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# News Bulletin

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Last Thursday's fire on Route 66 in East Hampton may have been caused by a faulty heating unit. The fire caused approximately \$200,000 in damage to the building at 127 East High St.

## Source of Fire May Have Been Heating System

by Michael McCoy

Though town authorities are all but certain that a mishap with the heating system caused the fire on Route 66 in East Hampton last Thursday, it may be quite some time before the cause is officially determined.

Just before 1 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 25, fire personnel were dispatched to 127 East High Street, where a fire had broken out on the second floor of the commercial structure. Approximately 75 firefighters from five different towns remained on the scene for the next three hours, until the blaze was brought under control.

Though much of the building survived, the space housing two salons—The Hairitage and Hair Trends—was destroyed. Fortunately, due to the early hour, no one was on the premises.

East Hampton Fire Marshal Philip

Visintainer discounted the possibility of arson. "We've ruled out anything suspicious," he said this week. "It seems to have been a malfunction of some sort, or a fatigue of some component. We're certain that it happened in the area in and around that heating appliance." The system in question was propane fueled.

According to Visintainer, the town does not have the necessary resources to safely send inspectors onto the heavily damaged second floor of the structure, where the fire commenced.

The building is owned by Po Fong and her family, who also own and operate Hung Won, a Chinese restaurant. Though the entire building suffered serious smoke and water damage, about half of the square footage was structurally unscathed.

Visintainer said there has been prelimi-

nary talk of both salons moving into that space. However, Fong would first have to establish that portion of the building as a single entity.

Whether this will take place or not is unknown, though Visintainer noted, "[Fong] did exhibit a lot of concern as to how her tenants could stay in business."

In a letter to the editor, Gail Cavanaugh, who has owned and operated The Hairitage in town for 24 years, thanked all those involved with battling the early morning fire for their prompt and thorough response. She also made note of the efforts by firefighters to salvage her business records and, incidentally, her scissors. Though some of the letter was a lament, she remained positive, adding, "This fire temporarily destroyed my business, but not my spirit."



Students rehearse for the upcoming production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream (For Kids),' to be presented Thursday and Friday at the Brownstone Intermediate School. The performance is open to the public.

## Students to Present 'Midsummer Night's Dream (For Kids)' in Portland

by Michael McCoy

With winter weather finally upon us, a few Portland fifth and sixth-graders are seeking to warm things up, if only for one weekend.

The Brownstone Intermediate School will be performing "A Midsummer Night's Dream (For Kids)," Lois Burdett's youth-friendly adaptation of the Bard's comedy. Performances will be on Feb. 8 and 9 at 7 p.m. in the school auditorium. Tickets are \$5 and may be ordered by calling Deb Durkin at 342-5494. They will also be available at the door.

The 40-minute show is under the direction of Kimberly West, a 1999 graduate of Emory University's theatre studies program. An Atlanta native, West spent 13 years at the city's Alliance Theatre.

She moved to Hartford in 2005, upon earning a position at the Hartford Stage's education department. Recently, however, West has decided to take up full-time work as an independent contractor, working with the likes of the Performing Arts Company, Oddfellows Playhouse, and the Hartford Children's Theatre, where she is overseeing a production of "Stuart Little" scheduled to begin performances in a week.

West was asked to direct the Brownstone show after garnering praise from parents and staff alike for her direction of "The Magic Flute" at Portland Middle School.

"I don't see Shakespeare as 400 years old; I see him as 400 years young," says West. Because of the timelessness of the playwright's work, West figures, "We can incorporate any kinds of pop culture or colloquial references we want."

Though some may see Shakespeare's work as pretentious today, West would remind them that he typically wrote for the commoners of his day, rather than the upper crust.

West has tried to give her cast and crew a true taste of theatre life. She held an open audition for any interested fifth or sixth-graders, who were required to do a cold reading as well as perform a selection from a memorized text. After parts were assigned, she held a mandatory meeting on Dec. 11. Rehearsals began on Jan. 3, and ran three nights a week, with the exception of the week leading up to the performance, which includes nightly rehearsals.

Midsummer has a cast of 50 and a crew of 20. It maintains the couplet form of verse found in the original work, with some lines directly

coinciding. The play includes an even split of dialogue and narration, and allows for a host of small roles, rather than a few leads.

"We have an army of parents, and without them we couldn't exist," nods West. Indeed, Cathy McQuade has taken on the role of PTO liaison, and Evelyn Eddy serves as technical director. Furthermore, Karen Enright designed the backdrop for the play, the style of which was inspired by the work of Vincent Van Gogh.

Of course West works with adults as well, but she sees a special place for children in the theatre. Among other things, she says, "It helps with your social skills, problem solving, and communication."

"This is the best thing I can do for them," believes West.

The body of students responsible for the show range from fledgling performers to those who have been staging their own informal productions with friends for as long as they can remember.

When called on by their director to sum up their experience in one word, answers were peppered from all over the stage: fun, hardship, demanding, socializing, great, teamwork, and awesome.

Tim Fraulina, 12, who has participated in church Christmas pageants, plays Oberon. He shared his reason for signing on: "Well, my brother is in the Navy, and he always wanted me to do well in school. So, I thought this would make him happy." He called the last month a "good experience" and admitted to not expecting such a large role. Without that chance, he would not have been able to mention this, his favorite part of the play: "hypnotizing my queen to act like a donkey."

Caitlin McQuade, 10, plays Hermia and often makes up plays with her sister. Her favorite part of the show: "I like getting mad at the Duke."

As for the Duke, Mike Bordonaro, 10, says, "It's fun to do plays." His experience includes working with the Podium Players. "It's more kid-friendly than anything I've ever done," commented the Duke on the current production.

"A Midsummer Night's Dream (For Kids,)" is about 40 minutes long.

Cap- West commands the attention of her troupe, asking them to shout out personal highlights.



Attorney General Richard Blumenthal is welcomed to Hebron Elementary School by Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz for a program on the dangers of the Internet.

## Kids on Line: They're Not as Safe as You Think

by Sarah McCoy

In an effort to open parents' eyes to the dangers of the web, the Hebron PTA and Board of Education sponsored an Internet safety forum held on Tuesday night. The evening frightened, disgusted, and, most importantly, educated parents and students about some of today's most common Internet forums.

Hebron extended an invitation to RHAM, Marlborough and Andover residents. In total over 100 people attended the program.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal and Sgt. Jim Smith of the State Police Internet Crimes and Electronic Evidence Unit both addressed the crowd about what is "out there" and how to protect against unwanted contacts.

As a government official, Blumenthal reassured parents that he would continue to work towards Internet reform—specifically focusing on MySpace, a social networking forum that boasts almost 100 million users.

To date, Blumenthal has forced MySpace to raise their minimum age requirement to 14. That, in his opinion, isn't good enough. He is currently pushing for a minimum age of 16, in addition to installing an age verification process.

That would require all MySpace users to provide their driver's license or credit card number if they are over 18, or parental consent proven by their license or credit card information.

"I am a parent of four," Blumenthal told the audience. "So I know where you're coming from."

The latest step MySpace has taken, Attorney General Blumenthal, reported is to match convicted sexual offenders with the MySpace user database. While he applauded the social forum for a "step in the right direction," Blumenthal was quick to say this wasn't nearly enough. "The site only monitors convicted sexual offenders who use their real name on MySpace," he stated. "This isn't good enough. We need more protection for our children."

To reiterate this point Sgt. Smith brought up a MySpace page from Danny. Danny talks all about his hobbies, his tattoos, and that he's looking for a girlfriend. "What he never mentions though is that he is a high-risk convicted sexual offender," Smith explained.

Over the course of the evening Smith brought up a series of actual MySpace pages from Hebron residents. He highlighted no-no's for Internet safety including using your full name, giving your location, or phone number. Smith even suggested leaving out interests and photos just as a precaution.

"Your friends know what you like and what you look like," he said. "By putting that information out in the open, you are inviting strangers to try an lure you in."

One of the biggest shockers for parents came when Sgt. Smith brought a page up created by a RHAM High School student. Because the individual used his full name, Smith was able

to bring up his address using the white pages and then the floor plan and photographs of his house through an assessment service called Vision Appraisal.

"With just a few clicks you have given away the keys to your castle," Smith warned.

While MySpace certainly has given parents cause for concern, Smith touched on a number of different forums that pose Internet security risks.

Web cams, Smith believes, are a terrible idea for virtually everyone. "Unless you have relatives far away and use it to communicate, there is no reason to have a web cam," he said. "That camera can lend itself to trouble and it gives predators a window into your house."

Another area of concern comes in the form of file sharing. Programs such as LimeWire or Kazaa have become an increasingly popular as a way for computer users to share files, commonly music and movies. The problem is, first, it's illegal, and secondly users aren't always getting what they think they are. "With one typo you could be downloading a virus directly to your hard drive or, even worse, something like child pornography," he said.

Smith was quick to dispel any notions that this type of behavior doesn't exist in Connecticut. Last year alone the Computer Crimes and Electronic Evidence Unit handled over 800 cases with over half of the cases relating to child pornography.

In fact, the idea to hold the Internet safety forum came as a result of an incident that occurred last year where a 27-year old Chaplin man allegedly sexually assaulted a 13-year old Hebron student at a nearby motel. The two initially made contact through MySpace.

With only a 17-member department, Sgt. Smith admitted that there is just not enough manpower to address all the issues that currently occur on the Internet. He put the responsibility in the hands of every parent.

In closing, Smith gave a list of suggestions for every parent to safeguard their child. First off, he advises that computers be kept in common areas. This gives parents a better opportunity to monitor what their child is doing.

Secondly, parents need to supervise their child. This includes asking whom each screen name belongs to and what sites their child visits. "You wouldn't let your child go out without knowing where they are going and who they will be with. The Internet is no different. Ask where they are going and who they talk to," he said.

Smith also recommends parents invest in a parental control or filtering program. Thanks to a partnership between the State Police and the Connecticut Alliance of Paralegals, the police obtained 200 copies of a software program used to identify possibly dangerous material already on home computers. The program also captures keystrokes, allowing parents to monitor what their child is typing and to whom. Remaining copies of the program are available at the Resident State Trooper's Office.

# Hebron Board of Ed Proposes \$11 Million Budget

by Sarah McCoy

It wasn't without controversy but the Hebron Board of Education (BOE) made their final recommendations this week to their piece of the 2007-08 budget.

The \$11,007,090.00 proposed budget represents an overall increase of 6.16% from the current fiscal year. This reflects a net \$62,000 reduction from the initial request from Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz.

All of the line item reductions came as a result of the district receiving more accurate numbers. The Board of Education did not vote to reduce the budget in any area.

The majority of \$62,000 budget reduction came from an unanticipated savings in health insurance costs. The district had planned on a 15% hike but when the real numbers came in, the cost represented only a 12% increase. This resulted in a net savings of about \$54,000 between current and proposed positions.

The line items for fuel also saw substantial cuts, as the district was able to save a combined \$10,000. This savings is due to a partnership the schools have with two different fuel consortiums. The bulk buying power has yielded more of a savings for the town.

Additionally, \$10,600 was cut from the instructional supplies line item. This money had been earmarked for equipment such as smart boards and projectors. Cruz opted to reduce this line item as opposed to taking it out of other areas.

At their meeting last week the Board of Education heard a motion to reduce a new position proposed for next year. Cruz hopes to bring in a .6 position to focus strictly on curriculum de-

velopment. "Last year our focus was supplies," she said. "Because teachers can't teach without resources.

"This year," she continued, "Our focus is on putting those materials to good use and training better teachers."

Her proposal is to bring in a Curriculum Director and change the current Assistant Principal position from 12-months to 10. This would cost the district an additional \$93,000 from the current arrangement.

BOE member Kathy Shea made a motion to cut this position and retain the current school structure. At the present time Assistant Principal Michelle Puhlick handles curriculum and technology oversight, in addition to her roles as an assistant principal. "We have someone doing the job [that Ellie is proposing]," Shea said. "And, it's working. I can't see adding a whole new position for something that we're doing now at no cost to the taxpayer."

Cruz stood by the position saying it would enable to the schools to focus more on achievement.

The motion to remove the position from the budget failed by a vote of 1-6.

By Town Charter the Board of Education had until Feb. 1 to turn in their budget to the Board of Selectman. The selectmen will review the numbers and can make recommendations but they are not authorized to make cuts to the budget number. The Board of Finance will receive the budget in March. They have the power to change the overall budget dollar amount but they cannot dictate where the changes are made.

# Coyle Named to Colchester Board of Selectmen Vacancy

by Jim Salemi

Lifelong residents of the town may recognize the name Rosemary Coyle, who served on the education board for eight years beginning in the late 1970s.

Last Tuesday, she was selected by the Board of Selectmen to fill a vacancy on that board.

"I feel I've come full circle," Coyle said last Wednesday after resuming her public service to the town.

Prior to last week's appointment, Coyle served the town last as a member and later co-chairman of the school board in the early 1980s. She left the education board to begin her career as a teacher and later an education advocate.

Most recently, she served as president of the Connecticut Education Association (CEA). Prior to that, she served as co-chairman of the Education Advisory Committee with the Connecticut Business and Industry Association. There she helped produce a number of videos about job opportunities in the state.

As a member of the CEA, she served on a board charged with implementing education mandates as a result of the historic Sheff v. O'Neill decision, which held that Hartford students are educationally disadvantaged given economic circumstances.

While Coyle called her experience on that board "frustrating" since the board could only discuss education and not economics or any other issue related to the decision, her work was recognized by the CEA, which presented her with the organization's Human and Civil Rights Award of the Henry Bernard Fund.

She also served as a member of the Governor's Commission on Education Finance. She was involved with the Girl Scouts of America, is a Justice of the Peace and is a member of the Democratic Town Committee.

Coyle began her career as a third-grade teacher for the Montville public school system. She taught in Montville for 37 years.

"It's time to give again and I'm looking forward to it," she said of her newly-appointed position.

Coyle will replace an open seat once occupied by now First Selectman Stan Soby. Soby, a selectman as of last month, took the first selectman's office after former First Selectman Jenny Contois resigned to take a job with U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney as his district manager.

According to town charter language, a Democrat had to be selected to replace Democrat Contois, although the board can replace the first selectman from any party. Republican Soby was selected by the Board of Selectmen last month to fill the vacancy left by Contois.

"I represented 40,000 teachers as president of the CTA and I've been dealing with public policy over the last eight years," remarked Coyle. "It's certainly an advantage, and I think it will give me perspective."

Coyle was selected over Tearice Peters, who served on the Charter Revision Commission and headed a public action committee attempting to regulate gravel pit/recycling operations in residential areas of town.

# Colchester CIP Big Ticket Item is Ladder Truck Funding

by Sarah McCoy

The Capital Improvement Plan final recommendations have been made for the upcoming 2007-08 budget.

As usual, not all wishes will be coming true: The panel whittled down over \$1.4 million in requested appropriations to \$875,400.

Their recommendations will now go to the boards of Selectmen and Finance before the total is presented to voters later this spring.

The big ticket item this year came from the Fire Department which requested a ladder truck that costs in the neighborhood of \$700,000. Last year CIP funded \$220,000 for the first installment of an engine truck. Since then the fire chiefs have shifted gears and requested the town do the same.

The so-called "quint" truck would give the firefighters in town aerial access to fires. It's called a quint because it fills five functions: pumper, water tank, fire hose, aerial device and ground ladders.

This particular type of apparatus has would fill a void in the town's firefighting abilities. Just in the past year, the town has called for mutual aid from Colchester and Andover 36 times because it needed their quints.

While the quint sports more features, it also boasts a higher price tag. Last year the CIP earmarked \$260,000 to fund the rest of the engine. Instead the Fire Department asked for \$480,000

for the quint with the understanding that this vehicle would replace an engine and a tanker truck planned for 2008-09.

"We saw an economic opportunity and we are passing it on to you," Fire Chief Paul Burton explained. "This apparatus can replace two others. While it is more now, it's less later."

Several other firefighters, including Colchester Fire Chief Walter Cox, were on-hand Wednesday night to support the quint.

Though no official vote was taken, there was unanimity across the board to fund the fire apparatus at the planned level and let the Fire Department handle the purchasing.

"We are not charged with telling each department what they can spend their money on," Chairman Lewis Hinman stated. "Whether it is a quint or an engine, that is something the Fire Department will have to consider and seek additional funding through another avenue, if necessary."

The Fire Department also received \$10,000 to go towards a \$90,000 water source expenditure.

The other large item appropriated from the CIP budget met no contention whatsoever. The mandated \$200,000 for roadway resurfacing sailed through, much like it has in previous years.

Other recommendations for the Public Works Department include \$85,000 for a used dump

truck; \$18,000 for Storm Water Phase II; and \$50,000 for a dump truck with a plow. That vehicle will benefit two departments as the older vehicle will be handed down to the Parks and Recreation Department.

The Board of Education received \$80,000 in CIP monies. Of that, \$50,000 will go to security cameras at both schools. The other \$30,000 will go to the purchase of a mandated floor steamer. This expenditure might be spared if an agreement can be reached with Chartwells Food Services. Superintendent Ellie Cruz reported that there is an ongoing dialogue between the two parties and that she is hopeful a deal can be made.

If the steamer is not needed, the \$30,000 will be used to fund new servers for the Fire Department and to begin funding on a new police cruiser.

There was discussion about allotting money for the planned Hebron Elementary School parking lot but Cruz felt this action was premature as the town has yet to procure the land. The Town of Hebron is currently working on a land purchase from St. Peter's Episcopal Church that includes the current HES parking lot, baseball field, and additional acreage set behind the field.

Currently the town leases the property from the diocese.

Additionally, the CIP Committee appropri-

ated \$45,000 for the planned 2011 revaluation process; \$7,000 for Meeting Room furniture in the Town Office Building; and \$20,000 for a new document management system.

The final recommendation from CIP dealt with the forthcoming sidewalks. Presently the town has allotted almost \$160,000 to the sidewalk plan that will, hopefully, one day run from RHAM High School down to Ted's Market.

Currently, Hebron has not broken ground on the project.

For that reason, CIP Committee member Brian Lessard stood in opposition for funding the requested \$86,000 for the project.

Board members were split on their level of support for the project but ended up funding the line item with \$40,000. This will cover the design plans for the remainder of the project and paving from Liberty Drive to Loveland Hills.

An additional \$20,000 was initially requested to connect Douglas Library to AHM Youth Services. Public Works Director Andy Tierney reported that this could be handled in-house using town employees.

The CIP Committee will meet again next Wednesday to discuss a five-year plan for the program. This year's recommendations will come before the selectmen in March.

## Marlborough Youths Rock Up \$3,700 for Georgiades Fund

Something very special happened last month at St. John Fisher Church.

At 5:30 on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 13, 22 teens from Marlborough and Hebron started rocking (in rocking chairs) and didn't stop until 18 hours later—at 11:30 Sunday morning.

They rocked and watched movies, rocked while they ate, rocked while they played air hockey, rocked and played guitar, rocked while they did their homework, (you get the picture) and they raised \$3,700 for the John Georgiades Medical fund.

By noon on Sunday some very tired, but very excited rockers and a handful of chaperones went home to get some much needed sleep.

John Georgiades, 10, son of Lea and Charlene Georgiades of Marlborough, was diagnosed last year with advanced Neuroblastoma, a rare form of cancer that occurs in infants and young children. In order to be with John during his numerous treatments at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City, the Georgiadeses have taken unpaid leaves of absences from their places of employment.

A fund was established for the family's benefit, and the Georgiadeses have been touched by the generosity of the residents

## Portland Transfer Station Cracks Down on Scavengers

by Michael McCoy

Scavengers, tinkers, potential inventors and others who tend to come home from the Portland Transfer Station with more items than they left off will have to find a new hobby.

Portland Public Works is trying to curb scavenging at the site.

The problem, says Public Works Director Rick Kelsey, is primarily safety. "Safety is first and foremost," he said.

The station is set up with bins for various items. With citizens leaning over the railings in an effort to access goodies in various bins, Kelsey and the Transfer Station supervisors worry about the potential for accidents.

In the past, Transfer Station personnel generally didn't worry much about people who saw other people's trash as their own personal treasure. But the chance of someone getting hurt led to a more cautious approach about a month ago.

"We did put some signs up that say do not pick things out of the various bins," said Kelsey.

## Burglary Suspect Arrested in Marlborough

Adam Corcoran, 28, of East Hartford, was arrested Jan. 25 on three warrants in connection with an alleged series of burglaries that took place in Marlborough over the summer, according to police.

Corcoran was charged with three counts of burglary and larceny for each of the three reported burglaries that took place on North Main Street, South Main Street and South Road, police said.

Corcoran is also facing theft of a firearm, conspiracy to commit theft and conspiracy to commit braking-and-entering in connection with the North Main Street burglary, according to reports.

of Marlborough and surrounding communities who have held numerous fundraisers to benefit the fund.

While John is still in New York with his mother undergoing tests and treatments, his father Lea and younger sister Sophia stopped by the Rock-a-Thon Saturday night and Sunday morning to visit with the rockers and give an update on John's condition. The good news Lea delivered was met with applause from all in attendance. Two of John's Aunts and several cousins also stopped by to say hello and thank the rockers.

The rockers, who ranged in age from 10 to 16 were: Michele Bernard, Tom Brahm, Emma Brodowski, Jordan Christie, Alex Crocket, Elizabeth Dandeneau, Kevin Fecteau, Mariel Hautman, Jessica Henley, Christopher Langlois, Nicole Mayo, David Mazotas, Kelly Moquin, Linda Parker, Jeffrey Parker, Adam Ragusa, Bradleigh Rhodes, Patrick Rhodes, Francesca Sessa, Mathew Smigel, Kevin Trippel, Corinne White.

The rockers were allowed to take 5-minute breaks every 90 minutes, to go to the bathroom, and stretch their legs. At the 5:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. breaks, they resorted to dancing "Cotton-Eyed-Joe" to help keep themselves awake.

Another reason for the curb is financial. The town pays to have much of the trash left at the Transfer Station removed and disposed of. However, some material, such as scrap metal, generates income for the town. Lately, some scavengers have concentrated on taking this type of material.

This scavenging for profit is not the same as, say, retrieving a kid's tricycle from the scrap heap for reuse by a child or grandchild, says Kelsey.

"It's a function of just abusing the privilege," figures Kelsey.

Kelsey added that the staff will police the problem flexibly. He said any resident who sees a particular item they think they could use, should speak to one of the transfer station supervisors, who will in many cases be able to accommodate the request.

As for the Transfer Station itself, Kelsey praised the personnel and smooth operation. "It's a really clean, well-run facility," noted the director.

## Hebron Police News

1/28—Two juveniles were referred to juvenile court for taking a car without permission. One of the juveniles, a 16-year-old, was also charged with driving without a license, according to reports.

## Colchester Police News

1/27—Robert Contes, 41, of Groton, was arrested for theft for allegedly shoplifting at the Stop and Shop, according to police.

1/27—Police are investigating two separate incidences of vandalism to two cars parked in driveways on Shailor Hill Rd.

1/29—Alberto Mendoza, 18, of Danielson, was arrested for driving an unregistered motor vehicle, driving with a suspended license, possession of a stolen license plate and having a defective windshield, according to reports.

## Andover Burglary Suspect Arrested After Car Chase

An Andover man was charged with burglary last Thursday, Jan. 30 after a police chase.

Jeffery Diana, 47, of 62 Hendee Rd., Andover, was charged with engaging in pursuit, driving while intoxicated, interfering with police and other motor vehicle charges, according to Andover Resident State Trooper Kevin Reed.

Reed said he was working enforcement on a State DOT grant in Andover at about 7:50 p.m. when he spotted a suspect vehicle wanted by Manchester police in connection with a possible burglary/domestic case. The vehicle was located in the area of Hendee, Road, he said.

## East Hampton Man Dies in Head-on Collision in Hebron

A 49-year-old East Hampton man was killed in a two-car crash on Route 66 in Hebron on Friday, Jan. 26.

Gary L. Daniels, of 5 Stonegate Rd., was driving east on Route 66 when his 2001 Ford Escort was hit head on by a 2004 Buick Rendezvous driven by David Fasulo, 18, of 73 Delahunty Dr., Southington, said State Police.

The accident occurred at 7:28 a.m. just west of Burrows Hill Road.

Daniels suffered serious head injuries and was pronounced dead at the scene. A passenger in Fasulo's car, Arkadiusz Sendrowski, 19, of Plantsville, suffered a broken leg. He was transported by ambulance to Hartford Hospital, police said. Fasulo was reportedly not seriously injured.

Both vehicles suffered heavy front-end damage.

The accident is under investigation. Po-

lice are asking any one who may have witnessed the crash to call Trooper James Keeney at Troop K in Colchester, 860-537-7500.

A 20-year resident of East Hampton, Daniels was owner of Cobra Motor Sports in Columbia. He leaves his wife, parents and two daughters.

Funeral services were held at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Interment was in West Cemetery, Cromwell. Calling hours were at the funeral home on Tuesday evening.

Those who wish, may make donations in Gary's memory to the American Diabetes Assn. Hartford & New Haven CT Office, 306 Industrial Park Rd., Suite 105, Middletown, 06457.

His full obituary appears elsewhere in this newspaper.

## Teen Binge Drinking Presentation at RHAM High School

Nearly 120 parents and students attended a panel discussion at the RHAM High School auditorium Jan. 11 on underage drinking and teenage binge drinking.

A panel of six experts in education, health, and law enforcement spoke about the legal, medical and educational ramifications of underage drinking.

The program was sponsored by RHAM High School, AHM Youth Services, and ERASE. The panel discussion was coordinated by four members of the regional AHM Drug and Violence Prevention Task Force.

Panelists responded to a wide range of concerns from parents with considerable interest in how the new law on Underage Drinking will now impact teens and families. The new law went into effect in October 2006 and dramatically increases the civil and criminal penalties for anyone that purchases, serves or permits the consumption of alcohol to anyone under the age of 21.

The program also included information on the number of arrests made for drunk driving on area roads; how under age drinking arrests can directly impact future employment, college, and scholarship applications; the prevalence of drug and alcohol consumption among young people today in rural, urban and suburban settings; and medical and legal facts on the stark realities of underage and binge drinking.

The RHAM High School Media Club filmed the panel discussion, which will be aired on public television in the coming weeks. The school's Peer Helpers were also on hand to assist with the presentation.

A second and much larger community conversation is planned for May 2 when nationally renowned authors Chris and Toren Volkman who wrote the critically acclaimed book *From Binge to Blackout* will be speaking to parents, students and community members.

On the following day, Chris and Toren Volkman will conduct a similar presentation and discussion with RHAM students. The Volkmanns will be traveling from Seattle Washington to Connecticut for this two day visit at RHAM to speak about their personal experiences that led them to write *From Binge to Blackout*. The Volkmanns have appeared recently on a number of nationally syndicated news and talk shows about their book.

Copies of *From Binge to Blackout* can be purchased at AHM Youth Services in advance of the May 2 presentation by calling 228-9488. Proceeds from the sale of the book, along with ticket sales, private donations and grants are paying for the two-day event.

Tickets for the May 2nd evening program with Chris and Toren Volkman can be purchased any weekday in the lobby of AHM Youth Services. Advance tickets are \$3 per person. Tickets will be sold at the door on May 2 at RHAM High School for \$5 per person. Blocks of tickets will be made available to neighboring communities after Feb. 15.

Seating is limited for the Volkman presentation. Purchasing advanced tickets is highly recommended.

# Obituaries

## Colchester

### Michael E. Riordan

Michael Eugene Riordan, 58, of Colchester and formerly of Eden, Utah, beloved husband of Edris (Sheldon) Riordan, passed away peacefully Wednesday morning, Jan. 24.

Born March 28, 1948 in Kankakee, IL, he was a son of the late Francis and Anita (Marcotte) Riordan.

Michael grew up in the Kankakee area and spent most of his adult life in Utah. He and Edris moved to Colchester in 2005.

Early on, he worked for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, later on as a project manager for private railroad contractors and finally as a heavy equipment operator and construction supervisor in Utah.

He was very proud to have earned his high school diploma in Utah at the age of 55 and was Valedictorian of his class. Because of his perseverance and commitment, he received a second diploma from Boy's Town.

In addition to his loving wife and companion, he is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Wendy (Taylor) Riordan, Jr. of Mondovi, WI; two granddaughters, Desiree and Danielle; siblings, Patricia McBride, David and Nancy Riordan, Barbara and Ron Gilling, Daniel Riordan and Virginia and Floyd Williams; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by two sisters, Diane Small and Carol Keller.

Calling hours were Saturday morning at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester, followed by a Memorial Service with Fr. Michael Smith, Pastor of the Church of the Holy Family, Hebron, officiating.



## Colchester

### Eleanor D. Arisco

Eleanor Dickison Arisco, 76, of Colchester, formerly of East Hartford, widow of the late Alexander Arisco, passed away Friday, Jan. 26, at the Chestelm Health Care Center in East Haddam after a long illness.

Born in Worcester, MA on Nov. 9, 1930, she was a daughter of the late William and Helen (Holmes) Lawson.

Eleanor worked for Travelers and later for AETNA before her retirement.

A longtime resident of East Hartford, she moved to Colchester to live with her daughter three years ago. Mrs. Arisco was a lifetime member of the South Congregational Church in East Hartford, was active with the East Hartford Seniors and loved to play bingo.

Survivors include three children, Cheryl Salzarulo of Colchester and Gary and Glenn Dickison, both of So. Windsor; eight grandchildren; two great grandchildren; four sisters; and numerous extended family members and friends. She will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to the American Parkinsons Disease Assoc., 27 Allendale Drive, No. Haven 06473.

Care of private arrangements, with burial in the Silver Lane Cemetery, East Hartford, has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.



## East Hampton

### Gary J. Daniels

Gary Joseph Daniels, 49, of Stonegate Road, East Hampton, beloved husband of Lynne (Sullivan) Daniels, died suddenly on Friday, Jan. 26, due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Born in Middletown, he was the son of Joseph Daniels, Jr. of Windsor and Eleanor H. Daniels of Cromwell and had been a resident of East Hampton for the past 20 years.

Gary was an avid Red Sox fan, had been involved in the automobile industry for many years, starting out with auto body repair, owning two limousine companies with his wife, Lynne, before opening up his current company, Cobra Motor Sports in Colombia.

Besides his wife and parents, Gary is survived by two daughters, Monica Daniels-Hotham and her husband Kevin and their two daughters, seven-year-old Victoria and three-week-old Lily of Tolland and Christy Daniels of Hopkinton, MA; one brother Craig A. Daniels and his wife Linda of Portland; two sisters, Donna D. Doolittle and her husband Jay of Cromwell and Joanne Valentine-Cannata and her husband Martin of East Hampton; his father-in-law and mother-in-law James and Jane Sullivan of Cromwell; a brother-in-law and best friend Gary Sullivan and Deborah Morris of Cromwell; three sisters-in-law Pamela Cardone and her husband Thomas of Burlington; Tina Sullivan of Berlin and Sheila Robinson and her husband Eric of Cromwell and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held at the Doolittle Funeral Home, 14 Old Church St., Middletown on Wednesday, Jan. 31. Interment was in West Cemetery, Cromwell. Calling hours were 1 at the funeral home on Tuesday evening.

Those who wish, may make donations in Gary's memory to the American Diabetes Assn. Hartford & New Haven CT Office, 306 Industrial Park Rd., Suite 105, Middletown, 06457.

## East Hampton

### Madlyn L. Landin

Madlyn L. Landin, 73, of East Hampton and formerly of Rockland County NY, died peacefully on Jan. 24 with her family and supportive staff of Water's Edge present.

She is survived by one older brother, Robert E. Lee of Woodside, NY, and her three children, David Landin of Willimantic, CT, Debra Lindland of East Hampton and Donna Hassler of Spring Valley, NY.

Madlyn was the proud grandmother of seven grandchildren; Angela Skene of Cromwell, Joshua Lindland of Brooklyn, NY, Jason Lindland of Los Angeles, CA, Naomi Aviles of Monroe, NY, Daniel Hassler of Spring Valley, NY, Roarke Landin of San Diego, CA and Davis Landin of Woodbury, NY. She was also the great grandmother to eight great grandchildren; Taylor, Kaitlyn, Kristian, Khaya, Nastasia, Niya, Angel and Hunter.

She was predeceased by her parents; Louise and Robert E. Lee, her two sisters, Idella Daly and Naomi Lee and her two brothers, Francis Lee and Louis Lee.

Madlyn devoted her life to her family, enjoyed reading, traveling with her family and also enjoyed spontaneous traveling and adventures in an effort to live life to its fullest. She was known to all, both young and old, as "Nana." Madlyn "Nana" will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

The family would like to express their appreciation to their friends and to the wonderful staff at Water's Edge, Middletown and Hospice for their compassion and support during her courageous battle with cancer.

A memorial service will be held at Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St., East Hampton on Saturday, Feb 3 at 11 a.m. Friends may call one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at the convenience of the family in Valhalla, NY.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in her name to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, PO Box 50, Memphis, TN 38101.

## Portland

### Fayetta F. Rossitto

Fayetta F. Rossitto, died on Friday, Jan. 26, after a short illness.

Born in Windham in 1921 she was a long-time resident of Portland with her husband Salvatore "Butch" Rossitto, who preceded her in 1996. Together they operated Red & White Catering, working many fairs and festivals on the East Coast until retiring in 1990. She was an active member in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Miami Showmen's Association.

She is survived in death by her children and their families, Cathy Scalora; Peter and Teresa Jacobs; Michael and Donna Rossitto; Nora and Frank Brady; Mary and Jimmie Taylor; Maggie and Donald Wolsdorf; eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Fred Hunter Funeral Home, 6301 Taft Street, Hollywood, FL on Wednesday, Jan. 31 from 6-9 p.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Scholarship fund of The Miami Showmen's Association, 3391 Griffin Road, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33312.

## Colchester

### Joseph H. Haley

Joseph H. Haley, 73, of Colchester, beloved husband of Anita (Sheridan) Haley, passed away on Tuesday, Jan. 30 at UConn Medical Center. Joe was born in Westfield, MA, son of the late Henry and Chella Haley.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by two sons, Sean of Boston, MA, and Steve, a daughter-in-law, Debbie and a loving grandson, Silas, of Hebron; his sister, Grace Haley, of Hartford; and his cousin, Robert Hall, of Rocky Hill. He also leaves many nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces, good friends and neighbors.

He was deeply involved with youngsters in East Hartford in Little League, Midget Football and Troop 1 of the Boy Scouts. He worked at Kaman Aircraft for 11 years, was a salesman for 3M and established and operated "Haley's Comet Trucking" for 15 years.

He moved to Colchester in 1984 and devoted his retirement years to his home and family. Joe was a member of Bethany Lutheran Church for over 50 years and served in many capacities including Deacon.

Funeral service will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 1655 Boulevard, West Hartford, on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 10 a.m. Burial will follow at the New Hebron Cemetery, Hebron. Calling hours will be at Taylor & Modeen Funeral Home, 136 South Main Street, West Hartford, on Friday, Feb. 2, from 3-7 p.m. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Bethany Lutheran Church.

## Colchester

### Christopher P. Ware

Christopher Patrick Ware, 51, of Cabin Road, Colchester, beloved husband of Judy and father of Robert and Zachary, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, Jan. 31, at Hartford Hospital.

Born June 12, 1955 in Poughkeepsie, NY, he was a son of Robert and Patricia (Sjoquist) Ware of Millers Creek, NC. On May 5, 1984, he wed the former Judith McInnis at Elizabeth Park in Hartford. Mr. Ware was a Software Developer for Open Solutions in Glastonbury. He was currently studying at Eastern Connecticut State University, just a few classes short of earning his bachelor's degree.

Christopher was an active member of the Wooster Lodge No. 10 A.F. & A.M. in Colchester, to which he was elected Master this past year for his third term. When his sons were young, he was proud to coach Colchester Youth Soccer for over 10 years. In his spare time, he loved music, especially Jazz and Blues, the Boston Red Sox and was an avid reader.

Most importantly, he will be remembered for his undying love and devotion for his family and will be greatly missed. In addition to his parents, his wife of 22 years and his sons, he is survived by five siblings, Kathleen Brown of Franklin, MA, Michael Ware of Westfield, MA, Therese Feldman of East Lyme and Timothy and Matthew Ware, both of Plano, TX; his mother-in-law, Alice McInnis of East Hartford; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by his father-in-law, Malcolm McInnis.

Friends may call 5-8 p.m. Friday at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Road, Colchester. A Masonic Service will be observed at 7 p.m. The funeral will gather Saturday starting at 10:30 a.m. at the funeral home before an 11 a.m. Chapel Service. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the American Heart Association, 2550 Rte. 1, No. Brunswick, NJ 08902-4301.

## East Hampton

### William H. Stevens

William H. Stevens, 69, of Daniel St., East Hampton, husband of the late Thelma (Fortier) Olson Stevens, died Tuesday, Jan. 30, at Middlesex Hospital.

Born July 24, 1937 in Middletown the son of Millicent (Potter) Stevens and the late Frederick Stevens he had lived in Portland before moving to East Hampton more than 20 years ago. He had retired from Lyman Gun Sight of Middlefield in 1997 where he had been a supervisor of gunsmithing. He was a U.S. Navy veteran having served on the USS Iowa.

Bill was an avid reader and sports fan, a professional woodworker, and had a fondness for animals. Bill was a loving father who took wonderful care of children and will be greatly missed by all that knew him.

Besides his mother he is survived by his son Ken Olson and his wife Jill of Spring Hope, NC., two daughters and their husbands Diane and Michael Redys of Santa Rosa Beach, FL., and Sheila and Michael Gosselin of East Hampton, four brothers and their spouses Richard and Pat Stevens of MA, Eugene Stevens of Deep River, Edward and Doris Stevens of FL., and Donald and Barbara Stevens of Middletown, his two sisters and their spouses Betsy and Raymond Kensel of Middletown, and Janet and Dale Gallagher of Meriden, eight grandchildren Shawn Olson, Wendy Zimmerman, Stacey Durden, Randy Noack, Heather Kirkham, Kelly Olson, Jason Gosselin, and Krissy Steiner, and seven great grandchildren Jared, Karleigh, Savannah, Sage, Samantha, Cassandra, Alexander, also many nieces, nephews and cousins. He was predeceased by a daughter Sandra Noack, and his brother Jack Stevens.

A memorial service will be held Friday, Feb. 2, at 4 p.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St East Hampton with the Rev. Thomas Kennedy officiating. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends may call at the funeral home on Friday from 2 p.m. until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Weiss Hospice Unit c/o The Development Office 55 Crescent St. Middletown, CT 06457, or Connecticut Humane Society 701 Russell Rd. Newington, CT 06111.