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Marlborough students Ceili Peng, Bailey D'Antonio, Hannah Young and Brett Fox (l-r) were all recently recognized at the state level for academic achievement. Ceili won the state Spelling Bee and Brett came in seventh. Bailey and Hannah finished first and third, respectively, in the FPS Scenario Writing competition.

Students Making Lots of Noise (Positively!)

by Sarah McCoy

Students from Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School are making noise across the state—but in a very studious way.

Ceili Peng, a 5th grader, won the state spelling bee earlier this month and Bailey D'Antonio, also in 5th grade, placed first in the state for her essay in the Future Problem Solvers scenario writing contest.

In January, students competed at the classroom level to find the best speller. The top finishers moved on to the grade level competition. The top finishers there moved on to the school-wide bee held earlier this spring.

Ceili won the school bee and fellow 5th grader Brett Fox finished in second. Together the two traveled to Highland Elementary School in Cheshire for the state competition hosted by the Junior Women's Club.

Spelling the word "rhombus" correctly, Ceili took home first prize. Besting 47 of the state's best elementary school spellers. Brett finished in seventh place after misspelling "allegiance."

Unfortunately, for Ceili, this is the end

of her spelling days for this year. Winners of bees sponsored by newspapers qualify for the National Spelling Bee held in Washington, D.C. and featured on ESPN. Ceili said she and her mom are already looking into newspaper-sponsored bees for next year.

"For me, [spelling's] easy and fun," Ceili said. "Plus it's practical. I use it every day."

Bailey D'Antonio has also been recognized for something she does every day—write. She recently received first place in the Connecticut Scenario Writing contest held by the Future Problem Solvers.

The contest asks students to choose one of five topics to project into the future. This year's topics were fundraising and charity giving, protection of national treasures, cultural prejudice, caring for our elders, and privacy.

Bailey chose to write about cultural prejudice in her story "Muslim Daze." The story focuses on Fatima, a Muslim student, who moves to a new town only to be teased for her headscarf. Andrew, one of the bullies, is especially nasty to Fatima and blames her for the death of his grandfa-

ther in 9-11. But when Fatima helps restore Andrew's grades, the two begin a friendship.

"I chose the topic because it seemed relevant," said Bailey. "Prejudice seems to happen a lot now to Muslims because of 9-11."

Next week Bailey will travel to Colorado for the FPS International Competition. There her essay will be judged against essays from around the globe. Bailey will also have the chance to write on a different topic as part of a team.

Students from New Zealand, Korea, Australia, Mexico, and more, will travel to Colorado for the festivities and competition.

"I like writing a lot," Bailey said afterwards. "But, I didn't think I'd win. I wanted to do it for fun."

Hannah Young, a 6th grade student at Marlborough Elementary School, also did well in this year's Scenario Writing contest. Her essay, "Mind Tapping," focused on the issues surrounding privacy. She finished third in the state.

New Program Offers Portland Business Discounts

The Portland Economic Development Commission (EDC) has kicked off a new program designed to support town businesses and encourage local shopping.

Called "Shop in Portland," the program offers coupons to local residents to make them aware of available goods and services and allow them to take advantage of discounts at participating businesses.

Each resident and business in Portland will receive the sheet of coupons within the next two weeks by mail. Each of the 15 coupons on the sheet can be used at 15 different businesses in town.

These coupons vary from discounts to buy one get one free and even free items that come with a purchase.

Portland businesses that have joined the program include 80 Licks Ice Cream, Movie Gallery, Quarry Ridge Golf Course, Pine

Ledge Gardens, Stor-U-Self, Dunkin Donuts, Gifts From The Heart, Cavaliere's Bakery and Café, Prehistoric Mini-Golf and Ice Cream, Cameron Plumbing & Heating, Del Printing LLC, Quarry Ridge Restaurant, Colonial Framing & Design, Primary Landscaping, and chiropractor Dr. John Mormile.

Coupons will also be available at each of the 15 businesses which are part of the program, as well as at Portland Town Hall and the Portland Library.

"This is the newest effort to help promote businesses in Portland, as well as help them to prosper in our great community," observed the EDC.

The program is a pure "public/private partnership," as both the Economic Development Commission and the 15 businesses are sharing the cost of the effort.

Portland Memorial Day Parade Set for Sunday

Portland's Memorial Day parade will take place this Sunday, May 27, stepping off at 2 p.m.

The parade will assemble at Victoria Road at 1:30 p.m. Floats should assemble at 12:30 p.m. Step-off will be at 2 p.m.

The procession will proceed down Main Street past Gildersleeve School toward the town center. It will stop for a brief ceremony at the Civil War monument on Bartlett Street and finish behind the Portland Police Station. There will be a reviewing stand in front of the Portland Police Department.

The parade will continue onto Freestone Avenue and enter into the Portland Library and finish at the Senior Center Green.

The Honorary Marshal this year is Reginald Farrington, a Vietnam War veteran, American Legion Commander and the driving force behind the new Veterans' Memorial (which will be dedicated on Monday morning behind the Town Hall).

Lt. Colonel Farrington served three tours in Vietnam. He will be marching with the American Legion Color Guard.

The Parade Marshal is Richard G. Murphy. He is a Korean War veteran and

has been a driving force along with Reginald Farrington behind the Veterans Memorial.

Both veterans have given unselfishly, countless hours of their time to this project. Ironically, since neither of them entered the service from Portland they are not eligible to be listed with the veterans on the monument.

The American Legion Color Guard will lead the parade. The musical units will be the Portland High School Band, Portland Middle School Band, and the Connecticut Valley Field Music.

The parade will take place rain or shine. The parade is organized and overseen by American Legion Ormont Post # 69.

American Legion members will serve refreshments to the marchers immediately after the benediction. Please stay and enjoy their efforts.

Ceremonies at the cemeteries will be held preceding the parade between 12 and 1 p.m. Ceremonies will be held at Swedish Cemetery, Center Cemetery, Trinity Cemetery, St. Mary's Cemetery and Indian Hill Burial Grounds.

Veterans Memorial to be Dedicated Monday in Portland

The Portland Veterans Memorial will be dedicated this Monday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. at the Town Hall. The ceremony will last about 30 minutes.

The three granite stones of the memorial are inscribed with the names of all Portland men and women that have served in the armed forces during wartime from World War I until the current conflict in the Persian Gulf.

All town residents and friends of veterans are invited to attend the ceremony. The parking lot on the south side of the town hall will be reserved for *handicapped parking* only.

Following the dedication of the memorial, the Portland Historical Society will open its museum on Main Street with a display honoring the military through the years. This display will be open from Memorial Day until Veter-

ans Day, Nov. 11.

The fundraising for the Portland Veterans Memorial has reached the final few thousand dollars.

In hopes of reaching the final goal during the Memorial Day parade this Sunday, the Boy Scouts will again this year be soliciting donations from the viewing public with their paint cans.

Also, after the parade posters of the memorial tribute will be on sale at the American Legion Hall for \$10. A limited number of signed and numbered copies will be available for \$50.

The memorial will be dedicated on Monday, May 28 at 10:30 a.m. The public is reminded to bring lawn chairs and perhaps an umbrella might be in order.

Andover Voters Reject \$10 Million Budget

by Jim Salemi

Voters rejected a \$10 million budget at referendum Tuesday. The budget was defeated 336-116

The budget, approved at town meeting two weeks ago, represents the town operating budget, the local school budget and the town's share for the regional school's operating costs.

Following Tuesday's defeat, the finance board was scheduled to meet Thursday to discuss changes before returning the budget to voters for a second referendum.

The soonest a second referendum could be scheduled would be June 12, according to Town Clerk Carol Lee. That is dependant on what happens at the next town meeting, where the revised budget would need approval by townspeople before proceeding to referendum.

A town meeting has been scheduled for this Thursday, May 31 at the elementary school gymnasium.

A review of responses to advisory questions left by voters as they exited the polling place indicated concerns with the education side of the budget. A total of 292 voters responding said they thought the school portion of the budget was too high, compared to 94 respondents who said they thought the figure presented was too low.

The education portion of the budget approved at a town meeting two weeks prior was for ap-

proximately \$3.8 million, a difference of \$144,890 or 3.97% over the current year figures.

Superintendent of Andover Elementary School Andrew Maneggia said he was not familiar with the results of the advisory questions, but said the budget submitted is "defendable," and boasted one of the lowest increases in the area.

"I am not taking sides, but the budget presented I think was very reasonable and conservative," he said. "There is nothing extravagant, and the evidence is it is one of the lowest increases in the area, if not the state."

He also invited voters to contact him with any concerns they may have regarding the school spending plan.

Regarding the town operating budget, 372 voters responding said it was too high and 38 said too low.

Of the 2,193 voters registered to vote in town referenda, 452 turned out to vote on the budget. That is approximately 21% of registered voters.

The town budget request is \$2.4 million, an increase of \$397,000 over current year spending. The Andover portion for the RHAM budget is \$3.8 million, an increase of \$127,000 over current year spending.

Portland Band Gives 'Sleeze' a Good Name

by Michael McCoy

You might not expect to hear "sleeze" and "benefit" in the same sentence, but here it is, with one letter changed—Portland's own "Brother Sleeze" will be playing a benefit show for the Portland Booster's Music Program on June 8 in a special fundraising program at Portland Restaurant.

Brother Sleeze, playing music from the '60s to the present, isn't your stereotypical band.

"When the band originally started, it was all guys from Portland," said drummer and original member Aaron Schwartz. The group has kept it together for six years, albeit through the coming and going of various members.

"We like to switch the lineup every couple of weeks," joked Schwartz.

The current incarnation, which still includes a number of Portlanders in addition to one member each from Southington and Middletown, features musicians with day jobs as eclectic as network engineer, teacher, advertising art director, dentist, and computer programmer.

They play when they can, balancing their "real jobs" with their music. "It's been a year or a little over since we've played a show," said Schwartz, who is a general manager for a pipe distributor.

Brother Sleeze started out playing backyard barbecues and bars such as The Hungry Tiger in Manchester and The Cellar in Glastonbury. The band backed off on the bar scene of late and has played more private parties (for which they are available for booking). The group hopes to play throughout the summer.

Schwartz said that scheduling concerns have made fundraisers such as the one for the Boosters difficult in the past. But with their first benefit concert just one week away, he remarks, "It's good to give something back."

It also seems that the current lineup has found its groove together. "We feel really confident about how we're playing," said the drummer.

As for helping out the Music Boosters, Schwartz figured, "We wanted to do something for the school system, because we have kids in the school system. Like any school system, it counts on participation from the community."

He continued, "There's always some kind of budget constraints, and Portland's no different." Bassist Mitch Milone elaborated, "To one extent or another, we're all involved in the community."

The ensemble covers a number of tunes from the '60's to the present. "There's a lot of '60s classics like Credence, The Beatles, and The Rolling Stones," observes Schwartz.

Alluding to the baby boomers in the group, Schwartz mentioned, "It's a lot of the stuff that Mitch, Mike, and I grew up with."

But the audience can also expect to hear '90s alternative cuts from acts like Radiohead, Blind Melon, and Collective Soul, as well as stuff from this decade like 3 Doors Down's "Kryptonite."

Hoping for a laid back vibe, Schwartz proposes, "We want to go out and have some fun, and if we can raise a couple of bucks for the school, then that's great too."

Brother Sleeze's present lineup features Matt Simmons on lead guitar, Mitch Milone on bass guitar, Bryan Johnson on rhythm guitar, Joann Talbot on vocals, Aaron Schwartz on the drum set, and Mike Gallacher on percussion. The June 8 set will also feature special guest Rick Stevens on guitars.

Appropriately enough, with Fathers' Day a week later, Rosie will open up the evening. Rosie is made up of Greg Rose, along with sons Tyler and Justin.

The benefit concert will start at 8:30 p.m. on Friday, June 8 at the Portland Restaurant on Main Street. There is no cover charge, but all of Brother Sleeze's proceeds will go to the Portland Booster's Music Program.



Hebron Couple Takes Over Lighthouse Restaurant

by Sarah McCoy

Michael Watson lives for food. For 23 years he worked for Shady Glen Restaurant and now, along with his wife, the Hebron couple have just opened a place of their own.

The Lighthouse Restaurant, located in Columbia, features a menu of breakfast and lunch favorites plus a few of Michael's specialties.

It wasn't long ago that Michael and Kimberly were patrons of the Lighthouse Restaurant. Up until May 1, Jack and Luisa Parreira, of Bolton, ran the show. But earlier this year the Parrerias approached the Watsons with a plan to keep the Lighthouse alive after their departure. Before he knew it, Michael and Kimberly had a place of their own.

Much of Jack and Luisa's menu remains intact. Customers can still enjoy hardy omelets and a variety of pancakes but there are new concoctions too. One of the most popular new additions has been the french toast sandwich, made with two pieces of french toast, an egg, cheese, and ham.

"We wanted to keep the spirit of Jack and Luisa alive but introduce a few new things," Michael explained. "I think we've struck a nice balance."

While breakfast remains similar to the prior owners, lunch at the Lighthouse is an entirely new thing. To get it off the ground, Michael reached back to his experience at Shady Glen

and came back with a cheeseburger to rival them all. The burger itself is huge but what sets it apart is the four pieces of cheddar that form the crispy cheese a la Shady Glen.

Not a burger fan? There are plenty of other things to chow down on. The grilled chicken wrap has become a customer favorite as has the cole slaw. Using fresh ingredients that he chops himself, Michael Watson prides himself on having the best cole slaw around. He even takes orders for pint, half gallon, and gallon orders of the side dish.

"I cook to what people want," he said. "I keep it simple but do it well."

Michael serves as Mr. Everything for the Lighthouse. He is the chef, a waiter, a builder, you name it he's done it. Kimberly works during the week at Integralis, an Internet securities company in East Harford, and heads to the Lighthouse on Sundays. She is behind the scenes making sure all the necessary paperwork is done and the business stays on track.

The couple married and moved to Hebron in 2003. There they raise Kimberly's two children, Kelsey and Ryan.

The Lighthouse Restaurant is located at 156 Route 66 East in Columbia. The restaurant offers eat-in or take-out service. To place an order over the phone, call 228-8159.

Portland Selectmen Urge Passage of Revised Budget

The second draft of the proposed 2007-2008 town budget will go before voters this Wednesday, May 30.

Voting will be at the Portland Public Library from 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

Following the defeat of the first draft of the budget earlier this month, nearly \$400,000 in cuts were made to the initial \$28.3 million total, reducing the latest proposal to \$27.9 million.

Items falling victim to the cuts included repairs to the library entrance, the Visiting Nurse Association contract, improvements to various Parks & Recreation projects, some

funding for the Assessor's office and \$80,000 from the education budget.

The cuts reduced the proposed increase in spending from 3.7% to about 2%.

The amended proposed budget can be viewed online at www.portlandct.org/Portland/intro.htm. Copies are also available at the Town Clerk's office and the library.

In a letter to Portland taxpayers published in this week's *Rivereast*, the Board of Selectmen urged support of the revised budget. "Dollar for dollar, the proposed budget is the most conservative of any that we can remember," they stated.

CBA Celebrates 25 Years, Honors Plotkins in Colchester

Town, state and federal officials helped the Colchester Business Association celebrate its 25th anniversary at a special dinner meeting recently.

First Selectman Stan Soby presented CBA President Greg Barden with a proclamation establishing May 1 as "CBA Day in Colchester," acknowledging the organization's many accomplishments.

In addition to organizing the Tag Sale on the Green, the largest town-wide event, the CBA has funded a new survey of the town green as well as upgrades to both the water and electrical service on the green. The organization created and financed the "Welcome to Colchester" signs, has published a series of Colchester Town Guides, and promoted local businesses with the growing fall Business Showcase.

CBA is also a founding sponsor of Colchester's 57 Fest/Family Fun Day, has supported the annual Holiday Homecoming on the Green as well as Santa's Anonymous, participated in and supported the Memorial Day Parade, concerts on the green, projects at the Senior Center, and developed a strong relationship with the local school system. The CBA now gives two scholarships annually to Bacon Academy students pursuing a career in business.

Also presenting official citations were state Rep. Linda Orange and former first selectman Jenny Contois, representing U.S. Rep. Joseph Courtney.

As part of the celebration, Barden announced the creation of a CBA Member of the Year Award, naming the award in honor of founding members Roz and Irving Plotkin, who have operated Plotkin's Jewelers for almost 55 years.

"Over the past 25 years, there's no members I can think of who would be better role models for our members than Roz and Irv Plotkin," Barden said. "They preach the CBA and the benefits of shopping locally to their customers and to every new business that comes to town."

The first recipient of the award is Jack Faski of Skyview Realty, who has chaired the Tag Sale on the Green and served on numerous committees. "Jack's energy seems limitless," Barden said. "He just steps up and takes on tasks that need to be done, which is invaluable for our growing volunteer organization."

Faski is stepping up from vice president to become president, replacing Barden, who will continue on the board of directors after four years. Other charter members in attendance at the meeting were Attorney Joe Broder and Ed Sharr of Tri Town Foods and Sharr Realty.

Hebron Town-Wide Tag Sale Set For June 2

The 300th Celebration Committee has finalized arrangements for the Town-Wide Tag Sale to be held Saturday, June 2 from 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Those arrangements include moving the tailgating portion of the sale to the Hebron Elementary School parking lot.

With the final revision to the plans, the committee has centralized both the inside and outside portions of the sale at the Elementary School for the convenience of residents. For a \$20 registration fee the committee is sponsoring tables in the gymnasium at Hebron Elementary School, and tailgating in the school parking lot.

The Town-Wide Tag Sale will be conducted on three fronts: 1) Individual sales at residents' homes that are listed on a map to be circulated to all households in town and in the news media; 2) Hosting a table indoors at Hebron Elementary School; or 3) Holding an outdoor "tailgate" sale at the Hebron Elementary School parking lot.

Maps showing the locations of residences that are participating in the tag sale will be available at the Town Clerk's office in town hall, at the Douglas Library and at businesses throughout town. Participants also are encouraged to enter small "tag-sale" ads in the *Rivereast* newspaper.

Residents also may donate items, not including clothing and major appliances, to the committee to be sold during the tag sale. Items must be clean and saleable.

Donations may be dropped off at Veterans Memorial Park on Saturday, May 27, from 1-3

p.m.; Tuesday, May 29, from 1-3 p.m.; Wednesday May 30, from 3-5 p.m.; Thursday, May 31, from 5-7 p.m.; and Friday, June 1, from 3-5 p.m.

The Town-Wide Tag Sale is the latest in a series of fund-raising events to support the 300th Committee's planned series of events to mark the town's 300th Anniversary in 2008.

Further information on the tag sale can be obtained by contacting 300th Celebration Committee member Neal Alderman at 228-2678, or by email at neal.alderman@uconn.edu.

The committee is planning a series of observances and events throughout 2008 that will appropriately mark the town's founding in 1708. Committee members also are selling a variety of mementos based on the theme "Hebron Rocks" including candy "rocks," rock candy, lapel pins, refrigerator magnets, and an opportunity to be a part of Hebron's history by having your name inscribed on a rock in the stone wall that will be built in the center of town.

Events now in the planning stages include a community picnic and dance, an old-fashioned baseball game, a Revolutionary Era military reenactment, and a float in the Memorial Day parade commemorating the generations of Hebron veterans who have served in the military during our nation's wars.

The committee also is appealing to individuals and businesses that are interested in helping fund the observances. Tax-exempt donations can be sent to the 300th Celebration Committee at the Hebron Town Office Building, 15 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248, Attn: Town Clerk.

Gail Hughes Named '2007 Citizen of the Year' in Hebron

The Hebron (Jr.) Women's Club recently selected Gail Hughes as Hebron's "2007 Citizen of the Year."

Gail and her husband Jack and family moved to Hebron over ten years ago and have become very active in the community. Gail's volunteer activities have included: sitting on the Hebron Board of Education, volunteer work for the Cystic Fibrosis Walk-A-Thon, volunteering as a "Lanterns Mentor" at AHM Youth Services and assisting with numerous AHM fundraisers including the annual Phone-A-Thon.

In addition to donating her time, Gail has been extremely generous and donated thousands of dollars to the following "Hebron causes" over the years, noted the club.

Among the beneficiaries of her generosity have been: AHM Youth Services and the AHM Children's Trust Fund, Church of the Holy Family, Friends of the Douglas Library, Gilead Hill School Field Trip Fund and Cluster's Program, Hebron Center Nursery School's Capital Campaign, Hebron Elementary School Field Trip

Fund, Future Problem Solvers Club and the Playground.

Other beneficiaries include the Hebron 4H Horse Club, Hebron Interfaith Human Services, Hebron Lacrosse Club, Hebron Lion's Club, Hebron Soccer Association, The Russell Mercier Senior Center and Hebron Volunteer Fire Department.

Gail has also helped by donating anonymously to families in need in the Hebron community, noted the Women's Club.

"Gail's devotion to the town of Hebron is evident in the mission of a foundation she set up to assist the community," observed a letter nominating for the honor of Citizen of the Year. "Its mission statement says it all, 'Peridot's mission is to improve the welfare of the greater Hebron, Connecticut community by supporting the activities of local charitable organizations.'"

Gail was honored by the club and presented with the Citizen of the Year Award at a special Women's Club ceremony held May 15.

Historical Society Gears Up for Townwide Tag Sale

by Michael McCoy

The Chatham Historical Society is gearing up for the 2nd Annual Townwide Tag sale to be held Saturday, June 16 from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The first Townwide Tag Sale was held last year, inspired by similar events in nearby towns such as Portland, which holds an annual townwide sale every May. East Hampton's first effort drew 100 participating tag sales and raised \$1,500 for the historical society—a success that encouraged a repeat this year.

"This is a big fundraiser for us," remarked historical society president Sandy Doran.

And there's still room for residents who want to sell their stuff.

The process is fairly simpler. Any resident or organization interested in having a tag sale is welcome to complete an application and submit it by June 1. Those who register will have their tag sale included on the map that will be available to everyone. That map will clearly show all shoppers exactly where the various sales are being held.

Applications for the sale are available at the library, town hall, and historical society. To put yourself on the map, mail the completed application along with \$15 to Debbie Day at 49 Champion Hill Rd., East Hampton, CT 06424.

More information concerning the tag sale can be attained by calling Sandy Doran at 267-8953 or historical society secretary Shirley Brooks at 267-9820.

The tag sale maps will become available to the public on June 9, exactly one week before the sale. They will be available at the town hall, public library, Pat's Market in Cobalt, and, of course at the historical society. Maps will also be placed at each sale site during the day of the sale.

Founded in 1963, the Chatham Historical Society meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at 6 Bevin Blvd. The society maintains two different museums, the newer of which was completed in January of last year. The proceeds of this year's sale will go to renovating the older museum, a former one-room schoolhouse.

The society unites about 40 residents of Cobalt, East Hampton, and Middle Haddam who share an interest in the town's history. Museum collections include many relics of East Hampton's past, including items from the town's famous bell-manufacturing roots. The museums are open to the public on the first Sunday of every month from 2-4 p.m.

Should weather refuse to cooperate with the Townwide Tag Sale, the event will be postponed until the following Saturday.

Local Couple Held in Colchester Bank Robbery

The arrest of a 58-year-old East Hampton resident and his wife May 17 on charges of bank robbery took a bizarre twist this week as it was revealed the suspect is a former teacher of the year.

Former Pennsylvania residents Charles Orbann, 58, and his wife Dianne, 56, both now of 12 Lake View St., East Hampton, were arrested last Thursday in connection with an armed robbery at People's Bank in Colchester.

According to police, a man entered the bank at 139 South Main St. just before 12:30 p.m., implied that he had a weapon and demanded money from a teller. He then left the bank with a bag of cash and was seen getting into a waiting car driven by a woman. They were last seen heading west on Route 2.

Provided with a detailed description of the suspect and the car, a black Mercury Marquis, State Police radioed the information to surrounding towns. The vehicle was subsequently spotted exiting Route 2 at Exit 13 in Marlborough, according to police.

Within 16 minutes, a State Trooper spotted the vehicle on Route 66 in East Hampton and pulled the car over in a parking lot for Arrow Fence Company on the east side of town.

Though no weapons were actually displayed during the holdup, police said they discovered two loaded handguns in the car, along with the stolen cash.

Charles Orbann and Dianne Orbann, his wife of nearly 40 years who was driving the car, were taken into custody. Charles Orbann was charged with 1st degree robbery, 2nd degree larceny and use of a firearm in the commission of a felony.

Dianne Orbann was charged with conspiracy to commit 1st degree robbery and conspiracy to commit 2nd degree robbery.

Neither of the Orbanns has a criminal record, according to reports, and Charles Orbann retired just over ten years ago after a 25-year teaching career at a school in the Philadelphia area, said his attorney. During his tenure he was voted teacher of the year two times and coached various sports teams.

Speaking at the arraignment of the couple in Norwich Superior Court last Friday, Attorney Ron Murphy of Advocates Law Firm of New Britain, said the robbery occurred after Charles Orbann "freaked out" over his financial situation. Both the Orbanns also apparently suffer from a variety of medical conditions.

Murphy also noted that Charles Orbann—who appeared in court tearful and in shackles—suffered from bipolar disorder, had recently been diagnosed with skin cancer and had undergone cataract surgery.

Dianne Orbann's attorney, Hope C. Seeley of Santos & Seeley of Hartford, said the couple had moved to Connecticut three years ago to follow their son. They have grandchildren and are collecting Social Security disability, she said.

Seeley said Dianne Orbann is on medication and suffers from panic disorder, anxiety, depression and migraines.

Judge Jack Fischer ordered Dianne Orbann held on \$150,000 bond and Charles Orbann on \$350,000 bond. Dianne Orbann later posted the bond and was released.

Both are expected back in court on May 30.

Marlborough Playscape Program Needs Dedicated Volunteers

by Sarah McCoy

Eighteen years ago 400 hundred volunteers came together to build a Marlborough landmark: The Playscape at Blish Park.

Now, after years of use, and weather damage, the Playscape needs help. Again.

Parks & Recreation Commission Chairman Barbara Lazzari is heading up an initiative to rehabilitate the town's favorite playground. With steadfast fundraising and committed volunteers, she hopes to start the reconstruction next spring.

The project is estimated to cost around \$50,000. This money will be used to replace the horizontal pressure-treated beams with composite beams similar to a Trex material, as well as bring the whole structure up to code. This means building codes, safety codes and ADA codes. There are a host of regulations that need to be satisfied in the name of child safety.

Currently Parks & Rec has raised a little over half the necessary funds. That includes a \$12,000 allocation from the 2007-08 budget.

In the coming year Lazzari expects fundraising to be a main priority. The Mom's Club will collect change in jars at local businesses and a donation drive will kick off later this year.

But money is only half the problem. "My concern is not the money but the help," Lazzari said.

She has held two meetings to bring in volunteers, but those have yielded only about a dozen volunteers. "I can't do this on my own, but right now I am a one-man show," said Lazzari.

Lazzari was one of the core group of volunteers that headed up the initial construction. Maybe that's why she's so determined this time. "There is a lot of sentiment surrounding the Playscape. People take ownership of it. Many residents helped build it and then watched as their kids played on it," Lazzari said.

She's hoping that this sentiment, along with a desire to keep kids playing outdoors, will drum up more support.

"We have jobs for kids to grandmas. There is plenty to do," said Lazzari.

Right now the important thing is to get a group dedicated to the project as much as the core group of volunteers was 18 years ago. Lazzari has divided up the workload into different committees. They include public relations, fundraising, food, tools, and childcare for the workdays.

When the town initially built the Playscape, Leathers and Associates of Ithaca, NY, handled the design work and general contracting. Last fall the company returned to Marlborough to reevaluate the structure. Their report back to the town included the good, the bad and (yes) the ugly.

On the positive side, the Playscape is structurally sound. Leathers and Associates found no reason to dismantle the playground. This was good news for Lazzari considering a quote for a new playground ran upwards of \$230,000 in 2003.

But Leathers did circle a dozen specific areas of concern on the Playscape map, urging the town to rehab the popular Marlborough attraction.

If Lazzari can gather a solid group of volunteers and continue with the fundraising efforts, Leathers will return to Marlborough next spring to oversee phase two of the Playscape project. Ideally, building would occur the first week of May in 2008. That would coincide with the week construction initially took place 19 years prior.

Anyone interested in becoming involved with the project is urged to attend an information session next Wednesday, May 30, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Summer's on the Way, But He Lives to Ski

by Sarah McCoy

With summer almost here, thoughts of the beach, flowers, and baseball abound. Not for Tyler Wadhams. This Hebron teenager has got skiing on the brain.

"I sometimes think about my schoolwork or track, but in the back of my mind there is always skiing," he said.

Tyler Wadhams is more than an obsessed skier. He is a *tremendous* obsessed skier with a promising future in the sport.

As a member of the Killington Mountain Ski Team in Vermont, Tyler won six of the eight races he competed in this year. An amazing accomplishment for anyone, but even more so when you consider that the 13-year-old Wadhams competed against participants as old as 22.

You could say Tyler was born to be a skier. His parents met on the slopes of Killington Mountain and his mom, Donna, continued to win races even when she was pregnant with Tyler and later his brother, Zachary. For the past decade the Wadhams family has spent virtually every winter weekend in Vermont perfecting their craft.

Last year both Tyler and Zach competed on the freestyle circuit. Out of 317 competitors in the eastern region, Tyler ended the season in a three-way tie for first. It was also his second consecutive year as the number one ranked freestyle skier in the central division of the eastern region.

Freestyle skiing, also known as moguls, involves a series of humps and jumps along a mountainside. Skiers are judged on their speed, technique, and jumping ability.

Tyler's brilliant season earned him a spot in the Eastern Regional Championships at Sunday River Mountain on March 17. After his first run down the course, Tyler stood in 20th position. Usually skiers are given a second run with only the highest score counting. But, Mother Nature had other plans. His second run was cancelled and Tyler ended his season on that 20th place finish.

"It was a learning lesson," he would say afterwards. "I can't sit back and wait for the sec-

ond run. I have to go for it every run."

And go for it he has. Each year Tyler has improved and moved up the freestyle ladder. If he continues to progress, his ultimate goal of making the Olympics could turn into a reality.

Next season Tyler will move up to the Freestyle A division. From there he hopes to qualify for the Junior Olympic Team. "I'll ski my hardest and if it is meant to be then it'll happen," said Tyler.

To prepare for his first year on the A Team, Tyler has a rigorous summer planned. He will first spend two weeks at Ramp Camp to perfect his aerial techniques. The camp, which is held at the Olympic training center in Lake Placid, propels skiers down a modified slope and into a swimming pool. This allows skiers to practice their in-air techniques despite the lack of snow.

The next stop for Tyler will be up to Whistler/Blackcomb Mountain in British Columbia. Because of its location, the mountain range will continue to have snow coverage throughout the summer months.

By the time he returns to Hebron, Tyler will have but a few weeks of summer remaining before school starts. Next fall he will begin his freshman year at RHAM before transferring. In November Tyler will literally eat, sleep, and study skiing as he begins classes at the Killington Mountain School. He'll have classes during the day and ski practice afterwards. Despite being away from home, Tyler is ecstatic about getting more time on the mountain.

With an even temperament and a practical outlook on the sport, it is easy to forget that Tyler Wadhams is only 13. When he speaks of skiing he relishes in the details. "Arms out, knees together, head up," Tyler recites.

When he thinks of his future, Tyler is careful not to get ahead of himself. "Sure I think about the Olympics," he said. "But really I just enjoy getting to ski and getting better at the sport."

With an attitude like this it is no wonder Tyler Wadhams has found success.

First Runner-up in Connecticut Elite Pageant

Samantha Ann Salafia was named first runner-up in the Connecticut Elite Pageant held on May 6.

In addition to being named overall first runner-up, Samantha was also honored with a first runner-up trophy in the CT Elite Talent Competition for her own choreographed dance and tumble routine. She was the youngest competitor in this division and holds the title of Miss Jr. Teen East Hampton Elite.

This is Samantha's first year participating in pageants, and certainly won't be her last, she promises.

A 7th-grader at St. Mary's School in Middletown, she is the daughter of Marlo Bish of East Hampton, and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Bish of Middletown) and Florence Smigiel of Rockfall.

During the past year, Samantha has used the pageant opportunity to give back to all of Connecticut. She organized a Family Fun Night at Friendly Restaurant and raised money for the Nightingale Awards to honors Nurses in Connecticut.

She was honored at 80 Licks Ice Cream Cafe in Portland and had two ice cream flavors named in honor of her achievements! She represented East Hampton in the local Annual Old Homes Day Parade and many political representatives from the state, including State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal, honored her on stage.

Photographs of her have appeared in the 2006 State Trooper News Magazine. Samantha also represented her town in the Princess of the Lake "Boat" Pageant and was escorted by the Governors Foot Guard.

With Samantha's busy life style, she still



Samantha Ann Salafia

makes time for her family and understands the importance of giving to others. Her many hours of volunteer work include volunteering at the Make-a-Wish Foundations Circus Event, visiting older adults at a local convalescent home and reading to children at Middletown's Apple Tree Daycare.

She said she is proud to represent the State of Connecticut as first runner-up with Brenlyn Langhorn, Miss Jr. Teen Connecticut Elite. She looks forward to all the opportunities that lie ahead with the achievement of this honor and representing East Hampton and Connecticut in the Miss Teen America Pageant in December.

Hebron Police News

5/13—Police are investigating the theft of two purses from an unlocked car parked at the Airline Trail parking lot on Route 85, according to police.

5/21—Thomas Nevins, 44, of 108 Wellswood Rd., Apt. 1B, was arrested on a warrant for assault and interfering with an emergency call, according to police.

Colchester Police News

5/13—Police are investigating the theft of a purse from a car parked at the Airline Trail parking lot, according to police.

5/15—Police are investigating the theft of several unspecified items from a car parked in the S&S Worldwide parking lot, according to reports.

5/16—Police are investigating a burglary into an unoccupied apartment. A window on a door was smashed to gain entry, according to police.

5/17—Paul Wurdig, 80, of Punta Gorda, FL, was arrested for negligent homicide with a motor vehicle and failure to stay in his lane, according to police.

5/18—Police are investigating an incident of vandalism at the Westchester Market in the Westchester Plaza. Police said a large balloon on the roof of the store was removed and damaged, according to reports.

East Hampton Police News

5/3 — Luis AG Jarro, 31, of 135 Irving St., Framingham, MA, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Old West High Street, 80 feet east of Route 66. Jarro was arrested for operating without a license, evading responsibility, and unsafe backing.

5/5 — John Kelly, 39, of 54 Bigelow Rd., Colchester, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on Rt. 16, eight-tenths of a mile east of Tartia Rd. Kelly was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol and failure to drive in the right lane.

5/9 — Wendy S. Gorman, 41, of 162 East High St., East Hampton, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered vehicle.

5/10 — Ellen McKinney, 24, of 28 Main St., East Hampton, was arrested for operating a motor vehicle without a license, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates and operating without insurance.

5/12 — A 15-year-old male juvenile was referred to Youth in Crisis.

5/12 — Marisa J. Aletta, 46, of 42 Evergreen

Former Resident Authors Children's Book

by Sarah McCoy

It is an idyllic ride to Linda Bauer's home in Eastford, CT. Trees envelop drivers as they make their way up Summer Hill and at the crest of the hill is a log cabin, set back from the road. This is Bittersweet Run, the setting of Bauer's first book.

Born and raised in Hebron, Bauer graduated from RHAM High School before marrying her husband Frank and relocating to Groton. Since then the couple has lived in Canterbury and, now, Eastford. Her mother, Eleanor Harrison, still lives in the same house on Meetinghouse Road that she raised her children in.

"Eastford reminds me of how Hebron used to be," she said. "No stoplights, virtually no stores, it's just nature."

Bauer has always loved nature and animals. As a child she was a member of 4-H, raised horses and ponies for over 20 years, and has always had dogs. So when she sat down to write, it seemed only natural to Bauer that her main characters would be her pets.

"They are my best friends," she said of her four dogs and cat. "The personality that I have seen in them is reflected in the book." Rumford, for example, is the eldest of Bauer's pets. He is the leader of the pack and the bravest of them all.

Bittersweet Run is the story of four dogs, a cat, and a chipmunk's adventure to solve the mystery of Bigfoot in Eastford.

Bauer has spent the past three years writing, revising, and rewriting the 29-page children's book. "Just when I think it's done, I change everything," she said with a laugh. "It's been a process."

It is a process that Linda Bauer never expected to undertake. She had never written anything prior to *Bittersweet Run*, and frankly, never had an interest. But that all changed when Bauer went in for surgery on her wrist in 2004.

When she returned home, her good friend

Laura Reynolds greeted Bauer. Reynolds had painted watercolor illustrations of Bauer's pets and suggested that her friend write a story to along with the paintings.

Before she knew it, Rumford, Joey, Peabo, Olivia, Sara and Miss Minnie were traipsing through the garden looking for clues. "I guess we worked backwards, but the illustrations gave me inspiration," Bauer said.

Bauer can still hardly believe she's an author. After graduating from RHAM, she took a secretarial job with United Technologies and then became a stay-at-home-mom. All that time writing was the furthest thing from her mind. "I would have never thought I was capable of doing this," she said. "It's not *War and Peace* or *Gone With the Wind*. It's a children's story that I just took the time to get down on paper."

With the writing complete, Bauer still had a lot of work to get the story into book form. Printing the book in color proved to be too costly, so Bauer struck a balance between color and black and white pages. Now comes the tough part, marketing her product.

Tomorrow Bauer will hold a book signing at Wonderland Books in Putnam from 2-4pm. The following Saturday, June 2, she will be at Booklovers Gourmet in Webster, MA from 10 a.m.-noon. Visitors will have the opportunity to meet with Bauer and purchase a copy of *Bittersweet Run* for \$14.

The title of the book is taken from the name Bauer gave to the property when she and her husband moved to Eastford. "This is our retirement home," she explained. "It is a bittersweet end to our journey."

But don't let Bauer fool you. While *Bittersweet Run* may be her last home, she has no intentions of slowing down. With one book under her belt, Bauer is already brainstorming ideas for sequels.

Two Arrested on Drug Charges After Tip to Portland Police

A Middletown man was arrested on drug charges May 19 after Portland police responded to a call at the Riverdale Motel on Route 66.

According to police, they responded at approximately 10:45 a.m. to a report of ongoing drug transactions at Apartment 14 at the motel. Upon arrival, two officers were met at the apartment door by Rudolph McNeil, 21, of 34 Fairview Ave., Middletown, and a female companion who was not identified by police because she was under 18 years old.

The officers were granted access to the apartment, said police, and "immediately recognized signs of drug paraphernalia and contraband."

A subsequent search of the apartment revealed numerous packing materials, marijuana, crack cocaine, money apparently obtained from drug transactions and a loaded .22 caliber Colt handgun, said police.

McNeil was arrested for possession of less

than 4 oz. of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of narcotics, possession of narcotics with intent to sell, operation of a drug factory-narcotics, operation of drug factory-marijuana and criminal possession of a firearm.

McNeil was held at the Middletown Police Department on a \$100,000 bond pending court at GA9 on May 21.

The female in the apartment was arrested for possession of less than 4 oz. of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana with intent to sell, possession of narcotics, possession of narcotics with tent to sell, operation of a drug factory-narcotics, operation of drug factory-marijuana and criminal possession of a firearm.

Total street value of the crack cocaine was estimated at \$3,400.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Laura Minick

Laura (Marcik) Minick, 89, of East Hampton, widow of Steven J. Minick, died Thursday, May 17, at Marlborough Health Care Center.

Laura was born Feb. 15, 1918 in New Haven, the daughter of the late Thomas and Alice (Rachupka) Marcik. She had lived in Haddam for many years before moving to East Hampton in 2003.

Laura is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Kathy Minick of East Hampton; a daughter, Sharon Delrossi of New London; a daughter-in-law, Sharon Minick of Clinton; grandchildren, Erin (Minick) Goldfarb, Brian Minick, Lisa and Tammy Minick, Todd and Scott Schondorf, Michael Faulk; three great grandchildren and two nephews. In addition to her husband, Laura was predeceased by a son, Leonard Minick as well as a brother and sister.

A Memorial Mass was celebrated on Tuesday, May 22in St. Patrick Church, 47 West High St., East Hampton. Burial will be in Higganum-Burr Cemetery in Haddam at the convenience of the family. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Patrick Church Renovation Fund, P.O. Box 177, East Hampton, CT 06424. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton has care of the arrangements.

Hebron

Bruce E. Strom

Bruce Edward Strom, 49, of Amston, formerly of Enfield, passed away unexpectedly Wednesday, May 16, at home. Born Sept. 8, 1957 in Hartford, he was a son of the late Lynn Robert and Antoinette “Toni” (Castonguay) Strom.

Bruce was a chef for many years. He loved spending time with his daughters, fishing and was an avid golfer.

Survivors include two daughters, Ashley Levesque and her husband, Michael and Kelsey Strom, all of Middletown; two sisters, Marley Hickson of St. George, VT and Christine Kicinski of Harrisburg, NC; a brother, Greg Strom of Boxboro, MA; his best friend Jim Milewski of Amston; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A Memorial Liturgy was celebrated Tuesday at St. Bernard Church, 426 Hazard Ave., Enfield. Interment was in St. Bernard Cemetery. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 31160, Hartford 06150-1160 or at www.diabetes.org. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

East Hampton

John E. Lucey

John Edward Lucey, 82, of Crows Nest La., Haddam Neck, beloved husband of Sarah (Moon) Lucey, and the late Helen (Becker) Lucey, died Monday, May 21, at Hartford Hospital.

He was born in Middletown, the son of the late Joseph M. Sr., and Margaret (Scully) Lucey. A veteran of World War II, he served with the U.S. Army. Prior to his retirement, he was employed with SNET for 34 years. He also owned and raised thoroughbred horses.

Besides his wife, he is survived by three sisters, Ruth Olson of Portland, Joan Tice of Atascadero, CA, and Janice Johnson of Portland; and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother, Joseph M. Lucey, Jr.; and a sister, Regina Seiferman.

Funeral services will be held today (Friday, May 25) at 10 a.m. at the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were Thursday evening at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, John would have appreciated any donations be made to NTRA Charities – Barbaro Memorial Fund, c/o Bessemer Trust Company, Attn: Robert Elliott, 630 Fifth Ave., New York, NY 10111.

Portland

Nora Rybczyk

Nora “Noreen” (Quirk) Rybczyk, 91, of Middletown, beloved wife of John “Jack” Rybczyk, died Saturday, May 19, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born Feb. 27, 1916 in Portland, to Patrick and Delia (Manning) Quirk. Noreen and Jack were married on June 17, 1936.

Noreen loved to crochet. She made blankets for the Linus Project and hats, scarves, and blankets for the Windsor Senior Center to give to children during the Christmas season. She was the best mother and grandmother anyone could have asked for. She will be greatly missed. Besides her husband, she is survived by her five children, John Rybczyk and his wife Barbara of Lady Lake, FL, Peter Rybczyk and his wife Louella of Portland, Paul Rybczyk of Hyattsville, MD, Joseph Rybczyk of Middletown and Mary Ann Zakrzewski and her husband Steve of Windsor; ten grandchildren, John, Mark, Deidre, Deborah, Diane, Robert, Frank, Melissa, Joe, and Daniel; ten great grandchildren, Devonney, RJ, Rachael, Casey, Ashlyn, Evan, Ariel, Rachel, Jeremy, and Derrick; two sisters, Margaret Eimmerman of New Haven and Mary Berloni of Portland; also several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by six brothers and two sisters.

Noreen’s husband and family wish to thank the Middlesex Hospital Hospice Unit for their care and compassion.

The Funeral Liturgy was held Tuesday, May 22 at St. Mary Church, Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial was in St. Mary Cemetery, Portland. Calling hours were at the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown on Tuesday morning.

Memorial contributions in Noreen’s name may be sent to the Middlesex Hospice Unit c/o Dept. of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

East Hampton

Lois J. Lake

Lois J. Lake, 77, of East Hampton, passed away May 14 at Harrington Court in Colchester, surrounded by her family.

She leaves her loving husband Richard of 55 years and her loving and devoted daughter, Deborah and son-in-law Mark.

Born in Hamilton, Ohio on July 2, 1929, she was the daughter of the late Harold A. and Hazel Frazee. Before moving to East Hampton in 1990, she retired from the Ohio State Bureau of Unemployed Office where she was a case examiner. She enjoyed her new home in Connecticut and so loved the beauty of New England. She enjoyed the company of many special friends and spent many hours knitting and crocheting for others.

Besides her family, she is survived by her sister, Marjorie, and brother-in-law, Fred of Trotwood, Ohio, and Cousin Winifred Userly of Mason, Ohio.

The family wishes to thank the Middlesex hospital Home Care, Middlesex Cancer Center and the staff at Harrington Court. Should friends desire, contributions in her memory may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Office of Philanthropy or the East Hampton Ambulance Association.

Service is private and at the convenience of the family. Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

Colchester

Clifford Scarr

Clifford Scarr, 86, died Wednesday, May 23, in Liberty Specialty Care nursing home.

He was born and raised in Holyoke, MA, son of the late George and Clara Scarr and lived over 50 years in Enfield. He was a 1938 graduate of Holyoke High School and worked as a foreman for the lithography Department at the Travelers’ Insurance Company from 1952 until his retirement in 1980. He was a member of the United Methodist Church in Enfield.

Clifford served from 1941-1945 in the US Navy during WWII. He was valedictorian of the Flight Engineering School at the Floyd Bennett Field in New York. While with the Navy he served as a flight engineer aboard the PB2Y on runs to Natal, Brazil from Washington D.C. He was an avid hunter and lover of the outdoors.

He leaves his wife of 61 years, Shirley (Hooks) Scarr; two daughters, Candace E. Webb and her husband Tracy, and Holly J. Malicki and her husband Brian, all of Colchester; a sister Lucy Gaunt of Agawam, MA; and five grandchildren, James, Matthew and Holly Lynn Webb, and Kevin and Peter Malicki.

A memorial service will be held today (Friday, May 25) at 11:30 a.m. at the West Springfield Curran-Jones Funeral Home, 109 Main St., West Springfield. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Kidney Foundation, 2139 Silas Deane Hwy, Ste 208, Rocky Hill, CT 06067-2339, or to the Connecticut VNA Hospice, 12 Case Street, Norwich, CT 06360.