so grateful for the work the Brownstone Quorum has done under the direction of Dr. Rosenbaum."

Rosenbaum praised the cooperative effort on the part of the town to complete this effort, saying, "A majority of the businesses in town have donated money."

Post and Beam Homes Inc., headed up by Nino Malatesta and operating out of East Hampton, is performing the construction of the pavilion, while Portland's Mark DeFrancesco



Howard Rosenbaum, Rick Kelsey and Jim Tripp admire construction at the site of the new Brownstone Arch Pavilion on Tuesday.

has been contracted to do the masonry. DeFrancesco "gave us a big break," said Rosenbaum of the latter. Another Portland resident, Mike Meehan, cut the brownstone caps and will provide the veneer stone at cost, Rosenbaum said.

State Representative Jim O'Rourke, who helped secure the state grant, was also on hand Tuesday, and told the quorum, "Good work."

"There's been a lot of cooperation and collaboration," Public Works Director Rick Kelsey said Tuesday. Quorum member Sari

Rosenbaum reciprocated Kelsey's praise.

"Anytime there was a question of about how things should be done, he is the go-to guy," she said. Kelsey and his crew are also responsible for retrieving the arch and transporting to events such as the agricultural fair. They will do the same thing when the arch itself is installed in the spring.

Rosenbaum predicted that brick walkways, plaque, signage, and landscaping would all be accompanied by a dedication ceremony in the spring.

Obituaries

Marlborough

Edward David Kelly

Edward David Kelly, 60, of Marlborough and formerly of Andover and Manchester, died peacefully at his home in Marlborough on Sunday, Dec. 2. Born in Manchester on Dec. 26, 1946, he was the son of the late Walter and Shirley (Elkerton) Kelly.

Edward was a U.S. Navy veteran, having served his country during the Vietnam War. He was a retired maintenance mechanic and an active member of AA since 1983.

Edward is survived by his former wife and close friend, Deborah "Debbie" Kelly of Andover; his son, Michael J. Kelly of Andover; three daughters, Jenna Paige Kelly of Andover, Crystal Kelly and Julia Kelly, both of North Carolina; two brothers, William Kelly of Willimantic and Walter "Mike" Kelly of Marlborough; two sisters, Jackie Kelly of Florida and Patricia Ogren of New Jersey; five grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a sister, Sheila Kelly.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, at 11 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy, Pastor of East Hampton Congregational Church, officiating. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Michael Joseph Kelly College Fund, c/o New Alliance Bank, Hebron, CT 06248, or the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447. To leave online condolences or for directions, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

Colchester

Robert Ferrell Edwards

Robert Ferrell Edwards, "Bo," 58, of Oakdale, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Nov. 28, at home. Born July 8, 1949, in Norwich, he was the son of the late Bennett and Margaret (Lyle) Edwards. A graduate of Montville High School, he went on to major in Economics at UConn, earning his Bachelor's of Arts degree. While studying there, he was active in track and field and won several awards. Mr. Edwards proudly served with the National Guard during the Vietnam era and was a member of the American Legion. Bob was a Union Laborer at the Millstone Nuclear Power Plant for many years before his retirement in 2005. In his spare time, he loved to cook and bake for family and friends. He enjoyed watching old classic films, reading and he loved animals. Bob will be remembered for his kind, generous and caring spirit; and will be greatly missed.

He is survived by two sisters, Anne Wodopian of Colchester and Pamela Edwards of Malden, MA; two nieces, Tara Crouch of West Hartford and Jill Sumner of Richmond, VA; and extended family members and friends. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Nancy Edwards. Friends called Sunday, Dec. 2, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester, before a chapel service there. Graveside services with full military honors were observed Monday at Maplewood Cemetery, Norwich. Donations in his memory may be made to the CT Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, 06111 or to the charity of one's choice.

Hebron

Barbara Ruth Ecton

Barbara Ruth Ecton, 65, of Hebron, formerly of Bristol, passed away on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Hartford Hospital. She is the wife of Danny Ecton. Barbara was born on Sept. 12, 1942, in Fort Kent, ME, to Cecile (Ouellette) Voisine and the late Edward Voisine. Barbara was a longtime resident of Bristol before moving to Hebron. She adored her family and the time she spent with them. She will be forever missed.

She leaves her husband, Danny Ecton of Hebron; a son Mark Raymond and his wife Mary Jennifer of Georgia and a daughter Debbie Demerchant and her husband Bill of Bristol, five grandchildren Samantha, Andrew, Nathan, Kayla and Eric and a great-granddaughter Madyson. She also leaves her brother Dean Voisine and three sisters Jenny Fazzone, Susan Nolan and Karen Laskowski. She was predeceased by her son Carl Raymond and her brother Jimmy Voisine. A memorial service was held Saturday, Dec. 1, Bailey Funeral Home, 48 Broad St. Plainville. Burial will be private. For directions and online condolences visit www.bailey-funeralhome.com.

East Hampton

Anna P. Peterson

Anna P. Peterson, 90, of East Hampton, beloved wife of the late Frederick Peterson, died Thursday, Nov. 29. Born in Marlborough to the late Roy B. and Catherine Pettengill on March 18, 1917, Ann grew up in Marlborough and graduated from Glastonbury High School. Ann was a member of the East Hampton Congregational Church for over 50 years, serving on many committees during that time. She was a member of the D.A.R. and retired from The Travelers Insurance Company as a supervisor in their travel department.

Ann leaves a son, Earl Peterson and his wife Glenda of East Hampton; a daughter, Sharon Ferrier and her husband David of Portland; a sister, Dorothy Nowsch of Marlborough; a brother and sister-in-law, Roy and Adeline Pettengill of Westchester; six grandchildren, Kimberly Sweeney and her husband Marc of Portland, Timothy Cramer and his wife Deborah of North Granby, Jennifer Shumbo and her husband Ted of East Hampton, Christopher Cramer and his wife Monica of Ft. Lauderdale, FL, Pamela Luchka and her husband Mark of East Hampton and Eric Peterson and his wife Laura of East Hampton; along with 10 great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a sister Catherine (Ginger) Kluczewicz and a brother Louis Pettengill. The family would like to thank all the caring staff at Chestelm who lovingly cared for Ann for the last four years.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Sunday Dec. 2. Funeral services were held Monday, Dec. 3, in the East Hampton Congregational Church with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial followed in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton. Memorial donation may be made to East Hampton Congregational Church, PO Box 237, East Hampton, CT 06424 or the charity of the donor's choice. To leave online condolences or for directions visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

John Sadler

John Frederick Thomas Sadler, 32, of Walnut Ave., East Hampton, beloved husband of Suzanne (Parry) Sadler, died on Saturday, Dec. 1, at the UConn Medical Center due to complications related to cancer. Born on May 31, 1975, in Hartford, he was the son of Michael R. and Patricia (Foley) Sadler of Marlborough. Besides his wife and parents, he is survived by two brothers, Thomas Sadler of Marlborough and Master Sgt. William McDonald and family, a sister, Sharon Sadler of Marlborough, a brother-in-law, Marcus R. Mueck of California, son-in-law, Marcus J. and Lynn Mueck of California, paternal grandmother, Mary M. Frederick of Mason City, IA, also several aunts, uncles and cousins. He was predeceased by maternal grandparents C. Thomas and Barbara Foley and paternal grandfather John A. Frederick.

John was a graduate of St. John School in Middletown and a graduate of North Penn High School of Lansdale, PA. He was a member of the Calvary Fellowship Church of West Hartford. A memorial service will be held Saturday, Dec. 8, at 10 a.m. in the Coughlin-Lastrina Funeral Home, 491 High St., Middletown. Burial will be private. Friends may call at the funeral home on Saturday morning from 9 a.m. until time of service.

Andover

Zachary Michael Choquette

Zachary "Zak" Michael Choquette, 18, resident of Andover, passed unexpectedly on Monday, Dec. 3, as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Zak was born Nov. 4, 1989, in Hartford the son of Michael C. and Diane (Phillips) Choquette. He was raised in Andover and attended Andover Elementary and RHAM Middle school. He was in his senior year at Windham Tech where he was an Honor Roll Student pursuing a career in heating, ventilation and air conditioning. He worked part-time for New Design Engineering and spent this past summer working for Link Heating & Air Conditioning. Zak's hobbies included Motocross and Enduro Racing, basketball, classic cars and Cruise Nights with his dad in their classic 1967 Maverick.

He leaves to mourn his passing his mother and father, Michael Charles Choquette and Diane Phillips Choquette, and his brother, Kyle Choquette, all of Andover; his paternal grandmother, Emily Theresa Price of Surprise, AZ, and his maternal grandfather, Albert L. Phillips of East Hartford. He was predeceased by his paternal grandfather, Conrad Augustine Choquette, and his maternal grandmother, Anne Greene Phillips. He also leaves his uncle, Alan Phillips and his wife, Karen; his aunt, Debra Phillips; a very special cousin, Norman Pelletier and his wife, Liz of New Hampshire; and a very close family friend, Steven Barnett of New Design Engineering. Zak also leaves many great aunts and great uncles, numerous cousins and friends.

Zak's family will be receiving relatives and friends on Friday, Dec. 7, from 4-8 p.m. at the Newkirk & Whitney Funeral Home, 318 Burnside Ave., East Hartford. A funeral procession will convene Saturday, Dec. 8, at 9 a.m. at the funeral home, followed by a service at 10 a.m., with Rev. Dana L. Campbell officiating. Burial will follow in the Townsend Cemetery on Townsend Road in Andover. Zak's family would like to thank the caring and compassionate staff at Harford Hospital and the Hebron Volunteer Fire Dept. and EMT's. Memorial donations may be made to in Zak's honor to Life Choice Donor Services, 8 Griffin Road North, Windsor, CT 06095. To share stories and condolences with the family please visit www.mem.com.

Hebron

Elzear Mecteau

Elzear (Al) Mecteau, 82, of Amston passed away at home, with his loving family by his side, on Tuesday, Dec. 4. Born Feb. 9, 1925 in Hartford, he was a son of the late Elzear and Louise (DeChamplain) Mecteau, Sr. He married Gloria Gaudette on Aug. 10, 1946. Mrs. Mecteau survives him. Al worked as an auto mechanic at Hoffman Motors and as a tool maker at Chandler Evans for 33 years, until his retirement in 1986. Al was a master at working with stained glass. He built many model cars and boats and remote control cars and boats. He also enjoyed fishing and painting.

In addition to his wife of 61 years, survivors include three children, Janice Falade and husband Mark of Hebron, Michele Cerrigione and husband Tom of Columbia, Douglas Mecteau and wife Beth of East Hartford; a brother, Alfred Mecteau of Newington; three grandchildren, Tommy Cerrigione, Rachel Fletcher and Eric Lincoln and many nieces, nephews and extended family members and friends. Besides his parents, he was predeceased by a sister, Marion Fargo and a grandson, Ryan Lincoln.

A Memorial Mass will be celebrated Friday, Dec. 7, at 10:30 a.m. at Church of the Holy Family, Church St., Hebron. Al's cremated remains will be scattered at the home he loved in Hebron. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Hospice of Eastern CT/VNA East, 34 Ledgebrook Dr., Mansfield Center 06250 or Church of the Holy Family, P.O. Box 146, Hebron 06248. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.



East Hampton Police News

11/14 — Carla M. Cataldi, 49, of 87 Clark Hill Rd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree larceny, first-degree forgery and criminal impersonation, East Hampton Police report.

11/15 — Cara L. Culbert, 26, of 4 Ellis Rd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of operating under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and failure to drive right, police say.

11/16 — James Young, 45, of 137 South Main St., Marlborough, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police report.

11/16 — Scott Wosleger, 44, of 75 Childs Rd., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police say.

11/18 — Shannon Wilson, 20, of 118 Main St., was arrested for traveling fast and operating with a suspended license, police say.

11/18 — Martin E. Curley, 39, of 51 Gillette St., West Hartford, was issued a ticket for failure to obey control signal and operating an unregistered vehicle, police say.

11/19 — Stephen Coladonato, 53, of 179 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for traveling unreasonably fast and operating without minimum insurance, police report.

11/19 — Barbara Alicea, 43, of 106 Westchester Rd., Colchester, was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and speeding, police say.

11/19 — Jason Thomas, 33, of 9 Lake St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for possession of narcotic, driving under the influence, assault with a motor vehicle while intoxicated, risk of injury to a minor and failure to drive right, police report.

According to police, the charges stemmed from an April car accident at Route 66 and Coughlin Road. A three-year-old child was in the car with him at the time, police say.

11/20 — Joseph A. Sorvillo, 21, of 12 Browning Dr., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of simple trespass and third-degree criminal mischief, police say.

11/20 — Todd M. Vanblaricom, 20, of 87 Abbey Rd., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree criminal mischief and simple trespass, police say.

11/20 — Laura Bartolotta, 39, of 14 East High St., was arrested for speeding and illegal operation of vehicle without insurance, police report.

11/20 — Scott Ford, 30, of 8 Clearwater Ln., was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police say.

11/20 — Diana Resler, 57, of 8 Forest St., was arrested for speeding and illegal operation without minimum insurance, police say.

11/21 — Paul Miele, 60, of 200 Coldspring Rd., Rocky Hill, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police say.

11/21 — Wendell L. Maynard, 49, of 85 North Main St., was arrested for speeding, police say.

11/21 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested for second-degree breach of peace and second-degree reckless endangerment, police say.

11/21 — Jason Pangretic, 27, of 65 Prospect Pl., Middletown, was arrested pursuant to a

warrant for second-degree making a false report and violation of a protective order, police say.

11/22 — Jennifer L. Saitta, 21, of 8 Clark Hill Rd., and George Looby, 58, of 8 Fernwood Dr., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Mott Hill Road, two-tenths of a mile north of Brack Farm Road, police say. Saitta was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions, police report.

11/23 — Paul S. Nelson, 47, of 227 West High St., was arrested for operating under the influence, failure to drive right and operating without insurance, police say.

11/23 — William W. Rudnick Jr., 41, of 227 West High St., was arrested for operating under the influence, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating without insurance, police say.

11/25 — A 14-year-old male juvenile was referred to Juvenile Court on charges of third-degree criminal mischief and reckless burning, police say.

11/25 — Brenda Marshall, 46, of 321 Rt. 66, Columbia, and Amber N. Reed-Eck, 22, of 8 West Point Rd., were issued tickets for failure to wear a seat belt, police report.

11/25 — Erich J. Hansen, 26, of 93 Main St., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a control signal, police say.

11/25 — Ryan Dennehy, 27, of 219 Cabin Rd., Colchester, was arrested for speeding, police report.

11/26 — Timothy J. Hall, 46, of 126 Bear Swamp Rd., was arrested for speeding, police say.

11/26 — Brian D. Picciolo, 26, of 35 East High St., and Troy P. Kauffman, 41, of 14 Main St., were involved in a two-vehicle accident on Main Street, one-tenth of a mile from Rt. 66. Picciolo was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and following too closely, police report.

11/27 — Jason T. Hines, 21, of 38 South Main St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of third-degree criminal mischief and simple trespass, police say.

11/27 — Mitch Herman, of 7 Maplewood Dr., was issued a ticket for nuisance dog, police report.

11/27 — Caleb J. Sonnichsen, 18, of 137 Ague Spring Rd., Haddam Neck, was issued a ticket for traveling too fast and failure to obey a stop sign, police report.

11/28 — Scott E. Evans, 23, of 12 Mohican Tr., was arrested pursuant to a court ordered warrant on charges of following too closely, simple trespass, operating under suspension and second-degree failure to appear, police report.

11/28 — Crystal Rotkowitz, 23, of 31 Oakwood Knoll Rd., Norwich, was arrested for operating under suspension and failure to carry an insurance card, police say.

12/2 — Heath R. Galvin, 18, of 61 North Main St., was arrested for second-degree breach of peace, violation of a protective order, weapon in a motor vehicle and second-degree threatening, police report.

12/3 — Marco G. Granese, 25, of 1 Rose Garden Ln., Norwich, was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, no tail light and operating without insurance, police report.

P

Portland Police News

11/27 — A 17-year-old male was arrested on charges of breach of peace and criminal mischief, Portland Police say.

11/29 — Velma L. Lonneville, 35, of 2256 Silas Deane Hwy., Rocky Hill, was charged with evading responsibility and traveling too fast for conditions, police say.