

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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Clockwise from top left, Eric Heath, Jon Coates, Chris Bowes, and Grayson Minney make up the band Columbia Fields. The group will play at the Hebron Harvest Fair next month and is one of four finalists in the Mohegan Sun Battle of the Bands competition.

## Local Band Performs Next Month at Hebron Fair

by Sarah McCoy

Columbia Fields, a band that features three RHAM High School graduates, seems to be really going places. The ensemble is one of four finalists in Mohegan Sun's Battle of the Bands competition, and next month the group will perform at the Hebron Harvest Fair.

The Hebron performance seems fitting for Columbia Fields, as that is where the band's story really began.

Back in 2002, Hebron residents Grayson Minney, a member of the RHAM Class of 2002, and Eric Heath, a member of the Class of 1998, started playing simple jam sessions together. Minney would start on his guitar and Heath would add in a keyboard line. The pair clicked so well that the very first song they created, "Elephant Song," is still one of their biggest hits.

It wasn't long before the duo began playing regularly at Marlborough Tavern.

Initially, Minney and Heath simply played instrumentals. In 2004, though, they began writing their own lyrics, and recorded a demo tape. But still, it seemed that something was missing.

So, in 2005, the two took on a drummer, Chris Bowes of Marlborough, who was also a RHAM graduate (the Class of 1999). Minney and Heath said that, when

they began auditioning drummer, they immediately knew Bowes would be the perfect fit. Unbeknownst to the two Hebron residents, Bowes had gotten a copy of the aforementioned demo tape and had been drumming to it. So, when he came to audition, he knew all the songs and could integrate his style into the duo's already present groundwork.

With Bowes in the fold, the group became known as The Acoustic State. They continued to play at Marlborough Tavern, but also added shows at Webster Theatre in Hartford and several Massachusetts colleges. The band also opened for national recording artist Edwin McCain, whose hit "I'll Be" reached number 5 on the *Billboard* Hot 100 chart.

But the band wasn't done growing. With a lead guitar, keyboardist, and drummer in place, members of The Acoustic State wanted one more thing, a bassist to fill out their sound. They found him in Jon Coates.

"Like a lot of things with our band, adding Jon happened by chance," Bowes said. "It was all luck."

Last summer, Bowes' girlfriend talked him into going to Sully's Pub in Hartford to watch her friend's band. Despite initial reservations, Bowes ended up enjoying the

performance, especially that of the bassist, Coates. He jokingly said to his girlfriend, "Tell your friend I'm going to steal his bassist."

But as it turned out, he didn't have to. Coates' band broke up shortly thereafter, freeing him up for a new endeavor.

Along with finalizing their band members, The Acoustic State also finalized its name. Having added a bassist, and with the keyboard becoming a stronger presence in their music, band members decided their name was pigeonholing them. After months of debate, the group settled on Columbia Fields, a popular location for parties for high school and college-age students.

It seems hard to believe that Columbia Fields is only a year old. During that time the band members have written all their own music, built their own website, released their first album, all while performing a couple times each week. They continue to play at local bars, small venues, and fairs across the state, attracting "a couple hundred people" each show, according to Heath.

Part of the band's success is due, in large part, to its unique sound. The band has

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drawn comparisons to the Dave Matthews Band and Counting Crows, two bands that have garnered much success but don't rely on the keyboard like Columbia Fields does. The group could be described as similar to Coldplay, but with a more rocking sound, or like a more eclectic Tori Amos.

"It's hard to describe us," Heath said. "We don't try to be like anyone else and we all come from different backgrounds."

Heath is a classically-trained pianist turned keyboardist. Bowes is into metal, while Minney is into rock. And Coates likes a little of everything.

"Our sound? [Expletive] awesome," described Coates.

And it seems others agree. When Columbia Fields released its first CD, entitled *When the Night Falls...*, in June the Marlborough Tavern ran out of room. Over 300 people packed the walls for first grabs at the band's 11-track debut CD. Tracks from the album can be heard on Columbia Fields' MySpace page: [myspace.com/columbiafields](http://myspace.com/columbiafields).

The group is also one of four remaining bands in the Mohegan Sun's Sizzling Summer Showdown. The competition began last month with over 70 bands. Columbia Fields will perform next Wednesday in the semi-final match-up. Depending on how they fare, the band could perform again on Aug. 29 for a \$3,000 grand prize.

Perhaps the greatest reason for Columbia Fields' success is the balance the band members keep. Each of them seems invested in the group 100 percent. They peddle their album, look for gigs, and market themselves as best they can. A graphic designer by day, Coates

designed the group's CD cover and had a hand in their website.

But when it comes to the music, they all take their hand at writing and work together to form a song. "Gray[son] writes the lyrics to the songs but the music will start with someone playing a few lines," Bowes explained. "We all add in our parts, make suggestions, and keep practicing until it's right."

The songs vary in terms of topics. "We sing about life, loss..." Minney said, and then Heath interjected, "But 99 percent about women."

The band's song "Trust" deals with women, while in "Fly Away" the group wrestles with uncertainty, "wondering where will I be and when I get there what will I see." And in "She Says," Minney sings of pure belligerency: "She says she loves me. I say she don't. She says she needs me. I say she won't."

With one album under their belts, the men of Columbia Fields show no signs of slowing down. They've written eight new songs for their next album and plan to write about seven more before sitting down and carving out the finished product. In the meantime they continue to play shows virtually every weekend, attracting a bigger audience along the way.

Next month the band will return to its roots, as Columbia Fields plays the Hebron Harvest Fair Friday night, Sept. 7. This is an event close to the band members' hearts, as Minney, Bowes and Heath all graduated from RHAM High School and looked forward to the Fair each year. It is also the site of the band's first performance as a foursome last year.

For more information on Columbia Fields or to hear clips of *When the Night Falls...* visit [www.columbiafields.com](http://www.columbiafields.com).

## Senior Tax Plan Goes to Finance Board in Colchester

by Jim Salemi

The Board of Selectmen Wednesday, Aug. 1, voted to send a tax relief plan for town seniors and totally disabled residents to the Board of Finance.

The plan, called the Senior Tax Stabilization Program, calls for the creation of a \$30,000 in the annual town budget to help offset the tax burden of those who meet certain age and income criteria.

If the finance board gives it the green light, the town will have to pass an ordinance to make it official.

The program was pitched by a local committee, the Senior Tax Stabilization Program Committee (STSPC), and the plan is intended to help seniors who would otherwise be forced to move out of state.

"If a spouse dies, they are often left without the souses income, yet have the same expenses that only increase when it comes to keeping a home," Georgette Conrad, who spearheaded the program and drafted the program with the STSPC, said. "The insurance, mortgage, keeping the house heated and the lights on, all stay the same."

The STSPC was formed out of members of the political action committee Seniors Helping Seniors, which began work on the program earlier this year, and presented a draft of the program to selectmen back in April. The STSPC was formed after the town underwent its last revaluation early this year.

"Some seniors were hit hard," Conrad said in April.

While the additional expenditure of \$30,000 that would be earmarked for the program appears to be a liability, Conrad said, it will actually save the town money by keeping the cost of services in check.

In the proposal presented to selectmen, Conrad said the purpose of the program is to allow seniors to stay in their homes. This would benefit the homeowner as well as the town, she said, since when seniors sell their homes they are likely to be bought by young families with children, resulting in an increased tax burden by increasing student populations in schools. That in turn, according to

the proposal, would result in more children in classrooms and a decline in the quality of education.

"It is our opinion that it would be financially prudent to be proactive on this issue instead of waiting for the inevitable greater cost to our town and the degradation of our school," the STSPC members said in their proposal.

The cost of educating more than one child from a single typical household outweighs the tax dollars the home generates, Conrad said. She said that if seniors who currently own two-, three- and four-bedroom homes sell them, more families will move in, further burdening the town's tax base.

"It's not good for the seniors or the town," she said. "The seniors don't want to move from places they lived all their lives, and it will cost the town more in services. If that happens, we'll need more teachers or have larger class sizes, plus the possibility of future school expansions."

Conrad said the program her committee presented is modeled after a program in place in the town of Orange.

If approved, the plan would offer a tax credit of up to \$8,000 for seniors 68 or older and to seniors who are 65 or older if they are a surviving spouse. There is no age requirement for residents who are totally disabled.

Prospective applicants would also have to meet an income requirement of earnings of \$45,000 or less, own real property in the town as a primary residence and occupy that residence for at least 184 days a year. Prospective applicants would also be required to be taxpayers to the town for at least two years and a resident of the town for at least one year, according to the proposal.

Also, the program would have to be renewed by the town each fiscal year.

State statues allow towns to set up such programs, but the state does not provide funds for such programs.

The next Board of Finance meeting is Wednesday, Aug. 22, although it was unknown at press time whether the board would discuss the program at that meeting.

## New Dental Practice Open for Business in East Hampton

by Michael McCoy

A new dental practice opened in town this week, and promises high-tech offerings for its patients.

Chatham Dental Care has opened at 33 West High St., in what was Burt Realty. The realtor will continue to operate out of the location, but its office is now in the rear of the building.

The head of the new practice, Dr. Nancy Simonow, is a Bloomfield native. In 1979 she graduated from Tunxis Community College with a degree in hygiene. But, she said, she knew she really wanted to be a dentist.

Simonow said she knew that, not having a bachelor's degree, getting into a dental school might be difficult, but she was determined. "If I didn't go [into a dental program], I didn't go, but it wasn't going to be because I didn't try," she said.

Simonow informed the University of Connecticut of her dream, and the school told her that if she took certain science and biology classes and scored a 4.0 grade point average in them, she could enter into UConn's dental program.

"I took the classes wherever I could find them," Simonow said, and after studying at schools like Central Connecticut State University, she achieved her 4.0. She graduated the UConn dental school in 1997.

After practicing dentistry for four years, Simonow opened her own practice in West Hartford, Cosmetic and Family Dental Care. Eventually, she employed a staff of seven, with a patient list of 1,600. Simonow said patients would travel from such states as Rhode Island and Indiana for dental appointments, and added that that one loyal patient from Hungary even coordinated her appointments with visits to her family in Hartford.

In 2002, looking for a residence that would accommodate her dogs, Simonow moved to East Hampton. Eventually, the commute to West Hartford grew tiresome, and Simonow decided that she would either have to move

her residence or her business. She chose the latter.

"I found, talking to people around town, there was a need for a dentist," Simonow said. Plus, she said, "Once you live on a lake, it's hard to make yourself not live on a lake."

Simonow's husband Andrew, who is the practice's operations manager, said he asked his wife what her ideal location would be, should they relocate the practice to town, and she promptly identified a Victorian house along Route 66 that is home to Burt Realty. In May, she said, "Out of the blue, on a lark, I called, and within a week we had a down payment on this house."

Andrew said the new practice is "at the cutting edge of dentistry." He oversaw extensive renovations to the front of the building to transform it into a dental office. But the couple aimed to keep the flavor of the Victorian home. "It's not like a regular commercial medical office," Andrew said.

Simonow is appreciative of her husband's contribution, saying, "There are people who are business heads, and people who aren't. He's very helpful like that."

As for East Hampton, Simonow said, "it's a great community," and added that she she admires the group Friends of Lake Pocotopaug.

Chatham Dental Care is also hoping to host wine tastings in the future, and even a road race to raise funds for charity. Last month, the Simonows took part in the Old Home Days Parade, handing out sugar-free lollipops.

In her new practice, Simonow said, "there [is not] one paper in that office. ... Everything [is] computerized." While Chatham Dental Care has invested about \$700,000 in equipment and renovations, Simonow said purchasing a preexisting practice is even more expensive.

Mark Plancon, an equipment specialist with Patterson Dental, a company that provides equipment to dental practices, said



**Nancy Simonow opened a new dental practice, Chatham Dental Care, at 33 West High St., this week.**

Chatham Dental Care has state-of-the-art features, including a digital X-ray machine, which uses 85-90 percent less radiation than a standard device. The practice also uses a digital panoramic X-ray. "It takes into account the whole oral cavity," Plancon said.

Also, there are inter-oral cameras, which make it possible for patients to see exactly what the dentist is talking about. Laser dentistry will be used in place of some of the cruder metal tools, minimizing discomfort and bleeding.

Also, Plancon said, Chatham Dental Care is equipped with "the newest technology in washing and sterilizing instruments."

"The emphasis in this office is more of a

spa-styled atmosphere," Plancon added. "That's where dentistry is going. It's not like the old days."

The office also contains plasma screen televisions in each room. Andrew Simonow said his wife "believes in keeping the patients entertained. ... She plays all the latest movies."

Nancy Simonow remembered, "A lot of patients in West Hartford would call [and] ask, 'what's playing?' That's when they'd schedule their appointment."

For more information or to schedule appointments, call Chatham Dental Care at 267-4900.



Owen Flannery, center, explains the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Access System to Economic Development Commission members, from left, Patience Anderson, Mary Ann Dostaler and Jack Hesen.

## Belltown Motors Revs Up Its Facility

by Michael McCoy

Local automotive shop Belltown Motors is undergoing a \$1.2 million upgrade, and recently took Economic Development Commission members on a tour of their renovations.

Anthony Flannery, 42, runs Belltown Motors at 80 East High St. with his brother Owen, 52. The two operated an auto repair business in Portland 10 years ago, but the two brothers moved it to East Hampton in 2003, and renamed it Belltown Motors.

Last year, Belltown Motors began a renovation project, the centerpiece of which, a new state-of-the-art building, was completed last December.

On June 30, Owen gave the Economic Development Commission (EDC) a tour of the site. EDC Chairman Mary Ann Dostaler and members Patience Anderson and Jack Hesen attended. Upon seeing the changes, Hesen said, "It's something of an improvement."

Owen said Belltown's previous quarters, which was less than a quarter of the size of the new building, located at the same site, were "tight, real tight."

Belltown owns just less than four acres of land, including that which the NAPA auto parts store sits on. The brothers also plan to build a 60-by-100 foot building toward the front of the property, hoping for a commercial or light manufacturing tenant.

"We do a lot of commercial bodywork," Owen said. He estimated 70 percent of Belltown's work is commercial, with 30 percent done for individuals. Some of the commercial operations Belltown has done work for include Connecticut Light & Power and several oil companies.

The commercial work includes painting, and the new, larger facility features the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Access System, a tool that includes more than 100 different colored paints. Also, the computer can do a color match with any

shade, mixing two or more of the 100 paints to achieve virtually any color option.

Belltown has also become an official State Emissions Testing location, and has performed 390 such tests so far. "That's 390 customers who we didn't have before," Owen said.

In the emissions test, automobiles newer than 1995 are plugged into a computer to test; older cars are strapped into their dynamometer. Either way, the procedure costs \$20.

The new, larger digs have proven beneficial to Belltown Motors, with Owen saying "we've been able to pick up a lot more work." He adds that, since the expansion, the company has doubled its work force.

Belltown Motors also devoted two full-time drivers for AAA service calls, covering the motor club's customers in East Hampton, Marlborough and East Haddam. Owen estimated his business fields about 400 AAA calls a month.

Belltown Motors is Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certified and has passed the eight tests necessary to be qualified as a "master tech."

Owen holds a degree from the Hartford Institute of Accounting, and spent four years working in the public sector and 17 for insurance companies, handles the financial and administrative facets of Belltown Motors, while Anthony handles the mechanical side of it.

"It's a great complement," Owen said.

At the June tour of the new site, Dostaler praised the brothers' contributions to East Hampton, telling them, "It's an absolutely great service having you in town."

Belltown Motors is located on Route 66, across from Paul's and Sandy's Too. It is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. For more information call 267-7222.

## Colchester Police News

8/5—Two juveniles were arrested and charged with criminal mischief after allegedly vandalizing a stone wall and a picket fence, police said.

8/7—Police said they are investigating a burglary at the Colchester Baptist Church. The main entrance and several interior doors were kicked in, according to police, but nothing was reported stolen.

## Portland Police News

7/25 — John P. Houlihan, 20, of 54 Stillwold Dr., Wethersfield, was charged with possession of less than 4 oz. marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of alcohol by a minor, Portland Police say.

## Morgan to Compete in Colchester Primary

by Jim Salemi

Greg Morgan, the Republican nominee for first selectman who was defeated at the party's town caucus last month, formally registered with the town clerk's office this week to run in next month's Republican primary.

Morgan collected the necessary 90 signatures to appear on the ballot for the Sept. 11 primary, and registered with the town clerk's office Wednesday, Aug. 8.

At the July 23 Republican Town Committee caucus, Morgan lost to Diana Norton Giles, by a 113-33 vote. But, immediately following this defeat, he made known his intentions to compete in the upcoming primary.

Morgan has said he believed the votes he did receive at the caucus were substantial, as he had begun campaigning only weeks before. He said he is confident he can carry the primary in September.

"We wouldn't be doing this if we didn't think we could win," he said Wednesday after registering with the town clerk's office. "It comes down to who can do it, to who has the skills, the management background to allow for a more forward-looking government and stop this quibbling every budget season because of the government's need to squeeze every last nickel out of the taxpayer."

Morgan said he decided to run after residents approached him following a town meeting concerning the 2007-08 budget and suggested it. At the town meetings, Morgan urged the finance board to wait for state aid figures before sending the proposed spending plan to referendum, among other concerns.

Morgan's platform calls for limiting tax increases and for a leaner, smaller, more efficient local government and increasing the tax base.

He said this can be achieved by taking a "forward-looking" approach to managing the government.

"We should be looking down the road five, 10 years," he said. "Sure, we have money for a police officer now, but can we maintain that? Can we add another police officer when the time comes?"

Morgan said the town is in its budget crisis because of the ineffectiveness of Town Hall. He said there was an expenditure for \$130,000

in the budget to replace a 2001 dump truck, and said it's typical that a town will replace a truck when it is between 11 and 15 years old.

"In a year of tough budget cuts, instead of taking the truck out of the budget and use that money for something else, it was left in," he said. "It had to be brought to the attention of the board by [a resident]."

In a press release sent Wednesday to the *Rivereast*, Morgan asked for a series of debates between him and Giles.

"After more than two weeks of waiting, I have yet to hear a reply from my opponent," Morgan said. "The voters deserve to see the differences between the candidates and a series of debates is a great forum to do so. . . . The mark of a true leader is one who is willing to stand up and tell people what they stand for and present solutions for the greater good. I don't know why my opponent would be unwilling to take this opportunity to do just that."

Morgan added that he is willing to discuss a set of rules that is agreeable to both parties as well as the selection of a neutral moderator.

Giles told the *Rivereast* Wednesday she is "certainly willing to debate any candidate at any time." She said she was waiting for the signatures to be filed with the town, but said that, once Morgan becomes an official, certified primary candidate, she'd "absolutely" be willing to debate him.

Morgan retired from the U.S. Army a lieutenant colonel in the late 1980s, after serving for over 23 years. He enlisted in 1964 as a private and did two tours in South Vietnam. During his military career, Morgan earned more than 25 awards and decorations, including the Silver Star for gallantry, four Bronze Star medals with valor device, the Legion of Merit, two Purple Heart medals and the Combat Infantryman Badge.

He was later assigned to the Defense Intelligence Agency. In the private sector, Morgan worked in management for the nuclear industry as well as the U.S. Department of Defense.

Morgan ran on the Republican ticket in an unsuccessful bid for the U.S. Senate in Massachusetts in 1998. Morgan's platform and resume can be viewed online at [morgan2007.org](http://morgan2007.org).

## Colchester Selectmen Look Into Possibility of Ballfields

by Jim Salemi

The Board of Selectmen last Thursday, Aug. 2, agreed to continue looking into whether 11 acres of school-owned property could be used to build one, and possibly two, baseball fields.

The land is off Pleasant Street, situated in the elementary and middle school campus area.

First Selectman Stan Soby said a study by an engineer hired by the Athletic Facilities Task Force said the property would be better suited for a building such as a community center, given the surrounding wetlands.

But a landscape architect hired by the Cody Camp Foundation, a foundation set up for in honor of Cody Camp, 6, who died a year ago following a battle with cancer, believes one, possibly two, fields can be built on the site. The ballfields would be named in honor of the boy.

"I walked the site, with maps in hand, and while I'm no expert, it appears to be doable, and the landscape architect thought it was doable," he said.

Soby said a partnership of sorts must be established between the Board of Education and the Cody Camp Foundation before the town can delve into the details of the project.

"Essentially [the field or fields] would be a donation to the Board of Education by the foundation. The school board has to approve all donations to the school, and I hope they do it at

their September meeting."

Soby said he feels the site is ideal for the ballfields because it is surrounded by more school property and is therefore secluded from area homes.

"The field will not be lighted," he said. "It's inside the campus so there will be minimal impact. My thinking is that it is a good opportunity. We need to do more work, though. More details need to be worked out."

"We desperately need more fields," he added. "The Elementary School Building Committee, when it was meeting, asked the architect to include land for athletic fields, since the elementary school now sits on a soccer field."

Soby said the property is divided by a stream. On the Jack Jacker School side of the stream, there appears to be enough usable land for a full-sized field, and the other side of the stream, the Johnston School side, there is enough for a partial field, with the outfield overlapping onto a soccer field.

The Athletic Facilities Task Force originally looked at the Ruby Cohen recreational area on McDonald Road to build the fields, though that plan was met by resistance by residents. The terms of the donation by the Cohen family stipulate it must be used for passive recreation.

## East Hampton Police News

7/29 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle without a license and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police say.

7/29 — A 16-year-old female juvenile was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of sixth-degree larceny and fifth-degree larceny, police say.

7/30 — Lindsey R. Carpino, 21, of 4 Bevin Ct., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for possession of drug paraphernalia, police say.

7/31 — Ricky W. Loveland, 23, of 164 Grand St., Middletown, was arrested for operating while under suspension, police say.

## Head-On Accident on Route 16 Injures Six

Police are investigating a head-on collision on Route 16 at Silver Meadow Drive Thursday, Aug. 2, that injured six people, two seriously.

Katrina Peckenham, 22, of Providence, suffered head, leg and arm injuries after she was thrown from the SUV she was driving, according to published reports. She was flown to Backus Hospital.

The driver of the other car, Jason Carrier, 20, of 27 Coco Dr., suffered head injuries and was also flown to Backus Hospital, according to reports.

Four passengers in Peckenham's SUV — Megan Dyer, 17, Erin Dyer, 15, Ian Dyer, 5, and Reilly Dyer, 7, all of 5 Silver Meadow Dr. — were taken to Backus Hospital with minor injuries, reports say.

According to reports, Carrier was traveling east on Route 16 when Peckenham allegedly pulled onto Route 16 from Silver Meadow Drive. Reports say Carrier attempted to avoid the SUV by cutting into the opposite lane, but instead struck the vehicle.



Marlborough resident Kipp Kollar, left, won a June 19 mixed martial arts event in Plymouth, MA. At left is the man he defeated, Michael Laliberte, and referee Randy Rowe is in the middle.

## Marlborough Resident Wins Martial Arts Fight

Marlborough resident Kipp Kollar recently fought in a professional mixed martial arts (MMA) event. And he won, besting a professional power lifting champion.

Kollar's victory came June 19 in Plymouth, MA, in an MMA event entitled "Untamed." MMA is a combative sport like boxing that combines striking and ground fighting.

Kollar's opponent was Michael Laliberte, a collegiate wrestler and professional power lifting champion who had amassed a 5-1 record. In the first round of the June 19 event, Laliberte used his wrestling background to take Kollar to the canvas, but Kollar trapped Laliberte's arms, then worked his legs up around his neck and executed a triangle choke. Laliberte tapped out at 1 minute and 40 seconds into the first round.

Kollar's purse for the two-minute fight was \$2,000. But, Kollar said, "I don't fight for the money, but rather to stay in shape."

To train for an MMA fight, Kollar runs four miles three to four times a week. He also lifts at the Body Fitness gym three times a week.

"I don't lift to get bigger, just to keep up my core strength," he said.

Kollar also trains at a variety of martial arts schools across New England. He trains his stand up at LA Boxing in Glastonbury, and trains his ground fighting in Springfield, MA, with Ultimate Fighting champion Gabriel Gonzaga.

"The key to success is working with different styles of fighting," he said.

Kollar said the "self-discipline involved with training for a fight is tremendous," and added that "the real benefit is the ability to take this self-discipline and apply it to other aspects of your life."

Kollar is president of the fight company the North American Grappling Association (NAGA). He promotes 24 fights each year, spanning from Honolulu to Miami, FL. He also has been a referee and judge for the Ultimate Fighting Championship, and provides commentary for FOX Sports Net.

For more information about MMA or attending MMA events, call Kipp Kollar at 295-0403 or visit [nagafighter.com](http://nagafighter.com).

## Portland Blaze at North End of Town Destroys Barn

by Michael McCoy

Fire officials said Thursday they are still investigating a Sunday afternoon blaze that leveled a storage barn located just south of the Glastonbury line.

According to Portland Deputy Fire Chief Jim Lynch, 40-45 officials responded to the fire, which was called in around 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. The fire destroyed a 50 ft. by 75 ft. two-story wooden barn used to store lawn care equipment. It was situated on the property of Douglas Roberts, just behind his home on 189 Isinglass Hill Rd.

"It was fully involved on our arrival," Lynch said. In addition to Portland, firefighters from Glastonbury and East Hampton aided in the effort. East Hampton also lent the use of an engine, and both towns brought tankers, Lynch said.

Despite the fact that a small apartment, inhabited by a family member, had been added to the rear of the barn, no one was injured, Lynch said.

"My guys did a tremendous job knocking the fire down as fast as they did," Lynch said, adding that the flames were completely extinguished within about 15 minutes. "They

hit it hard with all the water that they had, until they ran out of water."

Lynch estimated that when all was said and done, about 42,000 gallons of water were needed to put out the blaze.

Though no one suffered injury, many of the firefighters became fatigued while fighting the blaze. "The heat was a factor," Lynch said. "People were getting tired."

Fire officials remained on the scene until about 6 p.m., cleaning up the area, Lynch said.

"Basically, there's not much left to it," Lynch said. "The full barn was just engulfed."

Assistant Fire Marshal Pete Willse is leading the investigation into the fire's cause but, Deputy Fire Marshal Ray Sajak said Thursday, "We're still investigating, and we're waiting to view some further evidence."

Sajak added that "we're trying to see how fast the fire moved and where it moved from."

Sajak said an excavator had to knock down what little was left of two walls and some of the barn's roof structure, due to safety issues. "That hampered our investigation," he said.

## Hebron Town Manager Gets Mixed Reviews from Selectmen

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen presented its annual review of the town manager last week, and while their marks weren't particularly low, the selectmen certainly seem to feel there is room for improvement.

Town Manager Jared Clark received a score of 3.5, out of a possible 5, from the Board of Selectmen (BOS) during its meeting last week. Clark became town manager a year and a half ago.

In their review, selectmen focused on both job specific and universal town employee objectives. The former included how well Clark developed the budget, conducted union negotiations and moved the Village Green project forward. Universal evaluation criteria included overall job skills, job performance, public relations skills, personal characteristics, and supervisory skills.

Each selectman rated Clark on a scale from 1-5 for each of the 10 categories. These categories, weighted for level of importance, determined Clark's final score, a 3.5125.

While the town conducts annual reviews of the town manager's performance, the evaluations haven't, in recent history, taken part at an open meeting. This year's change came at Clark's request.

"The purpose of the review," he said, "is to increase understanding and communication between the Board of Selectmen and the town manager. This is best illustrated by conducting the review in front of the community."

Clark said the town is in the process of developing an evaluation system for all employees, and that he offered himself to be a "guinea pig." The town will begin implementing the townwide evaluation process next year, although those reviews will be conducted in executive session.

According to the selectmen, Clark's biggest asset to Hebron is his personal charac-

teristics. He scored a 4.3 in this area. Also listed as a strength was Clark's preparedness and ability to conduct negotiations with the town's clerical union.

"When he was hired, we needed Jared to come in and hit the ground running," Selectman Mark Stuart said after the meeting. "His willingness to do that and knowledge of how to run a town are certainly assets to Hebron."

But, as the overall rating suggests, Clark also received some less-than-satisfactory remarks during the review. He got a 3.1 for his overall job performance and a 2.6 for presentation of the new personnel policies and procedures.

"Jared, sometimes you've been unprepared and it's been reflected in not being able to answer a question," Selectman David Schoolcraft said at last Thursday's meeting.

Selectman Victoria Avelis added, "I'd like to see Jared get to the point a little faster."

After the meeting, Clark took a positive approach to the selectmen's comments.

"Sure, I'd have liked to get a higher evaluation but I see their requirements and demands as being constructive," he said. "The community has a Board of Selectmen with high expectations of the town manager and all the town employees in other departments."

One major area Clark is focusing on is keeping in close contact with each board member. "In the past the town manager has primarily worked through the chairman," he said. "That process will require a little fine-tuning but the outcome will hopefully be a Board of Selectmen functioning unified."

For example, Clark said, he will start with reinstating a regular e-mail to each board member updating them on projects around town.

"Our goal is to promote understanding and to stay on the same page," he said. "Both things that are well within our reach."

## Man Arrested After Dramatic Lake Rescue in Marlborough

by Sarah McCoy

A Marlborough man was charged last week with four counts of reckless endangerment and one count of breach of peace after swimming into the middle of Lake Terramuggus with a razor blade, prompting a lengthy and dramatic rescue.

Firefighters, state police and fellow citizens helped rescue Ryan McCutcheon, 21, of 31 Keirstead Cir., from the lake late Friday night, Aug. 3, state police said.

Police said they received a call at 9:18 p.m. from a woman reporting that a male had been drinking and speaking of harming himself. Trooper John Ceruti of the Troop K barracks in Colchester responded and reported seeing McCutcheon standing on a rock on the south end of Lake Terramuggus.

As Ceruti got closer, police said, McCutcheon ran into the water. He initially stopped at a floating dock, police said, and then ran into the middle of the lake, out of sight from the shore.

Along with state police, members of the Marlborough and Colchester fire departments were both on scene to assist in the rescue efforts, according to police.

State police said they deployed a motorized boat, while Colchester Fire Department responded with their inflatable Zodiac boat, and two local residents provided pontoon boats for emergency personnel to use in the search.

The Trooper One state police helicopter patrolled the lake area from above, police said.

Police said that, after 45 minutes, the motorized boat with three troopers, including one dive team member, and a Colchester firefighter located McCutcheon.

"The subject was intoxicated, based on the evidence on the beach and the behavior of the individual," Ceruti said. "He was extremely belligerent and wanted no help."

As emergency personnel workers approached McCutcheon in the water, he began cutting himself and threatening anyone who offered help, according to Ceruti. Police reports indicated McCutcheon slashed himself causing injury to his forearm.

Emergency personnel worked for nearly an hour to calm McCutcheon down and encourage him to get onto the boat, police said. After discussion with state troopers, police said, he began to cooperate.

However, as McCutcheon was pulled onto the motorized boat, it began to sink. "When we shifted him onto the boat and added the extra weight, the boat couldn't handle it," Ceruti said. The boat "began to take on water and we couldn't recover."

The boat, carrying three troopers, one firefighter, and McCutcheon capsized in the middle of Lake Terramuggus, police said.

All of the emergency personnel were equipped with life preservers, police said, but McCutcheon was not and his hands were handcuffed.

"At this point our main concern was for his safety," said Ceruti. "We were able to secure the subject and we all grabbed onto the bottom of the [capsized] boat until one of the other boats was able to retrieve us."

The three troopers and McCutcheon climbed onto the boat of a Marlborough resident and rode to shore. A Colchester firefighter turned over the capsized boat and then also returned to shore, police said.

The rescue took about two and a half hours, police said.

McCutcheon was arrested was held over the weekend on \$50,000 bond, police said, and he was arraigned Monday at Superior Court in Manchester.

# Obituaries

## Marlborough

### Bonnie Mae Dzikiewicz-Polowitzer

Bonnie Mae Dzikiewicz-Polowitzer of Marlborough passed away on Thursday, Aug. 2, at Middlesex Hospital. Born in Hartford, daughter of the late Henry and Lorraine (Hart) Polowitzer, she was raised in East Hartford and had lived in Hartford for many years before moving to Marlborough recently. Bonnie worked as a controller for Message Center in Hartford.

She leaves a daughter, Nicole Dzikiewicz of Marlborough; a brother, Raymond DeMonte; two grandchildren, Skye Lavigne and David Lavigne, Jr.; her best friend, Diane Cratty of Rockville; and her former husband and lifelong friend, Edward Dzikiewicz of Colchester; three nephews, Victor Saimininkas of South Windsor, Ty Cody Dzikiewicz of Colchester, and Devin Cratty of Rockville; a niece, Heather Clayton of Broad Brook; a brother-in-law, Thomas Dzikiewicz and his wife Diane of Broad Brook; two cousins, Linda Rust of East Hartford and Pat Tierney of Virginia; and her Godfather, Martin Tierney of Richmond, VA. She was predeceased by a sister, Kathy Polowitzer-Saimininkas.

A memorial Mass was celebrated Tuesday, Aug. 7, at St. Catherine Church, 4 Windsorville Rd., Broad Brook. Burial followed in St. Catherine Cemetery, Broad Brook. Memorial donations may be made to Middlesex Hospital, Attn: Hospice, Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457. Samsel & Carmon Funeral Home, South Windsor has care of the arrangements. For online condolences please visit, [www.carmonfuneralhome.com](http://www.carmonfuneralhome.com).

## Colchester

### Olga Zlotowski

Olga (Fedorka) Zlotowski, 87, of Main St., Durham, formerly of Colchester, wife of the late Zigmund Szulczewski and the late Richard Zlotowski, died Wednesday, Aug. 1, at Middlesex Hospital. She was born in Olyphant, PA, the daughter of the late John and Mary (Markovsky) Fedorka. Prior to her retirement, she had been employed with Raphael's Department Store, G. Fox & Company, and the State Welfare Department.

Olga overcame insurmountable odds to live a long life that allowed her to enjoy her family. She unselfishly inspired and helped her grandchildren with her inner strength to overcome obstacles in their lives. Olga took pride in her looks and kept up with the latest trends in hair, makeup and fashion. She loved to shop! Her favorite TV program was *Super Nanny*. She enjoyed crocheting and was young at heart. She lived a prayerful life and was grateful for every day.

She is survived by two daughters, Marlene Clark of Durham, and Karen Mislivets of Cromwell; a son, Ronald Sulchek and his wife Leura of Sabillasville, MD; a step-daughter, Mary Ann Kopec of Stafford Springs; a brother, George Kasza and his wife Ceil of North Carolina; six grandchildren, Mark and Michael Ludwin, Heather and Cynthia Mislivets, and Todd and Ryan Sulchek; three step-grandsons, Matthew, John, and David Kopec; three great grandchildren, Connor, Cameryn, and Layne Ludwin; two nieces and a nephew. She was predeceased by two brothers, Theodore and Andrew Arpa; and a sister, Leona Mazurkiewicz.

Funeral services were Monday at the Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a funeral liturgy at Notre Dame Church, Main St., Durham. Burial will be in Burr District Cemetery, Higganum. Friends called at the Biega Funeral Home Sunday. Memorial contributions may be made to the Texas Heart Institute, Development Office, MC 3-117, PO Box 20345, Houston, TX 77225-0345.

## Portland

### Helen Johnson Hanson

Helen Caroline Johnson Hanson, cherished wife of George E. Hanson for 64 years, beloved mother of Shirley Hanson LaBrecque of Wilbraham, MA, Barbara Hanson of Cromwell, Carole Hanson of Coventry, RI, and Robert Hanson of New Britain, devoted sister, aunt, sister-in-law, grandmother, and dear friend, passed away peacefully on Monday, Aug. 6, in Portland.

She was also the devoted and loving grandmother to Nicole LaBrecque of Indianapolis, IN, Christer LaBrecque of Springfield, OR, and Michael Westcott of Coventry, RI. She is also survived by her sister Dorothy Ahlberg; her brothers Robert Johnson, and Edward Johnson, all of Portland; and was proud aunt to dozens of nieces and nephews. Her large extended family was her joy. She was predeceased by her brothers Philip Johnson, Richard Johnson, and Walter Johnson.

Born on March 4, 1921, Helen attended Portland schools and graduated valedictorian of her Class in 1939, the first class to attend the new school on Main Street for all four years. She had worked as bookkeeper/secretary for several area businesses including Anderson Oil Company, and later the Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company in Hartford. She later had worked as a librarian in Portland Central School and Valley View School part time for several years as well as in the office of the Superintendent of Schools. Helen loved children and always wanted to be a teacher.

Helen's father, Arthur (Johansson) Johnson, emigrated to the US in 1913 from Sweden, and lived in Portland with his wife Agnes Bjorklund Johnson. The Johnson and Hanson families were next door neighbors on Coe Avenue. George and Helen commuted to work together before they were married in 1943 while George was stationed in Florida during World War II. Helen had a strong religious faith and was a lifelong member of Zion Lutheran Church in Portland, serving on the Altar Guild and the Worship and Music Committee. Helen was an active and valued member of the Portland Historical Society. She was an accomplished seamstress and member of a sewing circle that met for over 40 years.

Helen loved music and gardening and she always enjoyed annual stays at Anna Maria Island, FL, with George. She was proud of her Scandinavian heritage and kept in touch with many Swedish relatives. She was a wonderful hostess, noted for her Swedish baking. She will always be remembered for her warmth and grace as well as for her strength and dignity during her illness and throughout her life.

Calling hours were Thursday night at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. Funeral services were Friday at 11 a.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church in Portland. Burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be sent to the National Alzheimer's Association, 225 N. Michigan Ave., Fl 17, Chicago, IL 60601 or to Zion Lutheran Church 183 William St., Portland, CT 06480.

## Colchester

### Joseph Zawalski Sr.

Joseph Zawalski, Sr., 89, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Aug. 2, at the Liberty Specialty Care Center in Colchester. A proud Army veteran, he served during World War II between 1942 and 1945. Mr. Zawalski was a machinist for Pratt & Whitney for many years before his retirement. He is survived by his son, Joseph.

Graveside services with full military honors were observed Monday at the State Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester 06415 for Mass offerings for the repose of his soul. Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

## Hebron

### Irving Russell Bogue

Irving Russell Bogue, "Russ," 75, of the Gilead section of Hebron, beloved husband of Carol, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 8, at home. Born Nov. 29, 1931 in Norwich, he was the son of the late Harlow Leon and Frances (Latimer) Bogue and grew up in Stafford Springs, where he helped run the family business, The Stafford Springs House. After graduating from high school, he attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He left school to serve in the Army as a cryptolinguist during the Korean War. Upon his return, he attended the University of Hartford, obtaining his degree in Mechanical Engineering.

His career included employment at J.M. Ney, the Burndy Corp. and the Rogers Corp; and he was granted several patents. On April 30, 1966, he wed the former Carolyn M. Liebler and they moved to Hebron. In his spare time, he enjoyed photography (and its teaching), woodworking, model airplanes and antique vehicles. Upon his retirement, he worked with his wife managing their flower business. Mr. Bogue was a member of the Ionic Lodge No. 110 A.F. & A.M. in No. Windham.

In addition to his loving wife of 41 years, he is survived by six children and their spouses, William and Karen Bogue of Hebron, David and Imelda Franklin Bogue of Andover, Edward and Diana Bogue of Colchester, Karlene and Paul Deal of Chaplin, Thomas and Heather Osborne Bogue of Orange City, IA and Michael Bogue and Elizabeth Leichter of Hebron; four grandchildren, Kaitlyn and Marissa Deal of Chaplin and Samuel and Anthony Bogue of Colchester; a cousin, Roxanne Shea of Texas; and numerous extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by a daughter, Mary Anne.

Friends called Friday morning from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The celebration of the Funeral Liturgy followed at 11 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Rte. 85), Hebron, with Fr. Michael Smith, officiating. Committal with full military honors will follow in the Gilead Cemetery, Hebron. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to Food for the Poor, 6401 Lyons Road, Dept. 9662, Coconut Creek, FL 33073.