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Alicia Kureczka, left, and Molly Rathbun, center, walk off the field after the Sachems defeated Ledyard High School 10-0 on Tuesday. Rathbun is leading the way for the Sachems with a pitching record of 12-6 and a batting average of .564. RHAM plays Middletown High School today in the first round of the Northwest Conference Tournament.

RHAM Softball Pitcher Leading Her Team to Success

by Sarah McCoy

Before a game earlier this season, someone covered up the word 'RHAM' on the high school's softball scoreboard and wrote 'RATHBUN.'

With no disrespect to the other members of the team, that scoreboard adjustment sums up the season.

Senior pitcher Molly Rathbun is dominating from the mound as well as from the plate, as her Sachem squad heads into the state tournament.

This season Rathbun is setting all sorts of records. She's struck out 277 batters in 126 2/3 innings. In other words, Rathbun averaged 2.2 strikeouts every inning she pitched. She finishes the season with an earned run average of 0.28 – and a record of 12-6. Rathbun's coach, Steve Pernal, feels this last number is misleading. "Molly never gave up more than two runs in a game," he said. "And, in two of those losses, she pitched no-hitters. We, as a team, just aren't giving her offensive support."

With the Northwest Conference tournament set to begin today and the State tournament next week, Pernal is hoping his team can build on the momentum from last Tuesday's game. In the steady rain the Sachems poured on the hits, defeating

Ledyard 10-0.

And Rathbun proved she's more than just an arm, as she drove in four runs, going 4-4 with a home run, two doubles and a hard single off the shin of Ledyard's pitcher Jenny Forster. One of the few hitting pitchers in the state, Rathbun relishes the opportunity to bat. "It keeps me in the game," she said. "I'm the type of person who depends on myself so it's nice when I can help myself out by putting runs on the board."

Rathbun leads the team in virtually every offensive category including: average (.564), on base percentage (.667), hits (31), RBIs (24), and home runs (six). "In the time that I've been here," Pernal, who's in his eighth year of coaching the Sachems, said, "I don't think there's been anyone better."

Last year, Rathbun was named the team's Most Valuable Player. She was also named to the All-Northwest Conference and All-State teams, a feat she is hoping to duplicate in 2008.

"At the beginning of the year I set those as goals again for this year," she said of the all-conference and all-state selections. "But, I'd trade those in if our team could

get passed the second round of the state tournament."

This year, 26 teams qualified for the Class L State Tournament. RHAM is seeded seventh and will, most likely, play its first round game on Tuesday at home against 26th seed East Haven. Rathbun is looking for her second state championship of her senior year. She led the volleyball team to its first state title in the program's history last fall.

Next year, Rathbun will take her passion for both sports down Route 66 to Eastern Connecticut State University (ECSU). While Pernal believes that his star has the talent to play Division 1 softball, he has no qualms about her decision. "It's the perfect fit for her," he said.

At ECSU, Rathbun will have an opportunity to play both sports, major in Physical Education and remain close to Hebron where her mom, dad, and two sisters still live. "When I toured the campus and met the coaches, I just fell in love with the place," Rathbun said. "It's certainly going to be hard leaving RHAM but I'm excited for the future."

She isn't thinking too much about the
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future right now, though. Rathbun is working on her control and getting more movement on her pitches. She's focused on today's game against Middletown (the Sachems have an 0-2 record against the Blue Dragons). "Pretty soon, for the seven seniors on the team, it's going to get to the point where every pitch could be the last in your career. Every ground ball could be the last one you ever field," she said. "It just makes me want to make the most of each play and each game."

That's the type of attitude Pernal has come to expect from his captain. Rathbun and her battery partner, Brianna Yardis, have been a part of the RHAM Varsity Softball team for four years, captains for the last two.

"Dependable. Consistent. She's just an extraordinary talent and a great kid with a lot of character," Pernal said. That's why Pernal nominated Rathbun for the Connecticut Player of the Year.

"Yes, talent is part of it, but, in Molly, you couldn't get a nicer kid," he said. "She's such a positive role model and is respected not only by her peers, but the faculty as well."

The Sachems take on Middletown High School today at 4 p.m., at the RHAM High School field, 85 Wall St., Hebron. At 4 p.m. If they win, RHAM would move on to the Northwest Conference Tournament finals against the winner of Berlin and Plainville on Saturday.

Pernal sounded optimistic about the Sachems' chances – thanks to Rathbun.

"With Molly on the mound, it puts us in a place to win every game," he said.



Molly Rathbun ended the regular season with a microscopic earned run average of 0.28. Her Sachem softball squad takes on the Middletown High School Blue Devils this afternoon at RHAM.

Two Arrested After Chase By Off-Duty Corrections Officer

by Kristina Histen

Two teens were arrested after an off-duty corrections officer chased after them when they abandoned a stolen luxury vehicle on the side of Route 2 last Friday, state police said.

According to a police investigation report, Miles Frazier-Nevers, 18, of 20 Deerfield Ave., Waterford, and a 16-year-old New London resident had allegedly been homeless for several weeks and had trouble finding food. The 16-year-old had been in Ledyard checking unlocked cars for money when he found a Mercedes Benz with the keys in it, the report said. He took the car and drove it to New London where he met Frazier-Nevers, the report said.

On Friday, May 16, the two were driving up to Hartford when the vehicle crashed when the 16-year-old operator allegedly fell asleep at the wheel after smoking marijuana on the way, the report said.

At about 4:30 p.m. that afternoon, State of Connecticut Department of Corrections Officer William Finney Jr. was driving through Marlborough westbound on Route 2 with his family when he saw the two young men leaving the crashed Mercedes Benz in a ditch, the report said.

As Finney approached the vehicle, the two young men ran up an embankment, State Police said. According to Sgt. Mike Hassett, supervisor of the investigation, Healy had "a gut feeling" the car was stolen, and therefore chased the teens up the hill with his two stepsons.

When Finney and his stepsons caught up with the two young men in the woods at the top of the embankment, they were able to de-

tain Frazier-Nevers, the report said. As Finney was talking to the two young men, the 16-year-old pulled out a gun from his waistband and waved it at him and his stepsons, State Police said in a press release. Apparently, he had bought the gun in Norwich several days earlier, the report said.

Using "verbal judo," a form of tactical communication training utilized in prison systems, Finney was able to persuade the 16-year-old to give up the gun, Hassett said.

Finney detained the two young men until two state troopers arrived at the scene, State Police said. Both teens were handcuffed and taken into custody, the report said.

Frazier-Nevers said he did not know about the gun or the circumstances of how the vehicle was obtained, the report said. An investigation revealed that the 2006 Mercedes-Benz was stolen from a residence in Ledyard last Thursday, May 15, according to State Police.

The 16-year-old was charged with three counts of second-degree attempted assault with a firearm, first-degree larceny of a motor vehicle, possession of marijuana, possession with intent to sell, carrying a firearm without a permit, weapon in a motor vehicle, alteration of firearm identification, failure to drive in the established lane and operating without a driver's license, State Police said.

Frazier-Nevers was charged with first-degree larceny by possession of a motor vehicle, State Police said.

Hassett said Finney did a "great job" handling the situation and is recommending him for a medal of meritorious service.

New Deli in East Hampton Holds Grand Opening

by Michael McCoy

East Hampton welcomed a new business into the village center fold with a special Mothers' Day event.

The Center Cut, a deli and eatery located at 82 Main St., actually opened its doors in January. But, owner and operator Elaine Gagliardi said, "We opened quietly." Gagliardi said warmer months are friendlier to grand openings. So, with the help of the Economic Development Commission (EDC) and its consultant, Connected to Connecticut, the business held a grand opening Saturday, May 10, in conjunction with a village center promotion.

Gagliardi, a Colchester resident, was born and raised in Cobalt. She married her husband, Mike, on New Year's Eve 2006. Unfortunately, it was around this same time the two also found out they were losing their jobs. So, they put their heads together to make heads or tails out of the situation. During their honeymoon getaway to the Dominican Republic, she remembers, "We sat on the balcony and said, 'What do we do now?'"

"After a very stressful honeymoon, we decided we would try to find backers," Gagliardi said. According to her, their families were very instrumental in contributing some of the capital to start up their business.

When asked why the couple decided on a deli, Gagliardi responded, "It's what we know." She said she spent 33 years in grocery retail, most recently for a family-owned store in Marlborough. Also, her husband is a butcher by trade and previously owned his own shop in New Haven.

Gagliardi secured the lease on her location in September of last year. She and Mike spent the end of October through their January opening making over the space. Among other things, this included painting, redoing the floors, and erecting the deli counter/cooler. Gagliardi said the only thing contracted out was the electricity and the plumbing.

The grand opening was part of a village center promotional event that involved 15 businesses. Gagliardi's son Ryan Goodrich, a disc-

jockey, provided the music. "A lot of our regular customers came in," she said. A lot of people we haven't seen in a long time were there. It was a good day."

As for the business' name (it's a deli/butcher shop located in the village center), Gagliardi admitted the idea came to her in the shower. "I do my best thinking in the shower because you're all by yourself," she said.

"Everything you see here in this [display] case was made here," Gagliardi said about the prepared foods and salads, elaborating that the food is all prepared in a convection oven, since the presence of apartments above them forbids the business from having a stove top.

All the deli meat is Boar's Head. "It's the top of the line in my estimation," Gagliardi said, adding that the town seems "very responsive to the Boar's Head line." However, the one exception to the Boar's Head meats is the roast beef, which is made on the premises by Mike.

In addition to strict deli orders, The Center Cut also offers a variety of hot and cold grinders, the former category including steak and cheese, chicken parmesan, sausage and peppers, and meatball. They also offer a full array of green and mayonnaise-based salads. While these choices are perfect for lunch orders, The Center Cut also arranges party platters and is available for catering. "If you have a problem doing anything, give us a call," Gagliardi said.

Hot dishes include meat loaf, baby back ribs, stuffed peppers, stuffed shells and lasagna. Concerning the last two, Mike laughed, "We found in East Hampton, people like their pasta, but they don't want to make it."

The Center Cut's offerings cover the sweet as well as the salty. They offer muffins, cakes, cookies, stuffed breads, cheesecake, as well as produce. Senior Economic Developer for Connected To Connecticut Chris Edge described the eatery's blueberry cake as "to die for." But there aren't just sweets for breakfast; the place also makes breakfast sandwiches. And everything that is not pre-packaged or grown from a tree is prepared at The Center Cut.

In addition to all the regular offerings, The



Elaine and Mike Gagliardi celebrated the grand opening of The Center Cut on May 10. Behind them, from left, are EDC vice chairman Jack Hesen, Acting Town Manager Bob Drewry, EDC chairman Rich Leone and Town Council member Susan Weintraub.

Center Cut also has a daily special. When asked if any items have emerged as favorites, Gagliardi figured Mike's roast beef is the most requested cold sandwich, while the sausage and peppers grinder is their most popular hot offering.

The Center Cut also offers cuts of beef, pork, chicken, steak, and occasionally fish. The deli also features ground beef which, Gagliardi adds, is ground "to order, while you watch."

Gagliardi said Edge has been "really, really helpful, and we owe him a huge 'thank you.' He's listened to us."

Adding his thoughts on this new addition to the village district, Edge said, "I am very pleased that this new family-owned business has opened in the village. Center Cut is a great addition to a diverse mix of small businesses on Main Street, and is a great place for a huge sandwich."

The Center Cut is open from 6 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday, 7 a.m.-4 p.m. on Saturdays, and 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Sundays. Anyone with questions or wishing to place special or call-ahead orders may contact the business at 467-4486.

RHAM Middle School Students Get First-Hand Course in Diversity

by Sarah McCoy

Seven years ago, Tiffany Krupp arrived at RHAM Middle School, accepting a position as a guidance counselor at the Hebron school. The rural school, then home to almost 600 students, had only two dozen minority students. This was a far different number than Krupp was accustomed to, having worked as a guidance counselor at East Hartford Middle School for the past four years.

So, in an attempt to introduce students to other students from different backgrounds, Krupp and RHAM Middle School social worker Peggy Tunick applied for a grant with East Hartford Middle School. Since first receiving the Capitol Region Education Council grant in 2001, Krupp and Tunick have run the School Diversity program for select RHAM Middle School and East Hartford Middle School students.

"Our goal has always been to show students that someone who may look different than you may have more in common with you than you think," Krupp explained.

This year that became more and more apparent to students as they shared experiences. "We had more in common than I expected," Sean Petersen, a seventh-grade student at RHAM, said. "We like a lot of the same activities, the same subjects and the same types of music."

Last November, the students from the two schools were introduced at the University of Connecticut. It was a time for students to meet on neutral ground, get to know one another, and explore the possibilities that exist for them after high school. They toured the campus and spent time together, gradually overcoming the shyness that comes with meeting new people.

Students met again in January at East Hartford Middle School, where they toured the building and listened to a series of skits on tolerance. Together students sat in the audience listening and laughing at ridiculous skits of intolerance and realizing that, in many cases, the problems that plague one middle school, probably affect them all.

RHAM students were in awe of the size of East Hartford Middle School, which has 1,000 students. "They even have a pool," Anthony Rocco, a seventh-grade student at RHAM Middle School, exclaimed.



Students from RHAM Middle School and students from East Hartford Middle School have spent the past year getting to know each other a little better. Select students from both schools participated in the School Diversity program. The program was the brainchild of RHAM guidance counselor Tiffany Krupp — herself a former guidance counselor at East Hartford Middle School — and Peggy Tunick, a social worker at RHAM. It was devised as a way to introduce students to other students from different backgrounds.

In March the schools met again, this time at RHAM Middle School, for a Multicultural Lunch. Each student brought in a meal representing his or her heritage. They then enjoyed a smorgasbord of dishes from Puerto Rico, Norway, Italy, and many other countries. Krupp said that this event has been a success each year, with students not only enjoying the food, but trying new things and learning where dishes come from.

Earlier this month, students met for the final time, participating in a slew of team building activities and swimming together in East Hart-

ford Middle School's pool. "That was my favorite time," Rocco said. "We had free time to get to know one another and learn about each other's lives."

Rocco said he observed some differences, such as how students dressed differently, but that didn't prevent him from developing friendships with students from East Harford.

"In a lot of ways these students are different," Tunick said. "But, just as important as recognizing similarities, is learning to respect differences. This experience allows students to enter the world beyond these three communi-

ties."

As students parted ways for the final time earlier this month, hugs were shared, e-mail addresses were exchanged and promises were made to keep in touch. "The students went past just being polite," Tunick said. "They formed relationships with students that they otherwise probably wouldn't have met."

Representatives from RHAM and East Hartford Middle Schools met again this week to evaluate the program's success and reapply for a grant for next year.

The Abduction That Wasn't in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

A five-year-old Hebron girl who late last week said she had been abducted quickly recanted her story, but not before sparking a police investigation.

On Thursday, May 15, the young girl was found about a half-mile from her Brighton Road home by two women in the neighborhood, State Police spokesman Trooper William Tate said. After she returned home, the girl told her parents that an older white male with white hair and a white moustache asked her to get into his blue car, police said. The girl then reported that the man dropped her off in the adjoining neighborhood. She was not injured, police said.

The girl's parents contacted State Police at

about 6 p.m. that night.

After a series of interviews with State Police Detectives held on Friday, May 16, the young girl admitted to fabricating the story, telling police she walked away from her home to visit a friend in a nearby neighborhood.

State Police have since closed the case. No charges have been filed, and any further discipline will be handled by the family, Tate said.

Tate said reports of abductions are "extremely rare," but the parents did the right thing by calling the authorities. "From our side, no harm done," Tate said. "You have to take things at face value and not assume anything."

East Hampton Police News

registered motor vehicle, police said.

5/13 — Coryn H. Maselek, 32, of 491 West Main St., Meriden, was arrested pursuant to two warrants on the following charges: failure to respond to an infraction, creating a public disturbance, second-degree failure to appear, operating under suspension, improper tail lights and no headlights.

5/13 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested pursuant to a warrant for operating a motor vehicle under suspension, police said.

5/14 — A 16-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

5/15 — Ari Slossberg, 39, of 72 Abbey Rd., was issued a ticket for following too close, police said.

Colchester Police News

5/14—Dawn Gulizio, 43, of 10 Scofield Rd., turned herself in to State Police on the charge of failure to pay or plead, State Police said.

5/16-A youth offender was charged with breach of peace and third-degree assault, State Police said.

5/17-Peter Kevorkian, 23, of 44 Brainard Rd., was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, weapons in vehicle, possession out of container, improper registration and insurance coverage fails minimum requirements, State Police said.

5/19-Justin Muszynski, 18, of 32 Swing Ln., Wethersfield, turned himself in to State Police on the charges of manslaughter with a motor vehicle, DWI and reckless, State Police said.

5/20-Sera Thomson, 26, of 52 Loomis St., Hartford, was charged with driving under suspension, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and failure to have headlamp, State Police said.

Marlborough Police News

5/15-Keith Larensen, 34, of 77 S. Main St., was charged with DWI and failure to drive at a reasonable distance, State Police said.

5/16-Luis Dacunha, 37, of 66 Kimberley Rd, Newington, was charged with first-degree criminal trespass and second-degree breach of peace, State Police said.

5/18-Stephen Sargent, 41, of 47 Hemlock Dr., was charged with two counts of risk of injury to a minor and breach of peace, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

5/17-Shelley Lewis, 44, of 198 East Hampton Rd., Marlborough, was charged with breach of peace, third-degree criminal mischief and simple trespass, State Police said.

5/17-Nicole Dzekiewicz, 31, of 204 Route 66, Marlborough, was charged with simple trespass and third-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

As Expected, Residents Will See No Tax Hike

by Michael McCoy

It came as no surprise when the Board of Selectmen unanimously voted to set the mill rate at 26.99 Wednesday, May 21.

On Monday, May 12, a staggeringly low 9.1 percent of registered voters came out to pass the 2008-09 budget by a vote of 407-122. The spending plan came in at \$28.84 million, an overall increase of 3.03 percent.

The budget also included a projected mill rate of 26.99, the same number as the current year. This would equal a zero percent tax hike for Portland residents.

At their Wednesday meeting, the selectmen made the mill rate official with a 5-0 vote.

Portland Police News

5/9 — Eric Carrano, 31, of 1113 Portland Cobalt Rd., was charged with evading responsibility and unsafe start, Portland Police said.

Adamsons Announces Bid for State Office

by Michael McCoy



Portland's own Scott Adamsons has accepted the Republican nomination to square off against Jim O'Rourke this November.

Last Thursday, May 15, delegates from the 32nd General Assembly District (which consists of Cromwell, Portland and part of Middletown) nominated Adamsons during their convention at Cromwell Town Hall. The meeting was chaired by Portland selectman John Anderson. According to Anderson, no Middletown delegates showed up, and the Cromwell and Portland ones voted the candidacy forward 11-0.

"I've been interested in public office since I've been in school," Adamsons said, adding that he was a legislative intern during his junior and senior years at Central Connecticut State University.

The Republican candidate grew up in West Hartford. After graduating from college with a bachelor's degree in political science, he lived in Bristol, New Britain and Cromwell, before he and his wife Jennifer purchased their Spring Street home in Portland in 2003.

Adamsons, 34, went on to serve as treasurer of Portland's Republican Town Committee and served stints on the Economic Development Commission and the Board of Selectmen. Professionally, Adamsons is the Vice President of sales and business development for InsurBank, where he oversees the company's interests in most of the eastern United States.

Adamsons and his wife will celebrate their fifth anniversary at the end of the month. The couple has four children, ranging in ages from 10 months to four-and-a-half years.

Making it clear that he takes no personal issues with O'Rourke, Adamsons said, "Now, Jim O'Rourke is not a bad guy. In fact, I would say he's a nice guy. But he's been in for nine terms. That's 18 years."

"I'd like to think we can do better," Adamsons added. "I think 18 years is enough."

In 2006, the Republicans put up Stan Terry

of Cromwell to face off against O'Rourke; however, the incumbent beat him handily, by a vote of 6,518-2,915.

The candidate said fiscal responsibility, fighting double standards imposed by state government and the nurturing of small businesses would be priorities if elected. He also said, "Education should be affordable and attainable by anyone who wants it in the state of Connecticut."

Speaking to one of those aforementioned goals, Adamsons said, "Small businesses are the backbone of the state of Connecticut, but it's the big businesses that get all the press."

Adamsons first approached Portland Republican Town Committee Chairman Cindy Varricchio about a year ago, and shared his interest in running. According to Adamsons, Varricchio responded, "Give it time," which he said he interpreted as, "Jim's got a strong foothold here." Adamsons went to Varricchio once more several months ago, expressing his interest in running against O'Rourke in November. This time, she was receptive to the idea.

Adamsons then talked the matter over with his wife and, he said, "we sat on it for a couple of weeks." He elaborated, "If there was any doubt, I wouldn't do this, because family comes first."

Adamsons called the whole evolution of his candidacy "great" and added, "I do know it was an open process. ... Everybody has their idea of a political party being a closed machine."

In a press release from his campaign, Adamsons stated, "The process was designed to maximize participation among registered Republicans as well as increase the dialogue between the party and the electorate."

Of the towns in the 32nd district, Adamsons said, "The folks on these town committees have seen so much history. They're a great resource."

Citing his opponent's campaign name as "Citizens for O'Rourke," Adamsons proposed, "I think he has it backwards." Suggesting that a candidate is a community servant, Adamsons said, "My campaign is 'Adamsons for Connecticut.'" To this end, he pledged to keep his finger on the pulse of his constituency and promised, "I really want to know what my neighbors are thinking. They'll tell me more than any PAC [Political Action Committee] group."

Adamsons said "Being conservative is one of the most compassionate things we can do for Connecticut," and added that such an approach keeps the best interests of education and small business at heart. On the latter, he commented, "They have more on the table than we would ever know."

Vowing to transcend party lines, Adamsons said, "I would classify myself as a traditional Republican on a lot of national issues," but said he would back any initiative "if it represents compassionate government but also provides fiscal accountability."

"I do think on my own till," he said.

If elected, Adamsons said he only wants to fill the office for a term or two. "I'm not a career politician," he said. "If I can't do what I need to do in one or two terms, then maybe I'm not effective. ... I'm just doing my part as a citizen."

"I'm hoping that the people that live in my district are going to look at the economic situation," Adamsons said. "The government could have done a lot more to soften the blow of this economy, and they did nothing."

Adamsons reiterated that "Jim's had 18 years," and said, "We need a fresh set of eyes."

Adamsons said his occupation has given him a window into the lives that are being affected by the economy, but added, "You don't need to be a banker or an economist to recognize that people are really struggling these days, as each and every one of us are having to work harder and smarter to make ends meet."

"Too many people in this state, as well as employers, are at their breaking point," Adamsons added. "The mandate is clear."

No campaign events have been set in stone yet and, Adamsons said, "As of right now, what we're doing is formalizing our strategy." He added, "We want to make sure we are in total 150 percent compliance with the laws before we move forward."

Anderson called Adamsons "qualified" and a "worthy candidate."

"He seems like an energetic young man," David Bower, chairman of the Middletown Republican Town Committee, said. Bower said this marked a "contrast" between Adamsons and "the current incumbent." Bower said the 42-year-old O'Rourke "seems to have gotten

too comfortable with the ways of the Hartford labyrinth."

Commenting on Adamsons' candidacy, he continued, "I think he's going to give the voters of the 32nd district a very good choice... I hope his message resonates with the voters."

Chris Healy, state party chair for the Republicans, seemed to concur, saying he thinks Adamsons is "an exciting and energetic candidate who can shake things up and offer a reform agenda for the people of that district who are tired of excuses from Hartford."

Healy also said, "If there's a poster child for what's wrong with Hartford, it's Jim O'Rourke." When asked to elaborate, he continued, "Well, Jim O'Rourke has been a career politician. ... He's part of a whole culture of an incestuous government relationship." Healy suggested that something is askew concerning O'Rourke's job as state representative and his job working for a nonprofit organization. Healy called O'Rourke "extremely out of touch with his district."

Directing his comments back to Adamsons, he said, "I think his clarity of purpose is particularly refreshing."

Adamsons is also in the process of setting up a nonprofit organization that will be called the Aaron and Grace Neo-Natal Foundation, which would work to secure funding to provide staffing and resources for neo-natal units. Adamsons was inspired to take on this initiative when his twins, now 10 months old, were born 11 weeks premature.

Adamsons, impressed with the level of care he saw medical staff give his infants, wanted to help families that find themselves in similar situations. He described a hypothetical situation of a doctor giving an infant an 80 percent chance to survive, but only having the resources to give that child a 60 percent chance. "Shame on us," he said. The whole issue of helping neo-natal units, he said, is "something I can't ignore."

Commenting on the health of their youngest pair, Adamsons commented, "We've been blessed beyond measure, and we've got to share that blessing."

Anyone with questions or comments for Adamsons may contact him by e-mail at Adamsons08@AOL.com.

Invention Gets Local Kid in Marlborough on TV

by Kristina Histen

Every year, thousands of children throughout Connecticut are being recognized at the Connecticut Invention Convention (CIC), with some resulting in appearances on national television.

This year, a Marlborough youth was among those kids who gained national exposure.

Jack Caplan, 9, was featured on the May 15 episode of *The Ellen DeGeneres Show* with his new invention, the "Kid Finder." Jack may seem like any other fourth-grader with interests in soccer and basketball, but as the subject of features on local TV channels and now an *Ellen* installment, he's anything but ordinary.

"Jack is very articulate and very good at solving problems," his Marlborough Elementary School Enrichment teacher Karen Brennan, also on the CIC Board of Directors, said. "He loves to invent."

At the CIC last year, Jack had come up with the idea of recyclable shoots. The shoots went through the walls of the main house into the garage, separating various recyclables from each other and dumping them into trashcans that made it easy to stay organized.

While at the convention, Jack wandered off to see a friend's exhibit, causing his parents to panic because they didn't know where he was.

"We thought we had lost him," his mother, Susan Caplan, said. "We were terrified. As every parent has done, we've all turned around thinking our kid is there, and they're not and your heart races."

That experience led Jack to think there must be some way for parents to keep track of their kids. So, he invented "The Kid Finder." It's a simple contraption, consisting of a baseball cap with an antenna duct taped to the top of it that is then attached to a laminated picture of the person wearing it.

"Jack's is just one of those inventions that make you really laugh," Brennan said. "It's very clever. The younger kids thought it was the greatest thing ever, the older kids thought it was funny, but we were saying, 'I don't think I'd wear

one of those hats, I'd be too embarrassed.' He's got a cute little sense of humor."

The CIC was held this year on May 3; it was the 25th anniversary of the convention. Between 8,000 and 12,000 children attend the event, from about 80 to 100 different schools, according to CIC president Charlie Baumgartner, but beforehand, each group holds their own mini-local conventions in their schools to qualify for state finals, he said. From there, the winners are offered the opportunity to represent their schools and inventions at the convention, which is held at the State Capitol.

Baumgartner said the CIC is held at the Capitol "as part of our lobbying effort to bring children in so senators, representatives and the governor can see what these children are doing in school."

At the Capitol, Baumgartner, who has connections with producers of shows like *Ellen*, *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* and *Martha Stewart Living*, has judges fill out "secret forms," noting certain children that have great presentation skills, funny stories to tell about their inventions, an invention that is particularly marketable and/or speak well with adults.

"I look if the invention has some sort of unquantifiable ingenuity and pizzazz that looks cool, has an elegant design, is kept simple, achieves its purpose, gets people talking about it; if a little trigger hits me I know it will hit an audience," Baumgartner said.

It was at the Capitol where Jack was noticed. Baumgartner said he knew Jack's "Kid Finder" was the sort of thing DeGeneres would pick up on. After Jack's presentation at the Capitol, Baumgartner called the Caplans, asking for permission to release his name. Soon after, he called again, to tell them to produce and send a two-minute video about the invention to *Ellen*.

The family was on April vacation in Florida when they got the call from DeGeneres. Not only did she love it, but her executive producer did as well.

Jack was flown out to California with his father on Monday, May 5, and filming took place the next day. The episode aired Thursday, May 15. The next day, it was also featured on the show's web site, in a spot that features, Susan Caplan said, "always the most fun video segment of the previous day's show." The portion of *Ellen* with Jack was also put up on youtube.com, and he was even briefly featured on local TV news programs as being on the show.

During the show, Jack enlightened the crowd and caused eruptions of laughter with his invention. He even presented DeGeneres with her own "Ellen Finder," which prompted her to joke, "That's great, because I really, sometimes in a crowd, I like people to find me."

Not only did Jack have an experience of a lifetime, but he now also gets to enjoy a brand new laptop that he received from DeGeneres. He said that because he had already been interviewed for WFSB-TV Channel 3 on April 9 at the Capitol, he was only "slightly nervous, but not much" to be on national television.

He's tried out his own invention only once or twice, but he doesn't really wear it around because he's not big into shopping malls and his family only goes to Florida every few years. If "The Kid Finder" were to market, Jack said he wouldn't expect it to sell hundreds of thousands, but said it would definitely be something parents would take a look at because he's sure they would say at least once they have lost a child in a crowd.

It could sell at places like Disney World or Six Flags, he said, and maybe even some shopping malls. "If it were to sell, then I would want to go to Disney to see a few Kid Finders," Jack said.

Baumgartner said the CIC is "always having these kids on these shows. Connecticut is always in the forefront on having children on air and it gets other kids thinking about it. It's not about wanting them to go to be a TV star, but it goes a long way to inspire parents and



Jack Caplan, 9, (left) represents his latest invention, "The Kid Finder" with his sister Sophie, 7. Jack's invention led to his recent appearance on *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. (Photo by Susan Caplan)

inspire kids to feel like yeah, they can do something, they can come up with ideas."

It looks like Edison might have some competition...

For more information about the CIC, visit www.ctinventionconvention.org.

Candidate for Congress Visits Colchester

by Kristina Histen

It may seem like the only political race right now is for the White House, but believe it or not, others are vying for spots in the nation's capital.

This fact was driven home Wednesday as Colchester residents were able to meet and talk with Republican candidate for Congress, Sean Sullivan, who is running against the incumbent Democrat Joe Courtney in the Second Congressional District. Because of Colchester's size, Sullivan's campaign views it as one of the most important towns in the district.

It was also a big day for Sullivan because on Wednesday, around 3:30 p.m., Governor M. Jodi Rell endorsed him.

As part of his campaign, Sullivan plans to go to each of the 65 towns in the Second Congressional District, to speak with voters about their concerns and ideas on improving eastern Connecticut and America, Communications Director Andrew Powaleny said. In fact, before appearing in Colchester, Sullivan was in Stafford Springs Wednesday morning, and planned to go to Mansfield that evening.

"It's important in the early months and into the summer to be out in town because the biggest challenge is name recognition," Powaleny said.

Currently, Sullivan is an attorney in Norwich with the firm of Brown Jacobson P.C., the web site www.sullivan2008.com said. He lives in Gales Ferry with his wife of 25 years, Sharon, a second-grade public school teacher, and their four children. He holds a bachelor's degree in engineering from the U.S. Naval Academy, a Master of Arts in National Security Affairs and a law degree from the University of Connecticut. Sullivan retired from the United States Navy in 2006, after serving as Base Commanding Officer in Groton.

In 2005, Sullivan worked with key figures in Connecticut and Washington D.C., including the state's congressional delegation and the Rell Administration, to save the Groton base from closure, the web site said. As Base Commander, he forged strong ties with the civilian employee labor union and worked to modernize the Groton facility for sailors and their families, the site said.

Sullivan received an appointment in 1976 to

the United States Naval Academy from then-U.S. Senator Lowell Weicker, the web site said. Upon his graduation he joined the elite "silent service" and deployed for nearly two decades patrolling the world in submarines, the site said. He was a captain in the United States Navy and retired after 26 years of service. He also served in the Middle East during the first Gulf War.

While on shore duty in Annapolis, MD, Sullivan served as Navy Liaison to the House of Representatives. His civic activities included serving on the Board of Directors of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Eastern Maryland. In 1996 Sullivan became the commanding officer of the USS Jefferson City, a Los Angeles Class submarine, and, according to the web site, while commander he deployed to the Persian Gulf and he also re-enlisted more sailors than any other submarine in the Pacific fleet.

Sullivan returned to Connecticut with his family in 1999 and became actively involved with his community in Ledyard, the web site said. He served on the Ledyard Board of Education, chaired a Ledyard town effort to renovate the high school and joined the Board of Directors of the Ledyard Education Advancement Foundation.

Sullivan has also served as the director of the Military Affairs Committee of the Eastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce and the Governor's Commission of the Economic Diversification of Eastern Connecticut. He is also, according to his web site, an active member of the Ledyard Rotary Club, and as an avid outdoorsman, he and his family have camped at over 20 of country's National Parks over the last 15 years, it said.

During his visit to Colchester, Sullivan toured some of the local businesses like Noel's Marketplace and S&S Worldwide. He said he feels that, like all small businesses, they need help to be more competitive. He said he wants to increase opportunities for good jobs by reducing taxes and regulations on those small businesses, and thinks that businesses should be allowed to join health care cooperatives across state lines.

Sullivan also said he believes that health savings accounts and tax credits for individually purchased health plans will also relieve the costly burden of health care from small busi-



Sean Sullivan (left), Republican candidate for Congress, visited Colchester on Wednesday. Here he talks with Margaret Lattmann, a Colchester resident and employee of S&S Worldwide, about the benefits of working close to home due to rises in gas prices, before his tour of the manufacturing company.

said. He also said that part of the reason for the gas and energy price increase is the lack of building of power plants and sees the need to standardize nuclear power plant design to speed regulatory approval of new plants.

Sullivan said he really wants to connect with voters and focus on what's on their minds. He wants to know what people are thinking and talking about to get an insight of what they want in their lives. He also said he likes to ask why people live in Connecticut when he visits the towns in the district, despite how expensive it is, and it seems he always gets the same answer.

"People choose to live here because they like the small towns," he said. "It's not crowded, they know their neighbors and there's a sense of community."

For more information about Sullivan and his campaign, visit www.sullivan2008.com.

"When you talk to [Sullivan], it's like no one else is around," Powaleny said. "He's very engaged in what you have to say. I really appreciate that and I know voters do too."

Obituaries

Hebron

Robert V. Braman

Robert V. Braman died Friday, May 16. He was the son of Rollo Warren and Flora Mae (Barney) Braman, born on Nov. 8, 1915, in Torrington. He attained Eagle Scout with Bronze Palm in 1932 and graduated from Farmington High School in 1934. He attended the Citadel in Charleston, SC, participating in football and track.

He joined the United States Marine Corps, becoming a drill instructor before serving in the South Pacific during World War II. He owned and operated the Armored Car Company and worked for Connecticut Natural Gas Company in Hartford as an energy consultant retiring from that position at age 67.

He is survived by his wife, Frances King Braman, and eight children from two previous marriages; Barbara Kelly, Douglas Braman, Lois Albert, Richard Braman, David Braman and Janice Smith from his first marriage to Arlene Miner Braman, and also Liliane Boyd and Lisa Braman from his second marriage to Liliane Taillon Braman. He leaves 13 grandchildren and six great grandchildren. He was stepfather to five children of his wife, Frances; Lawrence Sawyer, Joanne Hutchinson, Richard Holmes, Frederick Sawyer and Peter Sawyer and numerous generations of grandchildren.

After serving more than 50 years in the First Company Governor's Foot Guard, he left as Executive Officer, retiring with the rank of major and life member; he participated and instructed for the rifle and pistol teams. He was also a member of the Ale & Garden Society affiliated with the Governor's Foot Guard. He competed for 20 years with New England police teams and was a Connecticut Hunter Safety Instructor for the State of Connecticut. Mr. Braman was a Master Mason attaining 32nd Degree; a Sojourner, and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign War, American Legion and Hunters of North America. In addition, he was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution. He enjoyed traveling and seeing much of the United States, including over 1,000 miles of canoeing, a favorite sport.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, May 24, at 1 p.m. at the Gilead Congregational Church, 672 Gilead St., Hebron. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Memorial donations may be made to The First Company Governor's Foot Guard, P. O. Box 1771, Hartford, CT 06144 to the General Fund.

East Hampton

Mary Ellen Massicotte

Mary Ellen (Wakefield) Massicotte, 51, of East Hampton, beloved wife of Dale Massicotte, died Sunday, May 11, at St. Francis Hospital. She was born in Washington, DC, the daughter of Marilyn (Altaffer) Wakefield of Durham and the late Jack Wakefield. Mary Ellen was currently employed as an accountant with Merritt Properties.

Besides her husband and mother, she is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Height and her husband Keith of Moodus, and Alison Goodwin and her husband Juan Chavez of East Hampton; two brothers, Michael Wakefield of Durham, and Jack Wakefield and his wife Dorothy of Manchester; step-daughter, Shannon Doherty and her husband Patrick of Meriden; step-son, Drew Massicotte and his wife Maggie of Willimantic; and seven grandchildren, Colby and Savannah Height, Gabriel and Cassandra Chavez Goodwin, Justin and Chelsey Doherty, and Gabriel Massicotte. She was predeceased by a brother, Richard Wakefield.

Funeral services were Monday, May 19, at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown. Burial at the convenience of the family. Calling hours were at the Biega Funeral Home Monday.

Salem

Claire C. Dinsmoor Jr.

Claire C. Dinsmoor Jr. of Salem, beloved husband of Lily E. Reynolds Dinsmoor, passed away Tuesday, May 20, in Colchester. He was born on Sept. 6, 1924, in Athens, OH, son of the late Claire C. Sr. and Mabel Saylor Dinsmoor.

Claire served in the U.S. Navy with the submarines division for 22 years. He was a charter member of the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company. He worked as a foreman with the Ship Testing Dept. for Electric Boat Co. of Groton for 21 years.

Besides his wife Lily, he leaves a son, Nicholas J. Dinsmoor, and a daughter, Betty M. Allen, both of Salem, as well as several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by a sister, Betty L. Moore.

An 11 a.m. graveside service will be held at Linwood Cemetery in Colchester on Saturday, May 24, with full military honors. Visitation will be held tonight, Friday, May 23, from 6-8 p.m. at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester. Donations may be made to the Gardner Lake Volunteer Fire Company in his memory.

Portland

Mary Doris Chiabrero Long

Mary "Marie" Doris Chiabrero Long, 69, of East Main Street, Portland, died Wednesday, May 14, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. She was the wife of William H. "Bill" Long. She was born in Middletown Aug. 17, 1938, a daughter of the late Costanzo and Constantina Chiabrero, and was a longtime Portland resident. Marie had been employed as the Assistant Town Clerk for the Town of Portland for 30 years and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Besides her husband Bill, she is survived by her daughter Janet Long and her husband David Granat; her son William P. Long; her sister Ida Stawski; her brothers Eddie Chiabrero and Joseph Chiabrero, all of Portland, and several nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her sister Nina Chiabrero.

Her family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Sunday, May 18. Funeral services were Monday, May 19, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and in the Church of Saint Mary, where Rev. John F. Ashe celebrated the Mass of Christian Burial. Interment followed in St. Mary's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that gifts in Marie's memory be sent to the St. Francis Cancer Center, 114 Woodland St., Hartford, CT 06105.

Colchester

Bernard A. Goldberg

Bernard A. Goldberg, 91, of Boynton Beach, FL, formerly of West Hartford and Colchester, died Friday, May 16. Born in Willimantic, he was the son of the late Daniel "Zadel" Goldberg and Rose (Luchnick) Goldberg of Colchester. He was the owner of Colchester Packing Company until his retirement at 70 years young.

Bernie grew up in Colchester and graduated from Bacon Academy in 1933, where he was a member of the state champion cross country team, which finished fifth in the nation. Bernie worked with his father in the family meat business until Daniel's retirement, and then started his own business in Hartford.

In Colchester, Bernie was a member of the Colchester-Hayward Fire Department with his father, the Knights of Pythias and the Jewish Aid Society. He was an active member of the Bacon Academy Board of Trustees, serving for many years on the scholarship committee. Later he started a yearly "reunion" luncheon for the "older" remaining alumni. A veteran of World War II, he was active in several philanthropic organizations including the Shriners.

He leaves his wife of 39 years, Irene (Levine) Goldberg; a son, Robert S. Goldberg of Colchester; a daughter, Judyth Singer and her husband, Irwin of West Hartford; step-son, Bruce Magun and his wife, Louise of Portland, OR; step daughter, Carole Magun Feingold and her husband, Moti of California; nine grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He also leaves two brothers, David Harold Goldberg of Waterford, and Col. Nathan S. Goldberg of California; and three sisters, Thelma Magun of Glastonbury, Belle Rosenblum of Scarsdale, NY, and Ada Leff of California. Mr. Goldberg was predeceased by his first wife, Rosalyn Goldberg.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, May 20, in the Chapel of the Weinstein Mortuary, 640 Farmington Ave., Hartford with Rabbi James Rosen officiating. Interment followed in the Colchester Jewish Aid Society Cemetery, Colchester, with Rabbi Kenneth Alter officiating. A Memorial Period was observed at the home of his daughter Judy, 74 Farmstead Ln., West Hartford, through Thursday evening, May 22. Memorial contributions may be made to ORT America, Inc., 75 Maiden Ln., 10th Floor, New York, NY 10038, or the Bacon Academy Scholarship Fund, Colchester. For more information, directions, or to share memories of Mr. Goldberg with his family, visit online at www.weinsteinmortuary.com.

Colchester

Raymond Monteleone

Raymond Monteleone, 82, of Colchester and formerly of Niantic, beloved husband of Karen (Sampson) Monteleone, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, May 20. Born March 21, 1926, in New London, he was a son of the late Joseph and Josephine (Fontanella) Monteleone.

Mr. Monteleone served proudly with the U.S. Army during World War II, in the 84th Infantry Division, which was a replacement unit during the Battle of the Bulge.

He majored in Engineering at UConn and worked as a Civil Engineer for 30 years at the Connecticut Department of Transportation before his retirement in 1976.

On Aug. 20, 1977, he and Karen were married in Shelter Island, NY. He was an avid sailor and racer for many years, both in Niantic and Dunedin/Palm Harbor, FL where they both enjoyed sailing for many years before returning to Connecticut in 2006.

In addition to his loving wife of 30 years, he is survived by his two children, Susan Monteleone of New London and Steven Monteleone of Niantic; sisters-in-law and their husbands, Patricia and James Williamson of Salem and Jacki and Stan Walter of Rocky Hill; and extended family members and friends. He was predeceased by two siblings, Elda Edwards and Mario Fazio and his former wife, Honora O'Neil Monteleone.

Friends may call from 6-8 p.m. tonight, Friday, May 23, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral Services will be observed at 1 p.m. Saturday, May 24, directly at the Colchester Federated Church at 60 Main St. on the green. Committal with military honors will follow in the Union Cemetery, Niantic.

Donations in his memory may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 306 Industrial Park Rd., Ste. 105, Middletown, CT 06457. For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.