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Tim Bacon is shown on his last day volunteering at a public school in Udaipur, India with most of the students he worked with.

Marlborough Student Spends His Breaks Helping Needy

by Kristina Histen

A Marlborough resident hopes to impact the world, one country at a time.

Tim Bacon, 20, an undergrad at the College of William and Mary (W&M) in Williamsburg, VA, isn't your typical "college guy." While most spend their spring breaks partying somewhere tropical, Bacon will spend the next nine days in Honduras, maintaining an orphanage and working on low-income housing.

Originally, Bacon planned on staying in the United States for his vacation, but an opportunity came up to travel to Central America by joining the nonprofit organization, Students Helping Honduras (SHH). It was founded by alumni of W&M, and the organization has been "incredibly successful," Bacon said. SHH seeks to mobilize and connect students throughout the United States and cultivate the spirit of volunteerism and global responsibility, the website studentshelpinghonduras.org said.

Several times throughout the year, students make trips to Honduras to work on service projects. While in the United States, they develop project ideas, fundraise, and spread awareness of the conditions in Honduras, the website said.

The main focus of this trip will be on the city of El Progreso, Bacon said, to help manage an orphanage that largely consists of children whose parents have died of AIDS. Because of the large economic depression, the group will also be working on low-income housing for those that live in poverty.

SHH is a relatively new organization,

Bacon said, and is "really inspiring how it can motivate people." The group holds huge fundraisers and has raised hundreds of thousands of dollars, he said. In April, SHH will hold a walkathon in Virginia, and hopes to raise half a million dollars from the event.

"It is very ambitious," Bacon said, "but based on past success, it is very attainable."

Next week's trip isn't the first of Bacon's world travels to do international service work. In the summer of 2006, he was fortunate enough to travel to Kenya for a month-long service project, largely through donations from community members in and around Marlborough. He got involved in another organization in Virginia, then wrote to various places for funding and was able to afford traveling and use a lot of that money for ongoing projects.

While in Kenya, he and other members of the organization did empirical testing by using plastic bottles to catch flies that cause trachoma, and also taught in the local school. Based on needs assessed, the organization was able to raise \$10,000 to construct an additional classroom to the school building and start a water spring protection program.

Bacon was then motivated to travel to India this past summer for three months to volunteer at a nonprofit public school, where he basically was an administrative assistant and substitute teacher. However, he really felt a need to make a lasting impact, so he got involved with students and

faculty to create an environmental action team. Because environmental issues are very important in India, he created an avenue for students to work with faculty to gain student leadership and raise awareness to the community. Some of these projects consisted of water testing, starting a compost pit, and writing to local newspapers.

This led him to South Africa for a semester abroad, where he studied multiculturalism and social change. He had the opportunity to stay with four different families and form connections with a variety of cultures in South Africa. Crime was out of control, he said, and he had even been mugged. Some of his favorite memories of the trip were visiting rural villages and playing soccer all day. He also recalled attending a barbecue that actually involved killing the cow first. During this experience, he was able to learn Isixhosa, an African language that uses clicks.

"Although cultures are so different," Bacon said, "I feel this bond with the places I've been and value having a connection with people I have met."

Bacon grew up in Marlborough and graduated from RHAM High School in 2005. He chose to attend W&M mostly due to the warm weather, but also because of an active service program the school offered. As a junior, he is currently pursuing a dual degree in Public Policy and Psychology. In the future, he hopes to tie his education and experiences together by

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getting involved in an organization that concerns itself with international development while impacting communities by providing beneficial home environments to live in.

While at RHAM, and presently in college, Bacon has interacted a lot with immigrants, he said. He has learned about problems in Latin and South America, and always had a desire to visit Honduras in order to get a perspective of what exactly is going on there. He can also speak Spanish relatively well, so he is excited to be able to use his abilities to make a difference.

“I just want to try and understand the conditions there,” he said. “I’m kind of jumping around from place to place, hoping to get an idea of these different places, so I can really choose one to make the largest impact. I try to do what I can, to make whatever differences I can, because I care about it. I’ve tried to finance the trip, and I’m hoping that as occurred in Kenya, anyone in the community interested in these projects and organizations will help donate a little.”

Bacon, who is very humble about his good deeds and his quest to help save the world, said he “doesn’t feel like he’s making these big sacrifices,” as he is trying to gain a “global per-

spective” to make the biggest impact possible.

Although the group is leaving today (Friday), donations can still be made to SHH. Checks can be made out to Students Helping Honduras, and donations are tax deductible. These donations help purchase backpacks and other materials, finance the program, and cut down on travel costs for volunteers. The money can be sent to Tim Bacon, CSU 2486, P.O. Box 8793 Williamsburg, VA 23187.

Bacon said he also encourages others to get involved. Before he came to college, he never considered getting involved to this extent, but once he was there, “the opportunities blew my mind,” he said. It’s not hard to get involved, he said, and there are plenty of people who are willing to help get you there. There are many grants allocated for service and international research, and it’s as simple as writing a letter and filling out an application to get involved in beneficial work, he said.

“This is not a one-time thing for me, I will continue to work with people,” Bacon said. “It’s just where I am. I couldn’t imagine doing this without the support. I’m a product of the environment, and I enjoy it. ... I try my best, and I care about it.”

Marlborough Police News

2/20-Wilbert Lee Jefferson, 38, of 125 Babcock St., Hartford, was charged with operation under suspension, misuse of plates, no insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, State Police said.

2/24-Molly Baglin, 54, of 32 Ironwood Dr., Vernon, was charged with DWI, State Police said.

2/25-Barbara St. Laurent, 56, of 61B Douglas St., Suffield, was charged with DWI and failure to drive in established lane, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

2/21-Edwin Lewis, 47, of 24 Mt. Sumner Dr., Bolton, was charged with exploitation of the elderly, failure to secure building permits-electrical and failure to secure building permits-plumbing, State Police said.

2/22-Jawan Potter, 34, of 489 East St., was charged with breach of peace, State Police said.

Colchester Police News

2/19-Robert Atkinson, 49, of 52 Berry Ln., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

2/21-Christina Colla, 30, of 7 Watson Dr., Danbury, was charged with falsely reporting an incident and five counts of second-degree harassment, State Police said.

2/23-Cody Nichols, 19, of 674 Deep River Rd., was charged with carrying a weapon, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

2/25-Danny Famania, 29, of 38 Vine Hill Rd.,

fused medical treatment and went on their way. “They were a little cold and a little wet but, all things considered, they were fine,” Andover Fire Marshall John Roache said.

Roache said the two men thought they were on a shortcut through the woods when they realized they were lost. “After about six hours they broke down and asked for directions,” he said.

According to Roache, cell phones played a major part in the rescue efforts of the two men. The men were able to stay on the line and speak with emergency personnel, directing them to their location along with lake. Being dressed appropriately for the weather also contributed to the success of the mission, Roache said.

Roache recommended that all walkers make sure they know their area, carry a cell phone, and, if possible, a portable GPS system to ensure safety.

Men Rescued After Snowy Walk in Woods in Andover

by Sarah McCoy

Two men were rescued from the Andover woods last Friday, Feb. 22, after a casual walk turned into a six-hour ordeal.

The Andover Fire Department responded to a cell phone call just after dark during last Friday’s snowstorm from a Hebron man, 26, and a Bolton man, 23, who reported being lost along Bishop Swamp Pond off of Gilead Road. (The Fire Department would not release the men’s names.) With the use of all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles Andover firefighters were able to locate the pair easily – but getting to them was another matter.

The two were located at the point of the lake, directly across from where the firefighters were located. It took some time but emergency personnel were able to maneuver through the mud and snow to rescue the men.

Once they returned to safety the men re-

Young and Old Recall Time Spent at Brownstone School

by Kristina Histen

“I didn’t know we had to pay for lunch,” Jeff Burgess, a member of the Portland High School (PHS) Class of 1969, said, as he recalled his first day at Portland Middle School. “That day we had ravioli, and I remember that because the whole school smelled like ravioli. When I went up for lunch, not realizing we had to pay and therefore had no money, I embarrassingly had to be bailed out by an eighth-grader... who used to be my babysitter. I think I still owe her 35 cents.”

This was just one of the many stories told at the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS), held Tuesday in the Margaret B. Downey Auditorium at the school. Though these days BIS houses fifth- and sixth-graders, the building has served at various points in the past 75 years as Portland High School, Portland Junior High School and Portland Middle School.

The anniversary celebration brought a small crowd of all ages who braved the torrential rain to hear a panel of guest speakers. The nine panelists ranged from a PHS Class of 1936 alum to a current sixth-grade BIS student, representing a cross-section of the building’s history.

The panelists shared their memories and experiences while interacting with the audience, causing laughter and head nods to those that related, and disbelief and widened eyes to those that didn’t. When the speakers were finished, the crowd was allowed to ask questions and tell their own stories. This led many senior citizens to break out in tune as the fellow classmates tried to remember the words to their school songs and former sports’ chants.

The nine panelists were Bill and Connie McBrien, Bob Johnson, Nan Child Zimmer, Rick Gildersleeve, Jeff Burgess, Phyllis Greene, Katy Jozus Mooney and Andrew Molloy

Donahue.

The McBriens were among the first students in the building when it opened as Portland High School and Junior High in the fall of 1932. Bill started as a high school freshman in the fall of 1932. He and his PHS Class of 1936 were the first to attend all four years of high school in the building. He played on the PHS basketball, baseball, and soccer teams.

Connie was a seventh-grader in the fall of 1932. Her PHS Class of 1938 was the first to spend the full six years of junior and senior high school in the building. She played piano in the PHS Orchestra and was a cheerleader for the boys’ basketball team. The McBrien’s children and grandchildren have also attended school in the building.

Johnson, of the PHS Class of 1940, attended junior and senior high in the building, and was among the 50 students who graduated of his class. While in high school he was on the track team and participated in the basketball program. His granddaughter, Jessica Wilcox, is a BIS sixth-grader and his grandson Colin Wilcox is a fifth-grader at BIS.

Zimmer attended both junior and senior high school in the building, and graduated in 1949. She was the assistant editor of the school newspaper, and a member of the Glee Club and the Drama Club. She had the lead part in the school play and remembers spending many hours creating decorative settings for the school proms in the gym, which was the first thing she went to look at when she came into the building Tuesday.

Zimmer also talked about practicing penmanship, and, “to date herself,” how they had to fill their pens up with ink. Her children Austin and Sally also attended school in the building. Zimmer also noted how great a year it was to

be celebrating because she also was 75, same as the school.

“I had an excellent education in a small town,” she said. “A lot of my classmates never left home. That says a lot about a place. We all love Portland.”

Gildersleeve was the discussion moderator for the night and also a past president of the Portland Historical Society. He was a member of the PHS Class of 1960, and among the last to graduate from the building before the new PHS location opened in the fall of 1960. Two generations of his family have attended school in the building.

By the time Burgess’ PHS Class of 1969 entered the building, it housed three grades of students – grades six, seven and eight – and was known as Portland Junior High School. He was a member of the band and ski club and played for the school’s baseball team in seventh and eighth grade.

“As a kid, I never thought I’d get in to the school,” he said. “Then once I was in, I thought I’d never get out.”

He shared some embarrassing stories about his first day and gave tips on how to stick paper towels to the boy’s bathroom ceiling. This was especially interesting to the current students who attended, and Burgess quickly was dubbed “the funny guy.”

Greene was a former teacher from 1972-2000, teaching American history and geography. “I’ve seen a large number of people grow up,” she said.

To celebrate the 1976 Bicentennial, Greene taught an elective class for eighth-grade students. The group researched Portland during the Colonial period and also created two murals for the school. Their depiction of the old

Penfield Hill School still hangs over the entrance to the auditorium. She had three children who went to school in the building.

Before Mooney graduated from the PHS Class of 1987, she spent her three years of junior high school in the Brownstone building. She played soccer and basketball during those years and was a member of the Chorus. She was also on the Portland Junior High yearbook staff.

In the 1990s, the junior high was renamed Portland Middle School. In 2004, the middle school moved to its current location on High Street, next to the high school. Its former home then became Brownstone Intermediate School.

Donahue and his twin sister, Molly, are sixth-grade students at BIS. They are the first generation of their family to attend school in the building. He serves on the Principal’s Advisory Council and is a member of the BIS Newspaper Club. He also had a role in the school play last year.

It seemed many of Donahue’s friends were in the crowd, putting him on the spot by asking him his favorite class, his favorite teacher, and what he liked about school. He talked about the new fitness equipment that replaced the “boring tennis courts,” and tried to explain how smart boards work.

“Some of the computers at the school are like ancient,” he said. “But it’s pretty good technology here. We have to help the teachers with the smart boards if things go wrong.”

Many of the attendees brought some of their old school memorabilia to display around the auditorium for others to enjoy. The event was co-sponsored by the Brownstone Intermediate School Parent-Teacher Organization and the Portland Historical Society.



Seventh-graders Megan Goode, left, and Marisa Wagner check labels at the Marlborough Food Bank where they volunteer every Tuesday.

Proposed Development Draws East Hampton Residents' Ire

by Michael McCoy

More than 70 people attended Wednesday's meeting of the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Agency (IWWA), voicing concern over Belltown Place.

Belltown Place is a development being planned by Pelletier Brothers of Glastonbury. The proposal would include 129 townhouse-style dwellings off of South Main Street.

The project is intended to be partly a Housing Opportunity Development (HOD), which is for residents or potential residents who make no more than 80 percent of the town's median income. According to the Pelletier Brothers' legal counsel, Mark Branse, that would include residents who make less than \$64,000 a year. Though not subsidized by the government, HODs allow developers to build more units per acre than normal in return for shaving 30 percent off of the fair market price. The idea is that a person might have the opportunity to live in a municipality they could not normally afford to live in.

In December, Town Planner David Dodes said the town's current HOD regulations allow a developer to build no more than five units per acre, but that this developer is seeking six or seven. A similar community that does not qualify as HOD would be allowed three units per acre.

The site plan refers to the project as "Belltown Place: A Townhouse Community". The development would be located on a 24.44-acre parcel of property and would consist of 92,102 square feet of building coverage.

At the applicant's presentation Wednesday night, Branse said that though some people may have strong feelings about the proposal being an HOD, this is "irrelevant," as, he said, the HOD issue is not in the purview of the IWWA.

After Branse made his opening comments, Pelletier engineer Jim Dutton, of Dutton Associates in Glastonbury, discussed the project. He said 12.5 percent of the property is composed of wetlands. Also, he said, 229,181 square feet of the property will be composed of impervious service, which includes rooftops, driveways, and other areas where water will run off instead of be absorbed. This accounts for another 21 percent of the property.

Dutton was followed by George Logan, owner and operator of REMA Ecological Services, also employed by the Pelletier Brothers for this project. He concluded his 30-minute presentation by saying, "There will be no adverse effects on any wetlands."

After all these presentations, the public got a chance to comment on the proposal. First to speak was Bill Reardon, 82, a lifelong resident of 55 South Main St. The crowd erupted in applause at mere stating of his name for the record.

Lamprooning the effects he expects to see should this project move forward, Reardon said, "I take issue with all of the 'wetlands.' It should be 'floodlands.'"

Reardon mentioned the history associated with the neighborhood and the town itself, but said this legacy would not continue "with people like this around. Not so you can have one guy make \$300,000 on one building."

Don Markham, who owns land north of the proposed development, said after the proposed development is constructed, "I don't want to find that I have swamps on [his land]. I'm not sure I want a desert either."

Logan assured him that the best business practices would be exercised, and that this would not be a concern.

Resident Paul Marsh, disputing earlier comments made by Logan, said he knew first-hand that the site contained vernal pools. "As a child, we used to collect eggs of salamanders and frogs," he said. "There are vernal pools."

March added, "I request that Inland Wetlands another walk there in the spring when these vernal pools appear." (IWWA members went on a site walk of the property in December.)

Logan responded that while frog eggs were found, no pools were. Acknowledging that the pools must exist somewhere, he assumed they were located on an abutting property, which he would not have easy access to.

Steve Jeffries, who said he moved to town within the past few years, made an emotional appeal, acknowledging how displeased the crowd seemed: "I don't want the lives of the people who are really invested in the town to become history."

A weary Jeff Foran, chairman of the IWWA, called to continue the public hearing to their next meeting on March 26. The various representatives of Belltown Place promised to address all questions at that date that they could not address Wednesday evening. Foran anticipated the meeting would once again take place at Portland Middle School, but said a formal decision would be made closer to that meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission will conduct a public hearing concerning the development next Wednesday, March 5, at 7 p.m., also at the middle school, 93 High St.

Marlborough Food Bank Looking for Donations

by Kristina Histen

The holiday season may (finally) be over, but the Marlborough Food Bank hopes that community members still feel the spirit of giving in their hearts.

Usually this time of year is the hardest for food banks; donations seem to cease, after checks given at Christmas and food dropped off at Thanksgiving. However, the Marlborough Food Bank is open 12 months a year, and continuously needs the support of the community, especially during this time.

Despite it being a low point for food banks, donations so far have been better than in the past, Linda Cherry, Marlborough Food Bank Manager said. Unfortunately, though, they have more customers than in past years, continuing the problem of balance.

"It's about evening the stuff coming in and the stuff going out," she said.

Marlborough Food Bank differs from others because it is considered a "client choice" food bank. This means that those that use the service are able to "shop" and choose what items they prefer, with some limitations depending on family size. The shelves continually empty to support the more than 100 individuals that use the resources regularly.

Some of the main issues for families in need are the high costs of gas for cars and fuel to heat homes.

"People in low income have 'x' amount of dollars," Cherry said, "and if they have to spend more money on other things, they have less money for food."

School vacation also hits hard because most kids are on a free or reduced-price lunch, but when they are home all the time, they need to eat, adding to the costs.

Currently, the Marlborough Food Bank serves about 36 families on a regular weekly basis, and has done so since December 2005. They are also a member of Food Share and receive some foods through grant programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and State Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Cherry said sixth graders Ian Scruggs, Justin Martin, Brian Wilcox and Matthew Roskin have taken advantage of their sixth grade community service project to help out the local food bank by putting out collection boxes for non-perishable food items and toiletries. These have been put in place since the second week of January, and supposed to end Feb. 1, but due to the urgent request from the food bank, they have extended the date through today (Friday).

The boys originally were going to hold a bake sale for their community project and give all the money raised to the food bank, but realized that would "be too hard," Matthew said. They then decided on the collection boxes, which so far, have collected 1,295 items, his mother, Jill Roskin said.

"I feel good about being able to give so much food," Matthew said, "and I'm glad to help out."

Collection boxes are stationed around Marlborough Elementary School, 25 School Dr., Town Hall, 26 North Main St. and the Public Library, 15 School Dr.

"It has just been a wonderful experience for the kids," Jill Roskin said. "They have been so into it since the beginning, and when they received the urgent request they were all over it."

Hopefully, that is just the start of the kind-

ness showed around Marlborough, because the month of March marks the beginning of a fundraising drive to apply for the Feinstein Grant. Founded in 1991 by Alan Shawn Feinstein of Rhode Island, the Feinstein Foundation is "dedicated to the alleviation of hunger, the importance of community service in education and the values of caring, compassion and brotherhood," the website www.feinsteinfoundation.org said. For the 11th straight year, the Feinstein Foundation will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide, using it to help them raise funds from March 1 to April 30, the site said.

During these spring months the foundation makes contributions to food banks around the country, based entirely on how much the local community is willing to give, Joanne Goode, a volunteer at Marlborough Food Bank and a local resident, said. The more raised locally, the better the matching grant, Cherry said, and all items donated are valued at a dollar.

"It is my hope that the community will step forward during March and April to support this effort with financial donations and food items," Cherry said.

The million dollars will then be divided proportionately among all agencies complying with a minimum of \$250 and a maximum of \$50,000 to participating agencies, the website said.

Last year the Marlborough Food Bank raised around \$9,000, receiving about \$300 from the grant, Cherry said.

"The main focus is on giving," she said. "Everything helps and everything makes a difference."

During the month of March, a group of Marlborough girls from RHAM middle and high school will be at locations around the community and in the area grocers, Goode said. They will be collecting cash donations and food items to support the food bank because of the additional donations it needs to obtain as great a contribution from the Feinstein Grant as possible, she said.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for Marlborough to show its neighbors that we all care," Goode said.

Some examples of donations needed are canned meat, canned fruit (fruit juices offer vitamins), dry milk (since milk is not available), hot chocolate, toothpaste, cooking oil, jelly, cookies, tea, dry soups, chicken or beef broth, condiments, spices, salt and pepper, brownie mix, puddings and pudding mix (not gelatin), shampoo, conditioner, laundry detergent, etc. Money contributed is used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables, cheese, butter, eggs and frozen meats.

Donations can be dropped off at the Marlborough Food Bank, 3 Willhenger Dr. The bank is open Tuesdays from 10 a.m. to noon and 3:30- 5:30 p.m. Donations may be dropped off before those hours on Tuesdays if they are left on the covered front porch. E-mail marlboroughfoodbank.net or call 295-1241 if a different time for donation drop off needs to be made. The Food Bank also has a working phone, but there is no answering machine, so it is asked to call during open hours on Tuesdays. The phone number is 295-6008.

"We have a really nice support system of parents and community members," Cherry said. "We just try to spread the wealth to everyone."

New RHAM Administrative Offices in the Future?

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education Monday heard plans to move the administrative offices out of Liberty Drive and, instead, build an extension off of the high school.

Currently the regional school district leases over 2,500 square feet of space in the center of Hebron, at a cost of \$46,000 a year. Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski hopes to put this money towards something that RHAM will own forever.

Plans, done by the architectural firm Fletcher and Thompson out of Shelton, call for a 1,900-square foot extension to be constructed off the high school weight room. This addition would house Siminski, Director of Finance William Mazzara, and administrative assistant Kathy Mund.

“Right now we have more space than we know what to do with,” Siminski said. “This smaller addition would allow us to be at the school with the students and staff and it would eventually become something that we own.”

Estimates for the administrative office addition are around \$225,000. Siminski said that this cost would have no impact on the budget because the plan is take out a small note for the cost of construction and pay it down over six years using the monies that were allocated for rent. “By building and using the rent money to pay off the note, it eventually becomes something to eliminate from the budget altogether,” Siminski said.

Architecturally, plans call for the addition to have a consistent look with the façade of the current RHAM High School. The office would dogleg from the main building, running parallel with the counseling offices. Instead of installing new restrooms, the administrators would be able to utilize the existing high school lavatories.

Discussions surrounding the future of the

administrative offices began last spring, when the Board of Education authorized a preliminary study on the matter. Siminski said the district had considered moving the office within the existing high school, and not building an addition, but that plan was abandoned after security concerns were raised. “I get a lot of traffic that’s not necessarily student-related,” he explained. “By putting the office inside the high school we would be forcing visitors to walk through the mainstream of the school. I was just not comfortable with that.”

The current plan will have its own separate entrance with access from the parking lot.

The three-year lease signed by the school district for the Liberty Drive space will end in September. If all goes according to his plan, Siminski hopes to vacate the property and move into the new addition by the end of summer.

Board of Education Chair Sue Griffiths said that she “would like to see [the Board of Education] move forward” with the construction, but she was unwilling to speak for the entire board at this time. She anticipates the matter to be included on an agenda in the near future.

If the Board of Education does approve the plan, it would then take the matter to a district meeting, where eligible voters in the three towns will be able to cast their vote before any money is expended.

Also at Monday’s meeting, the Board of Education accepted the retirement letters from both RHAM Middle School principal Linda Crossman and Director of Special Education Brian Morin. Crossman has served as principal for the past seven years, while Morin has been with the district for the past eight and a half years. Morin also served as Interim Superintendent in the period between former schools superintendent Dr. William Silver’s departure in 2004 and Siminski’s arrival in 2005.

Wall of Fame in Works at RHAM High School

by Sarah McCoy

Come next fall, RHAM High School students will have an opportunity to look forward by looking back.

The school has recently decided to begin a Wall of Fame, honoring select RHAM High School alumni and inspiring the current students.

The idea came from former RHAM High School English teacher Kathy Heatherly, who attended the Stamford High School Wall of Fame induction for her sister and brother-in-law. She presented the idea to Principal Scott Leslie, who jumped on board.

“It’s about recognizing our past students and inspiring our current students to look beyond the four years they’re in high school,” Leslie said.

This week letters are going out to the boards of selectmen and education in the three RHAM towns (Hebron, Andover and Marlborough). Leslie hopes each board will contribute a representative to the selection committee for the RHAM Wall of Fame. These representatives, combined with members of the RHAM community, will decide who has earned the right to be enshrined at the entrance to the high school.

The committee will judge the nominated individuals based on their contributions to their profession or community. Inductions will be held every other year, beginning this com-

ing fall, at the RHAM Football Homecoming ceremony.

“This is a way of honoring those individuals who were raised in these towns and went on to achieve great success,” Leslie said.

The commencement of the RHAM Wall of Fame is set to correlate with two major milestones also occurring in 2008. Hebron will celebrate its 300th birthday and RHAM High School its 50th. “This year is all about appreciating our history and celebrating how far we’ve come,” Heatherly, who retired in 2004 but continues as a tutor at the school, said. “I believe honoring our alumni should be part of our celebration.”

Leslie believes the selection committee will have its hands full in the upcoming years. “There are so many individuals that come to mind immediately, it will be a special few that are chosen that first year,” he said.

The individuals will be selected based on their contributions after high school. “The idea is for our current students to look at the past alumni and realize, ‘Hey, they were in the exact same position I’m in and look what they accomplished,’” Leslie said.

The selection committee will be formally installed in April, at which point individuals may nominate RHAM High School alumni for consideration to the Wall of Fame.

Consulting Firm Hired for EH Town Manager Search

by Michael McCoy

The Town Council voted 5-2 Tuesday to hire Randi Frank Consulting to help with the council’s search for a new town manager.

This is the latest development in a saga that began last June, when the council fired long-time town manager Alan Bergren. Four months later, they hired Jim Thomas to fill the position, at the salary of \$118,000.

In December, two weeks before he was to begin his new job, the council rescinded Thomas’ contract, and then last month agreed to a “release settlement” with him, whereby Thomas was awarded \$60,000 and in turn would seek no legal recourse against the town.

Since Bergren left office last October, Public Works Director Bob Drewry has been pulling double duty as acting town manager. He has said, “I will do the best job I possibly can for East Hampton,” until a permanent replacement can be found.

According to Town Council chair Melissa Engel, during Thomas’s hiring process, the town paid recruiting firm Bennett Yarger Associates \$19,500.

Engel said Frank’s initial offer was \$13,000, but the price was reduced to \$8,500. Much of that savings came from Drewry and executive secretary Cathy Sirois agreeing to take on much of the clerical aspects of the job.

When Engel introduced the matter of hiring Randi Frank Consulting at a council meeting earlier this month, she addressed concerns about

shopping around for the job a bit more, saying, “I don’t think you’re ever going to get this price.”

Frank attended this week’s council meeting and addressed questions and concerns the council had.

Frank is an East Hampton resident, though his business operates out of Wallingford. She has a master’s degree in public administration from the University of Southern California.

Frank spent 20 years working for municipalities, the most recent position being assistant to the town manager in Cheshire from 1992 to 2000. That year, she started her consulting business and has since worked with such municipalities as Glastonbury, New London, New Britain, Tolland, Plainville, Waterbury and Stratford. Last year she led Norwich’s search for a city manager, a search that coincidentally ended with the selection of Bergren. More information about Frank and her company is available at randifrank.com.

Frank told the council members, “It is very important for me to know what you’re looking for in personality and management style.” Also, she told the council, “The more I know about your community, the more I can sell it to the candidates.”

Frank also said she works closely with colleague Bob Slavin, who has a consulting business in Georgia. They have worked together for six years.

Slavin has been involved in the consulting business longer than she has, and has recruited many town managers, while she’s only recruited Bergren. This led council member Scott Minnick to ask, “Why don’t we want to go with him?” Frank answered, “He charges a lot more.” Engel also said she likes the idea of hiring someone who works out of this particular area.

But Minnick seemed concerned about only being presented one consulting option and wondered why references had not been requested. “I don’t know what other towns that have worked with her think,” he said.

Councilman John Tuttle said, “It’s interesting you say that, Scott. No one ever left this town to go to Maine.” (Thomas had been the town manager in Old Orchard Beach, ME, until his hiring by East Hampton last year.)

Minnick retorted that references had been provided for the hiring of Thomas and added, “If you’re not going to go to another firm...you should have references.”

Councilman Susan Weintraub also wanted to consider more options, saying, “I just don’t think we’d be doing our due diligence without looking at at least one other group. I think the town is going to have an issue if things don’t work out and that’s all we did.”

But Tuttle seemed to feel confident in Frank’s credentials, saying, “She’s wired into this state.”

Weintraub also had another concern. Though Frank has led numerous personnel searches, es-

pecially for human resources positions, the only town/city manager she recruited was in Norwich last year. “I wouldn’t hire a tax accountant to do wills and estates,” Weintraub said.

Ultimately, though, the council voted 5-2, with Minnick and Weintraub opposed, to bring Frank on board. Engel anticipated that the council would address who exactly would serve on the search committee at their next meeting. The committee would work hand-in-hand with Frank once she goes through the first round of recruitment.

But there has been debate over this issue as well. Though the council has not yet discussed the makeup of the committee, Engel has made it known that she planned to appoint three current or retired town managers from within the state and three laypeople from East Hampton.

Engel said Tuesday this is a common practice when hiring chiefs-of-police. Also, after informing Frank of the plan, Frank asked Slavin how he felt about the committee’s constitution. Frank reported that, though Slavin had not employed it in the past, he saw no problem with it.

However, Weintraub said she had contacted head of ethics and advocacy for the International City/County Management Association Martha Perego, who told Weintraub such a practice would not be ethical.

The council is expected to further discuss the matter at its March 11 meeting.

Two Charged with Stealing from East Hampton Home for Sale

Two men were arrested Sunday after police say they stole items from a house that was up for sale.

Brian Halibozek, 27, of 47 River Rd., Haddam, and David Palmieri, 28, of 424 East Haddam-Moodus Rd., Moodus, were charged Feb. 24 with third-degree burglary, conspiracy to commit third-degree burglary, sixth-degree larceny and conspiracy to commit sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police report.

Police say that, on Feb. 24, Halibozek went to a private real estate showing at 19 Summit St., and brought Palmieri with him. While Halibozek was occupied with the real estate agent, police say, Palmieri secretly took items from the basement and placed them in the basement hatchway, so they could later be stolen.

After the real estate agent left, police say, the two men opted to stay at the residence and steal the items from the basement. (The home contains only a limited amount of property, police report.)

But the burglary was interrupted, police say, when the home's owners showed up. According to police, Martin and Polly Poulin,

who live at 25 Summit St. but also own the home next door at 19 Summit St., came home to find a "suspicious" pickup truck parked in the driveway at 19 Summit. Police say the Poulins watched as Palmieri and Halibozek began carrying items from the basement hatchway and loading them into the rear of the pickup.

Police say the Poulins then got in their car and drove next door, blocking the pickup in the driveway, to prevent the escape of Palmieri and Halibozek. They then called 911.

According to police, Martin Poulin confronted the suspects who, upon realizing they were unable to escape, became "highly apologetic" and waited at the scene for police to arrive.

The items stolen, police say, were a fence to a table saw, worth about \$200, and "some miscellaneous parts and equipment." The total value of the stolen items is estimated to be less than \$250, police say.

Palmieri and Halibozek were both released on \$15,000 non-surety bonds and are due in Middlesex Superior Court March 4.

East Hampton Police News

2/13 — A 17-year-old female juvenile was arrested for sixth-degree larceny, East Hampton Police report.

2/15 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was involved in a one-vehicle accident at the intersection of Lake Drive and Lakewood Road, police say. The juvenile was issued a ticket for traveling too fast for conditions, police say.

2/15 — Coty G. Rugar, 20, of 9 Brook Hill Dr., East Haddam, was arrested pursuant to a warrant on charges of disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and third-degree threatening, police report.

2/20 — Paul M. Rioux, 45, of 17 Staeth Rd., David P. McElroy, 56, of 34 Childs Rd., and Troy D. Hall, 39, of 147 Lake Dr., were involved in a three-vehicle accident on East High Street, 200 feet west of Princess Pocotopaug Trail, police report. Hall was arrested for evading responsibility and following too closely, police

added.

2/21 — Jason Penta, 37, of 41B Lake Dr., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police report.

2/21 — Jeffrey Cubeta, 32, of 24 Twelve Acre Ln., Glastonbury, was issued a ticket for using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, police report.

2/21 — Lisa Collins, 38, of 52 Ridgeview Dr., was issued a ticket for using a cell phone while operating a motor vehicle, police report.

2/21 — Deborah Gresens, 57, of 37 Spice Hill Dr., was issued a ticket for operating a cell phone while driving a motor vehicle, police report.

2/23 — Cheryl L. Kelley, 40, of 77 Daniels St., was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant on charges of disorderly conduct and second-degree failure to appear, police report.

Portland Police News

2/20 — Joshua Dudley, 25, of 15 Michele Dr., was charged with failure to respond to infraction, Portland Police report.

2/21 — Mark Whitlock, 42, of 54 Riverview St., A1, was charged with DUI, engaging police in pursuit and failure to drive right, police report.

2/24 — Justin E. Hughes, 18, of 738 East

St., Andover, was charged with possession of less than 4 oz. marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police say.

2/24 — Caleb J. Sonnichesen, 18, of 137 Ague Spring Rd., was charged with possession of less than 4 oz. marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, police say.

Obituaries

Portland

Robert S. Longworth Sr.

Robert S. Longworth Sr., 80, of Portland, beloved husband of Joan (Robinson) Longworth for 50 years, passed away Monday, Feb. 25, at Hartford Hospital after a lengthy illness. Born in Middletown, he was the son of the late Samuel A. and Harriet (Hubbard) Longworth. Bob graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown with a B.A. degree in economics.

Following graduation, he entered into a training program with the former American Cyanamid Co., Atomic Energy Division, at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee, was then assigned to the American Cyanamid plant in Idaho Falls, ID. Following the conclusion of company operations at the National Reactor Testing Station, he returned to Connecticut and took a position in the Hardware Division of The Stanley Works in New Britain where he worked until his retirement in 1985.

Besides his wife, Bob is survived by three sons who loved him dearly: Richard Longworth and his wife Robin of Durham; Robert Longworth, Jr. of Scottsdale, AZ; David Longworth and his wife Nancy of Meriden. He also leaves much-loved grandchildren: granddaughters Jennifer of Prescott, Arizona; Jacqueline and Katherine of Meriden; grandson Samuel and step granddaughters Amanda and Andrea of Durham. A Memorial Service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 1, at the First Congregational Church, 554 Main St., Portland and interment will be private in Pine Grove Cemetery. The family will receive friends following the service in the church fellowship hall.

There will be no calling hours and in lieu of flowers, friends may make donations in Bob's memory to the Henry Low Heart Center, 80 Seymour St, PO Box 5037, Hartford, CT 06101-9960, or to The First Congregational Church, 554 Main St, Portland, CT 06480. Messages of condolences can be made to the family at www.doolittlefuneralservice.com. The Doolittle Funeral Home in Middletown is in charge of arrangements.

Marlborough

Joanne C. Quaranto

Joanne C. Quaranto, 71, of Marlborough, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 20, at Hartford Hospital with her loving family by her side. She was the beloved wife of Franklin A. Quaranto. Born in Providence, RI on March 17, 1936, she was the daughter of Antonio and Raphaela Calabrese. Joanne spent her professional career as a dedicated RN for 50 years, working in hospitals, as a public health nurse, a school nurse, the VNA, and in pediatrics. She was a loving wife, mother and grandmother who will be missed by all who knew her.

Besides her husband, she is survived by son Paul Quaranto of Wallingford; two daughters, Barbara D'Amato of Shelton, and Tony Tyler of Port Washington, NY; three grandchildren, Stephanie D'Amato, Christopher Morris, and Thomas Morris; a brother, Mario Calabrese of Cranston, RI; and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by a daughter, Laura, in 1982; and a brother, Carlo Calabrese.

Calling hours were Sunday, Feb. 24, at the Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Feb. 25, at St. John Fisher Church, 30 Jones Hollow Rd., Marlborough. Burial followed in Marlborough Cemetery. Donations in Joanne's memory may be made to the Pettengill Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447-0308, or to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Avenue, Meriden, CT 06450.

Portland

Margaret M. Manzolli

Margaret M. Manzolli, 95, formerly of Waterbury and Wolcott, passed away peacefully at Portland Care & Rehab Center on Wednesday, Feb. 20. Born in Waterbury, she was the daughter of the late William and Margaret (Kenny) Sheehy. Margaret was a graduate of Leavenworth High and St. Mary's Hospital School of Nursing where she was a private duty nurse and a member of St. Mary's Alumni Association.

Mrs. Manzolli was predeceased by her loving husband of 68 years, Vincent V. Manzolli and her daughter, Ernestine Belfiore. She is survived by her two daughters and their spouses, Peggy and Thomas Accuosti of Southbury, Rita and Douglas Bransfield of Portland; her son, Vincent Manzolli and his wife, Marianne of Yoe, PA; 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

Her funeral was held Tuesday, Feb. 26, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of Saint Mary, Portland. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery, 2324 East Main St., Waterbury. Family and friends were invited to pay their respects Tuesday, Feb. 26, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Portland Volunteer Fire Department, c/o Chief Shea, PO Box 71, Portland, CT 06480 or to the charity of one's choice.

Portland

Ernest W. Tobler

Ernest W. Tobler, 92, beloved husband of the late Ruth Edith Tobler died on Wednesday, Feb. 20, at his home. He was born Aug. 30, 1915, in Middletown where he attended local schools. Ernest was a longtime resident of Portland and a member of Trinity Episcopal Church. He was self-employed as a painter. Ernest was a very generous individual who gave his time to everyone. He especially enjoyed caring for animals and adopted many pets over his lifetime.

Ernest is survived by his sons: William Tobler and his wife Joanne of Bonita Springs, FL, and Gary Tobler and his wife Piper of Portland; five grandchildren, Chantel Miniero, Matthew Tobler, Amanda Tobler, Cory Tobler and Bryant Tobler, his great grandchild Jameson Miniero and a very special friend Lorraine Bastura.

His funeral service took place Sunday, Feb. 24, at Trinity Episcopal Church, Portland. Interment followed in Trinity Cemetery. Family and friends paid their respects on Saturday, Feb. 23, at the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts in his memory be sent to Trinity Episcopal Church, 337 Main St., Portland, CT 06480.

Colchester

Thomas M. Pacholski

Thomas M. Pacholski, 93, of Colchester and formerly of Orland Park, IL, widower of the late Katherine (Maslowski) Pacholski, passed away Wednesday, Feb. 27, at home surrounded by his loving family. Born Dec. 29, 1914 in Chicago, IL, he was a son of the late Michael and Marie Pacholski. On April 24, 1937, he and Katherine were married and shared 63 years together before she predeceased him on February 12, 2001.

Mr. Pacholski was a maintenance engineer for Oppenheimer Casing Co. for many years before his retirement. In his spare time, he was an avid woodworker. He was a communicant of St. Julie Billiart Church in Tinley Park, IL before moving to Connecticut in 1998, where he attended St. Andrew Church in Colchester.

He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Edwin Geiger of Colchester, with whom he made his home; his son-in-law Gene Visockis of Elwood, IL; eight grandchildren; eight great grandchildren; two sisters, Loretta Schonscheck of Missouri and Dorothy Friel of California; and numerous extended family members and friends.

In addition to his wife, he was predeceased by a daughter, Marcia Visockis.

Friends may call Saturday morning, March 1, from 10 to 11 a.m., at the Colonial Chapel, 15525 73rd Ave., Orland Park, IL. The celebration of the Funeral Liturgy will follow at 11:30 a.m. at St. Julie Billiart Church, 7399 West 159th St., Tinley Park, IL. Entombment will follow in the Resurrection Cemetery, Summit, IL.

Donations in his memory may be made to St. Julie Billiart Church. Care of local arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Colchester

William George Armfield Sr.

William George Armfield Sr., 77, of Lake Hayward, East Haddam, widower of the late Margaret Ann (Halko) Armfield, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Feb. 27, surrounded by his children. He said he could feel his beloved wife Margie with him as he ended his life's journey. His positive attitude and



strong will to live extended his life. Born Dec. 23, 1930, in Scranton, PA, he was a son of the late Austin and Mildred (Lewert) Armfield. A veteran of the Korean War, he proudly served with the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954. On April 22, 1957, he and Margie were married in Scranton and moved to Connecticut to start their family. Together they shared 48 wonderful years of marriage before she sadly predeceased him on Oct. 3, 2005. She was the love of his life and they were devoted to each other, their children and grandchildren.

Family, duty and honor always came first for him. He was a lead man and group supervisor for Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford for over 36 years before his retirement in 1993. He prided himself on being hard-working from a young age, mechanical, driven, smart, responsible, handy, positive and mathematically gifted. William was an inspiration in his attitude of overcoming challenges and looking for the best in every situation. In his earlier years, he enjoyed roller skating and was a professional speed skater. He met his beloved wife roller-skating and continued to skate and swim until two years ago.

But most importantly on his life's path, he was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. He was a strong, encouraging role model for his grandsons and has been integral in raising them to be wonderful boys. His grandchildren were his pride and joy and he told them that he and his wife would always be with them.

He is survived by four children, Deborah Armfield of East Haddam, who cared for him unfailingly for the last year, Linda and husband, Kenneth Stewart of Lyme, William Armfield, Jr. of East Haddam and Susan Armfield-Britt of Norwich. He is survived and will be dearly missed by his much loved grandchildren, Bridget Stewart, Jordan Armfield-Britt, Colby Armfield-Britt and Quinn Armfield-Britt whom he was so proud of and a great grandson, Zackary. He is also survived by his siblings that he loved from Scranton, PA. They include Donald Armfield, Albert and wife Donna Armfield, Kay Armfield, and Millie and husband Bill Davis.

He was proud of the fact that he quit smoking 15 years ago and strongly encouraged everyone to stop smoking. In honor of this fact, all services are entirely non-smoking. Friends may call today, Friday, Feb. 29, from 5-8 p.m., at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester, where he had once served as an usher. Father Michael Giannitelli will officiate. Committal with full military honors will follow in the New St. Andrew Cemetery, Colchester. Education was very important to him. In lieu of flowers, he would appreciate donations in his memory for his grandchildren's college education. All donations may be made in care of William Armfield, 160 Geoffrey Road, Colchester, CT 06415.

How he lived his life is best represented by his favorite saying; "I'm on the job!" This was his way of showing that he was always ready for whatever life brought him. He was an amazing man whose life inspired others and will be dearly missed by all who knew him.