

RIVEREAST

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Colchester resident TyCody Dzikiewicz, left, shown here with cousin Lara O'Toole, died in a motorcycle accident Monday, Sept. 1, the day before he was to start his junior year at Bacon Academy. This picture is one of several on a public memorial for TyCody set up at the social networking web site facebook.com.

Colchester Teen Killed in Motorcycle Accident

by Kristina Histen

A Colchester teen was killed in a tragic motorcycle accident Monday, but his memory lives on through his family and friends.

TyCody Dzikiewicz, 16, also known by his Native American name "No No Pe," was going to be a junior at Bacon Academy when school started up on Tuesday. Instead, the first day of school was "touched with sadness," as students and staff mourned the loss of him, Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle said in a press release.

TyCody was a "daredevil" and "full of life," his mother Anna-Leah Garrison said, so it was no surprise he was out riding a 2004 Kawasaki Ninja early Monday morning. Unfortunately, as he was traveling southbound on Route 149 in East Haddam around 12:38 a.m., he lost control of his motorcycle while attempting to make a left turn onto Eli Chapman Road, State Police said. Unable to negotiate the turn, the motorcycle went off the road until it struck a large oak tree, State Police said. According to TyCody's father, Ed Dzikiewicz, he was wearing a helmet but died instantly from head trauma after crashing hard into a big boulder.

"He was one of a kind," his father said, tearing up. "Every moment was so precious to me. It is so sad. When I looked at his death certificate, I wished it could have

been his graduation certificate."

His father emphasized what a great driver he was. He recalled how when TyCody was just 5 years old, he had bought him a battery-operated jeep. TyCody had jumped right into the thing and drove it around like he had done it forever, Dzikiewicz said. They were living in East Hartford at the time and a girl named Lisa lived next door, he said. TyCody had called out to her to come over and get in his jeep. When she did, he put his arm around her and drove around with one hand, proud as could be, looking like a pro. Dzikiewicz said both he and TyCody's mother "thank God" for the time they had with him and one couldn't find a better son.

"He was very respectful and his family meant the world to him," Garrison said. "He could fix everything and he could cook. He really took care of me."

TyCody was very active, loving the outdoors and sports, especially motorcycling, snowboarding, long boarding and skateboarding. Since he was a little boy, he had aspirations to serve his country and community after high school graduation. He wanted to join the Army for 20 years and then become a canine police officer for another 20 years. Then, he could retire by 58 with two full pensions, his mother said.

"He had a very good head on his shoul-

ders," Garrison said. "He knew what he wanted and was going to do it."

Most importantly, TyCody was "everybody in the world's friend," she said. Because of this, their home became the hang out spot for most teenagers. TyCody's homeroom teacher and mentor, Andrew Walker, described him as a "well-liked, personable and spirited young man with a great sense of humor who seemed to be a friend to all at Bacon Academy," Loiselle said in the press release. Garrison remembered that someone else had said that he didn't think "you could find a kid in Colchester that didn't like TyCody."

His popularity was also proven on the widely used social networking web sites facebook.com and myspace.com. On his personal pages, friends posted things like, "Ty it's really rough without you here dude...i don't understand why this happened to you because you were the greatest guy ever & you did not deserve this but i know you're really still here with us!" and "You will never be forgotten, you are one of the most amazing people I have ever met."

A group was also formed on Facebook "in honor of our beloved No No Pe." The group was called "Remember: TyCody Dzikiewicz." Since Tuesday, the number of members has more than doubled and

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continues to increase daily (as of Wednesday). Students from Bacon Academy said things like “you were the chilliest kid...still can’t believe it; but you went out just how you would’ve wanted to – bein crazy and havin fun. you’re loved and already missed nonope; we’ll see ya on the other side” and “Ty you will be missed by everyone. We all love you man and hope your in a happy place.”

On that first day of school, it was like a “sea of white,” Garrison said. White T-shirts and paints were handed out so students could decorate them in honor of TyCody, she said. His best friends also skateboarded to school to remember him.

The school-based Crisis Team met all day Monday and Tuesday morning to establish a system of support for students and faculty, the Bacon Academy web site said. School counselors, psychologists and social workers from Bacon Academy and William J. Johnston Middle School were available to support staff and students who are struggling with the loss, it said.

In light of the tragedy, the planned First Day Celebration was canceled, the web site said. All students began the school day in an extended homeroom period. They met in small groups with their mentors where they had an opportunity to discuss and share their thoughts and feelings regarding the loss of their classmate. A traditional school day schedule followed, the press release said. All staff closely observed students throughout the day and referred those students requiring additional support to the counseling

center. A letter was sent home with students to notify parents of the school’s response, the press release said. Parents are encouraged to notify the school if their child needs additional support.

Friends and family members organized a candlelight vigil at the crash site both Monday and Tuesday nights to share funny stories about TyCody, Garrison said. Police even showed up to encourage those driving by to slow down so the kids could stay there, she said.

Dzikiewicz and Garrison have been grateful for the great support of the Colchester community. TyCody’s friends and their parents have been in and out of Garrison’s home both before and after school, keeping her “sane for the moment.”

While State Police continue to investigate the accident, Garrison hopes TyCody’s friends and other people his age will learn a lesson from it.

“I feel sorry for all these kids,” Garrison said. “At 16 years old, you shouldn’t have to lose a best friend.”

A full obituary for TyCody appears this week on page 30. His wake will be held from 1-4 p.m. on Sunday at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated 11 a.m. on Monday directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Dept., 18-54 Old Hartford Road, Colchester.

Mixed Results for Andover CMTs

by Sarah McCoy

“Good but room for improvement.” That’s Andover Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia’s take on the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) results from last school year.

Last March all Andover Elementary School (AES) third-, fourth-, fifth- and sixth-grade students took the CMTs for math, reading, and writing. The fifth grade also took the science portion of the test, a new initiative last year.

Prior to 2006 only fourth and sixth grade students took the CMTs. However, this changed when the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act came into affect. The federal act, which was signed into affect in 2002, aims for 100 percent student proficiency in math, writing, and reading by 2014.

Maneggia received the results over the summer and presented them to the Board of Education at last Wednesday’s meeting.

Seventy-one percent of last year’s third-grade class met the state goal in math, 64 percent met the state goal in reading and 59.5 percent in writing. In fourth grade, 73 percent of students met the state goal in math, 65 percent in reading, and 81 percent in writing. Eighty-seven percent of fifth grade students met the state goal in math, 80% in reading, 80 percent in writing, and 61 in science. In sixth grade, 81 percent met the state goal in math, 88.5 percent in reading and 81 percent in writing.

These numbers indicate the percentage of students who met or exceeded the state’s goals, which are more stringent than the proficiency goals of NCLB. According to Maneggia, AES students achieve proficiency level at a rate of about 95 percent.

Andover students showed an increase in every area from the 2006-07 school year except third-grade reading, and fourth- and sixth-grade math.

“What we see is that when students leave sixth grade their overall performance is very good,” Maneggia said. “Our focus is to increase student achievement at the younger levels.”

The lower scores at the third grade level, Maneggia feels, could be a result of “jitters” associated with students taking their first standardize test. Make no doubt, Maneggia promised, the lower grades will be a target area for the district.

In analyzing the numbers, Maneggia said he compares third grade scores from year to year as well as comparing specific classes as they move through the grade levels at AES. For example, only 58.9 percent of the 2007 fifth-grade class met the state goal in reading. The following year 88.5 percent of those same students met goal in their sixth-grade year.

“We’re seeing growth in areas which we targeted in the past, which is good,” Maneggia said. “It shows that we’re on the right track but our work is never complete.”

Two years ago the district adopted new reading, math and writing curricula that coincided with the standards set forth by the state Department of Education (DOE). “We are now seeing the results of that work,” Maneggia said.

The State DOE groups school districts into one of nine District Reference Groups (DRGs) as a way of comparing like schools. Of the 29 schools in DRG-C, Andover finished fourth in fifth-grade math and sixth-grade reading, and sixth in fourth- and sixth-grade writing.

Maneggia said AES teachers will receive individual reports on the performance of the students they had last year as well as the students they have this year. The hope is that teachers will be able to identify areas for improvement using this real data.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It’s time once again for the Hebron Harvest Fair. It started last night and runs all weekend. And while I haven’t been *required* to go to the fair for a few years now (I used to cover Hebron for the *Rivereast*, but haven’t since 2004), I still make it a point to go each September, if possible. It’s just a lot of fun. There are neat sights to see, from agricultural exhibits to the farming equipment to all the neat little arts and crafts. I also enjoy bumping into old friends from my time covering the town and just catching up with them. It’s an enjoyable event.

And of course, the fair features tons of food. I mean, tons. And quite a selection too. There’s not just the typical fair fare, like burgers, hot dogs, fries and fried dough. There’s also Thai food, pierogies, clam fritters, baked potatoes and much, much more. Lots for your sweet tooth as well: Ice cream galore, milkshakes, kettle corn (maple kettle corn, of course; this is Hebron, after all), even frozen coffee drinks. But my favorite sweet the fair offers is the fried Oreos cookies. They’re a taste sensation that I first discovered a few years ago, not at the Hebron fair, but at the Haunted Graveyard at Lake Compounce. And since then, I’ve picked up some fried Oreos whenever I’ve had the chance.

When you order up a batch (you usually get about six to eight fried Oreos in an order), they make them fresh for you, right on the spot. The process behind them is really rather simple. They roll around a cookie in some dough, then quickly fry it up. You not only get tasty fried dough, but inside there’s a warm cookie. Most people aren’t used to having Oreo cookies warm. I know I hadn’t experienced them that way until my first order of fried Oreos. They’re great fresh out of the package, but they’re delicious warm. And even though they’re fried, they never get so hot that the cream filling inside burns your mouth. I imagine that wouldn’t be the case if you microwaved them. Anyway, if you’re at the fair this weekend, you should try some of the fried Oreos. You will not be disappointed.

The fair also offers plenty in the way of entertainment. There’s always one main headlining act each year. In recent years, it’s been a veteran country artist that, while I wouldn’t say they’re on their way down, are artists whose days of Number One hits seem to be mostly behind them. (Last year, though, the headliner was Heartland, a newer country group that actually seems to be on its way up. It had a big hit song last year, “I Loved Her First,” which is now sort of a staple at weddings.) The headline act this year is not a country band, though. It’s the group America, which is probably most famous for the “Horse With No Name” song. Which is a song that will always hold a, well, interesting place in my mind.

At an apartment building I used to live in, my next-door neighbor and the guy who lived across the hall from me decided to form a band. One played guitar, and the other would sing. And the song they would practice the most is “Horse With No Name.” They would play it at least a few times a night probably 3-4 times a week. Every so often, the two would try to work on another song, but they would inevitably stop and move back into “Horse With No Name.” As far as songs-you-hear-your-neighbors-practice-across-the-hall goes, it wasn’t that bad, I suppose. It’s a peaceful song, no loud guitar solos to keep you up or anything like that. But I don’t think I’ll ever be able to hear “Horse With No Name” again without thinking about that apartment house, and the two-man band across the hall.

* * *

Saturday, a friend called me up and told me he had just obtained two tickets to the next day’s Yankees game, and asked me if I wanted to come. I jumped at the chance. Now, I hate the Yankees with the white-hot intensity of a thousand suns, but I couldn’t pass up an opportunity to see a game at Yankee Stadium. Why, you may ask? They’re tearing down the stadium at the end of the season, and I wanted to see it one last time. While I may hate the Yankees, I love baseball and baseball history, and it’s a simple fact that a lot of baseball’s very brightest stars shone for the Yankees: Babe Ruth. Lou Gehrig. Mickey Mantle. Joe DiMaggio. And yes, it’s true they heavily renovated a lot of the Yankee Stadium interior in the 1970s (so much so that a few years ago when the movie *61** was shot, which dealt with the ‘61 Yankees, they had to shoot scenes involving the Yankees games at the old Tiger Stadium, as that stadium resembled the old Yankee Stadium more than Yankee Stadium did). But a lot of the exterior remained the same. So I just wanted to soak it all in one last time before the wrecking ball hit.

And I have to admit, it was a great place to watch a game. My friend and I had upper deck seats, but they didn’t really feel all that high, and we had a great view of home plate and most of the whole field (with the possible exception of far right field). There were still some drawbacks – the fact that the out-of-town scoreboard showed only a couple of different games at a time was a little annoying – and the food prices were exorbitant, even higher than at Shea Stadium: \$9.50 for a beer, \$5 for a hot dog. But I had a wonderful time. My last game at Yankee Stadium couldn’t have gone better. The weather was great, sunny skies and warm temperatures. The fans booed A-Rod in the pre-game introductions. And...the Yankees lost.

* * *

See you next week.

Info Session on Wells Will Continue in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

An information session to discuss plans for potential wells in Hebron will go on as scheduled despite initial reports from the State Department of Public Health that the water quality at one of these sites is not suitable for public consumption.

Last month, Town Manager Jared Clark received word from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) that it intended to grant a diversion permits to the Connecticut Water Company to supply public water to the Amston Lake population. The three sites for potential usage are the Firehouse well at 95 Deepwood Dr., the Nuteck well at 612 Church St. and the Island Beach well just over the town line in Lebanon, on Island Beach Road.

The DEP had waived the required information session initially but, after the town submitted a petition, it scheduled the meeting for Thursday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the community room at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

The application for the wells indicates that the Connecticut Water Company intends to draw 132,600 gallons of groundwater per day from the three potential sites. “The two questions I have are: Is the water suitable for public consumption? And, what is the affect on the wells of the nearby properties,” Clark said.

The state Department of Public Health (DPH), which does not need to give approval

for the diversion permit but do need to give approval for the creation of the well, issued a letter to Clark last week saying that the water was not fit for public consumption at 612 Church St. DPH also said it recommend continued monitoring of the site until, at least, November.

When Clark reached out to the DEP and Connecticut Water Company, both entities stated they wished to go forth with the scheduled information session despite this news.

“It will be a time for Hebron residents to ask questions and get answers. We felt it was important for all taxpayers to have this opportunity,” Clark said of the Sept. 11 meeting. “While the town doesn’t operate the water system it doesn’t mean we don’t have concerns about its operations and its affects on Hebron residents.”

REJA Inc., a now-defunct business, inherited the property in question. The grounds have been vacant for over a decade but, in the past, has been home to manufacturing endeavors as well as a distillery.

Separate from the issues of water quality and affect on neighboring wells, 612 Church St. is also being foreclosed upon by the Town of Hebron. Clark reported that there is over \$100,000 in back taxes owed on the property. “Back tax collection,” he said, “preempts all other rights.”

Marlborough School Officials See Growth in CMT Scores

by Kristina Histen

The Superintendent of Schools said last week that there has been proven growth in the results of this year's Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs), but there is definitely room for improvement.

Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School Principal Loraine Giannini and Assistant Principal Maylah West gave a presentation to the school board last Thursday, Aug. 28, on the tests that were taken in March. About 360 students in grades 3-6 took the CMTs.

The students in the Marlborough Public School District continued to demonstrate high levels of achievement on the CMT, the Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary School web site said. Students in grades 3-6 surpassed the state average on all three assessments in the areas of mathematics, reading and writing, the web site said. The district again met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as required by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act at all grade levels on all assessments, it said.

"The variability in the scores is due to small cohort sizes," Superintendent of Schools Sal Menzo said, "and even still our students are keeping up. Overall scores still remain strong in math and reading, and while writing is showing growth, it continues to be an area of focus."

The results prove that "the focus area approach is working," Menzo continued. "Students have shown growth based on the implementation of new teaching strategies and pro-

fessional learning models."

Following a year of professional development opportunities for staff in the area of mathematics and data analysis, the district administration was pleased to see growth in the focus mathematics strands identified by staff in August last year, the web site said. The professional development model provided teachers with time each month to meet with the mathematics coordinator and their grade level colleagues to discuss student assessment data, student work and classroom instructional strategies, the site said.

Test results fall into five categories, from lowest to highest: below basic, basic, proficient, goal, and advanced goal. The federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) act mandates that 100 percent of students test at proficient by the year 2014.

"One student makes a big difference with our scores," Menzo said.

According to the cohort data, 83.3 percent of third-graders were at or above goal level in mathematics, 77.8 percent were at or above goal level in reading and 76.6 percent were at or above goal level in writing.

"Third grade is doing very well in reading and writing," Giannini said. "They did fairly well at their first try."

However, fourth grade "was difficult for us," Giannini said, as they had drops in each area and Math had "some disappointment."

The cohort data indicated that 74.4 percent of fourth-graders were at or above goal levels in mathematics, a drop of 9.3 percent from last year's results; 69.8 percent were at or above goal levels in reading, a drop of 8.1 percent; and 71.8 percent were at or above goal levels in writing, a drop of 8.4 percent.

"We saw a nice increase in the fifth grade," Giannini said. "They have had consistent growth over the years, which is certainly good news."

Last year, school administration was worried about the fifth grade, Menzo said, but based on the results, they wondered if "maybe they were late bloomers." There was a lot of work to be done from the fourth grade into the fifth, and clearly a lot was accomplished, he said.

The cohort results showed that 83.2 percent of the fifth graders were at or above goal levels in math, 84.1 percent at or above goal levels in reading and 80.9 percent were at or above goal levels in writing.

School administration was also excited about the sixth grade results.

"With that feeling of them leaving us, we're celebrating work done well," Giannini said.

According to the cohort data, 80.6 percent of sixth graders were at or above goal levels in math; 77.4 percent were at or above goal levels in reading; and 73.1 percent were at or above goal levels in writing.

Oddly, in a gender analysis, females' scores have decreased in most grades in all subjects, but school administration is "really trying to figure out what's happening with our female learners," West said.

Overall, there have been significant increases in each strand of every subject, but scores have gone down, West said. But, "looking at the data differently gives you a different picture. We are trying to figure out how to hook in male readers and writers and keep females performing," she said.

The measurable goals for next year are: to have 85 percent of all students at each grade level meet the goal on the CMT in math, reading and writing; to have 55 percent of all students meeting the goal also reach the advanced level on the CMT in math and writing, with 50 percent in reading; to have all students increase their total raw score by 10 percent in math, reading and writing; and to have all students increase their direct assessment of Writing Holistic Score by 10 percent, with the average score being a 9.0.

"We definitely want to improve scores, but we're showing growth," Menzo said. "We're not where we want to be at yet, but it's a matter of looking at the appropriate light. We are worried about the individual student and that is the key piece. I'm really proud to be a member of this team and district."

Hebron Special Ed Students Fail to Meet CMT Goal

by Sarah McCoy

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz is trying to force herself to focus on all the positives when there's one glaring negative from this year's Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) results.

Yes, Hebron was second in the state in fifth grade reading performance (Darien was first).

Yes, Hebron sixth-grade students improved in all three areas (reading, writing, and math).

Yes, in its first year of existence, Hebron fifth grade students outperformed the state average in science by 24 percentage points.

But, Hebron did not meet the Annual Yearly Progress (AYP) goals for special education. In 2006, only 11 percent of Hebron special education students met proficiency standards for reading. Hoping for at least a 10 percent increase, Cruz was floored when 68 percent of students met the standards in 2007. That meant the district met AYP for reading and writing but missed out in math by only two percentage points.

This year, however, the reading number dipped to 57.6 percent and math stayed flat at 72 percent. To meet AYP, the district needed 79 percent of students to achieve proficiency in reading and 82 percent in math.

Hebron did meet AYP for writing, though.

In order to be monitored for AYP, districts must have at least 40 special education students per building. Presently, Hebron Elementary School (which serves students in grades 3-6; the CMTs are issued to students in grades 3-8 every March) has 75. If the two elementary schools were still configured according to geography as opposed to grade level, Hebron wouldn't meet the criteria for AYP. If students were tested according to their reading level instead of their age, maybe the scores would be different. Cruz has run through all the situations in her head.

"But, the bottom line is, we can do better," Director of Curriculum and Technology Michelle Puhlick said.

If school districts fail to meet AYP for two consecutive years they must submit a plan for change to the state Department of Education. The plan is something the district already does internally, but Cruz sees the mandate of submitting a plan to the state as additional motivation to make changes. "I see it as a sharp stick saying, 'You know you can do better,'" she said. "Regardless of how calculations are derived, we need something to hold us accountable."

In terms of regular education, 82.9 percent of third-grade students met or exceeded the state goal for math, 69 percent for reading, and 77 percent for math. In fourth grade, 76.6 percent of students met or exceeded the state goal for math, 75 percent for reading and 81.4 percent for writing. Eighty-five percent of fifth-grade students met the state goal for math, 88.4 percent for reading, 87 percent for writing and 79 percent for science. In sixth grade, 88 percent of students met the state goal for math, 87 percent for reading and 78.5 percent for writing.

All the third- and fourth-grade scores were down from last year while all the fifth and sixth scores (except for fifth grade writing) were up. "Overall the reading scores dipped," Cruz admitted. "However, we did see growth in particular strands of the test."

For instance, in third grade, scores for reading comprehension increased from 49 percent to 67 percent.

"It is very rare to see scores change by more than 5 percent unless you've targeted that area," Puhlick said. "We've focused on reading comprehension in the past and, with this test, saw some of that work pay off."

The current school year is the first is over a

decade where the Hebron public schools will have math, science and language arts curricula that are up to date, and aligned with the state and CMT standards. "It's all coming together this year," Cruz said. "While last year's scores certainly show room for growth, I think, as a district, we've made great steps towards improvement."

Cruz reported that school staff will use the data to "refine their energies" as educators. Puhlick explained that they compare grade level data from year to year to evaluate curricula and instruction. The district also compares student achievement as they progress through the grade levels to monitor individual progress.

CMT scores are used to track whether or not school districts are on track with the guidelines set forth by the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act, approved by the federal government in 2002. According to NCLB, all school districts should show 100 percent student proficiency by 2014.

Cruz will present a more in depth review of the scores at the Thursday, Oct. 30, Board of Education meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. at Douglas Library, 22 Main St.

Colchester Police News

8/26-Robert Kempesta, 47, of 264 Westerly Terr., was charged with violation of restraining order, State Police said.

8/28-Jonathan Gowlis, 33, of 16 Palmer Rd., Scotland, was charged with six counts of second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/28-Lisa Kempesta, 42, of 44 Magnolia St., Newington, turned herself into State Police on the charge of violation of restraining order, State Police said.

8/28-William Wallace, 27, of 50 Vergason Rd., Norwich, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, State Police said.

8/29-Sungha Kim, 50, of Copley Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with first-degree reckless endangerment, wrong way and DUI, State Police said.

Hebron Police News

8/29-John Baker, 67, of 32 Highland Rd., Mansfield, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

8/29-Charles Horlick, 53, of 1002 Canterbury Ln., Colchester, was charged with failure to drive right and operating under the influence of drugs/alcohol, State Police said.

8/31-Tracy Gates, 25, of 6 Lakewood Rd., East Hampton, was charged with DUI and stop sign, State Police said.

9/1-Terence Clark, 50, of 44 West Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

9/1-Daniel Stanavage, 48, of 96 Stanavage Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

9/1-A 17-year-old was charged with disorderly conduct and interfering with a 911 call, State Police state.

9/1-Michael Wisniewski, 41, 39 Windham Ave., was charged with operating under suspension, misuse of plates, no insurance and operating unregistered motor vehicle, State Police said.

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Portland Police News

8/22 — Matthew J. Jeffers, 23, of 77 Freestone Ave., was charged with evading responsibility and failure to obey stop sign, Portland Police said.

8/23 — A 17-year-old male was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, police said.

8/27 — Steven Dickenson, 38, of 18 Chatham Ct., was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/29 — Montrel Holley, 21, of 57 Military Rd., Middletown, was charged with second-degree failure to appear, police said.

8/31 — James Vivencio, 41, of 125 South St., Vernon, was charged with operating under the influence and failure to drive in proper lane, police said.

Mixed Opinions of East Hampton CMT Results

by Michael McCoy

The Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores are in, and the reaction is mixed.

Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden presented the results to the Board of Education during a meeting last month. These tests, which address math, reading and writing, and, in the case of fifth grade, science, are taken by students in grades three through eight.

The tests begin at the outset of March, and schools have until the end of the month to administer the tests (including make-ups) and return them to the scorers. This year, about 1,028 students took the CMT, while 140 or so took the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPTs).

The way the CMTs are assessed, students achieve one of five levels: advanced, goal, proficient, basic and below basic. To give a reference point as to just what these values are supposed to stand for, "goal" means the student "met the standards of the state goal." "Proficient" means they did not reach this marker, but met the minimal requirement of No Child Left Behind.

The numbers that seem to jump out initially all come from last year's fifth-grade class, 95 percent of which scored at proficient or above in writing and science. Furthermore, 75 percent of that class scored at goal or higher in math. While this number may not stick out much by itself, it is quite larger than the number that achieved this when the same students were in fourth grade. In 2007, just 52 percent of that grade achieved "goal" or above.

Last year's fifth-graders also saw 75 percent of their class score at or above goal in reading. This was enough for fourth out of East Hampton's entire 24-town District Reference Group (DRG). Of that bunch, only Clinton, East Granby, and East Lyme scored higher, and only by, at the most, three percentage points.

Also eye-catching is the 85 percent of last year's seventh-graders that achieved at or above goal in math. The only school in the DRG to top that number was East Granby at 90 percent.

Despite some of these figures, Board of Education member Don Coolican voiced his lack of enthusiasm over the results, especially third-grade reading. In that grade, 6.6 percent scored "basic," while another 15 percent scored at "below basic." "That means 21 percent of those

kids are not reading at grade level," he said.

"That's what stuck out to me," Coolican said. "We spent a lot of time and effort to make that not happen."

"Compared to the DRG and the state," Coolican continued, "at third grade, we don't do well." However, he added, "They do better in grades four, five, and six."

Coolican later said neighboring Marlborough's test scores "blow us away." Though he mentioned that the neighboring town was in a higher DRG, he seemed stymied as to why their numbers would be higher. "I can't understand why," he said.

"We had a period when we did better, and we've sort of leveled off," he said. When asked if he had an explanation for this, he said, "I sure wish I did."

Coolican went on to juxtapose these concerns with reporting that 60 to 75 percent of students typically make the honor roll. He seemed to have a hard time reconciling this, except to suggest, "I think grade inflation might have something to do with it."

"If your children get all A's and B's, you probably won't get after them about it," Coolican said, adding, "Maybe they're not doing as well as they should be."

When questioned as to whether or not he put much stock in these tests, he responded, "Yes I do," although he admitted, "It's just a snapshot of one kid on one day." However, he figured, once you take a whole class of students, "it's a snapshot of 150 kids." With some of these students having good days and others having bad, he seemed to think looking at this many students provides an accurate picture of learning.

Also, Coolican said, "Some kids are not good test-takers; that's right. And that's a huge disadvantage in life." However, he said that with virtually any professional pursuit in life, "Sooner or later, you're going to have to take a test."

Pointing out that many critics of tests might accuse schools of simply "teaching to the test," Coolican said, "If it's a good test, it's something good to teach to. ... I put a lot of stock in these tests. ... There's nothing frivolous on them. They're very good tests."

Summing up his sentiments, Coolican commented "Overall, I wasn't very happy with them. ... I think we can do much better."

Golden's response was somewhat more positive. "We had, in my opinion, mixed results on the CMT and CAPT."

She continued, "We had areas where we are very pleased. We had areas where we could do much, much better."

Golden explained that all students in third through eighth grade take the CMTs, while all 10th-graders take the CAPTs. The only exceptions are students with severe disabilities and English Language learners who have been in the states for 10 months or less, who are assigned to complete a skills checklist instead. Prior to the NCLB, students who had been in the country for three years or less were exempt. Furthermore, prior to NCLB, students with disabilities (not those who are exempt) were allowed to take the test designed for a grade level lower than the one they were enrolled in. Today, they are forced to take the same test as their cohorts.

Addressing the issue of English Language learners, Golden reported that studies show it takes children five to seven years to speak a language, "yet [the government expects] children to take this test."

"I think it's unfair for the powers that be in the U.S. Government to not give us more opportunities for students with disabilities or English-language learners to demonstrate their performance where they are," she added

Like Coolican, Golden seemed to put real stock in these tests. "There is really nothing on any of these tests that you or I would not want their children to be successful at," she said. "It's a good test."

"We have wonderful teachers who work very, very hard," Golden said, and added that she is not pushing them to work even harder just to improve such test scores. Instead, Golden said that all the material on the tests are things that the teachers would be covering anyway.

"Our teachers did their work in science," Golden said, and attributed the high marks on the fifth-grade tests "to the fact that the teachers did a great job."

Despite some of the high numbers, Golden said, "We can do better. ... We are particularly concerned about our third and fourth-grade scores."

Golden also said, "Until those children are 100 percent at goal, we can always do better."

Golden also sounded somewhat disheartened over the CAPT scores, which were down four or five percentage points in all areas (math, reading, writing and science.) However, since the CAPT is only taken in 10th grade, it is impossible to track the progress of the same students based on that test. Furthermore, since the CMTs and CAPTs are two different tests, Golden said it is of little value to compare a student's CAPT score to their CMT performances. Also, Golden pointed out that four or five percent breaks down to just two or three students.

Another problem Golden voiced concerning the CAPT is that the science portion is composed of physical science material, though most 10th-grade students take biology. So, many students have grown quite rusty in physical science concepts when they take the test.

Though Golden seems to think highly of the CMT, she also admitted, like Coolican, that it's "a one-day snapshot in time," and said she understands that some students simply have bad days. However, she said, "I want to know that every child in the school system goes into the test prepared," and thanked parents for making sure that is the case.

As educators who are seeking to help students achieve the goal score, Golden said, "It's our obligation to help them get there. ... It's their obligation to take the test seriously. ..."

Looking at the second- and fourth-place DRG finishes, Golden figured, "If we can do that there, we can do that anywhere." Still, Golden added, "It's not about competition. We should all be tied."

Recognizing that standardized testing is a controversial issue in the education field, Golden said, "There are always people who say, 'It's just a test; that's not what my child is about.'" However, she said, "We would be very naive to dismiss it so easily." Still, Golden recognized that tests do not measure things such as "the ability to solve problems creatively."

As for the future, Golden said, "I think we need to keep doing our work."

By 2014, all students must test at proficient, mandates NCLB, but the "or else" remains ambiguous. "We have this threat looming over our heads, but nobody knows the consequences," Golden said.

East Hampton Police News

8/21 — Tracy E. Adinolfi, 48, of 2 Wordsworth Rd., was issued a ticket for creating a public disturbance, East Hampton Police said.

8/22 — Kenneth Barber, 20, of 8 Midwood Farm Rd., was arrested for failure to have tail-lights, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, misuse of plates and operating without insurance, police said.

8/23 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was issued a ticket for creating a public disturbance, police said.

8/23 — Matthew L. Fontaine, 25, of 19 Meg Way, Windsor Locks, was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, police said.

8/23 — William Lemay, 33, of 178 Camp St., Middletown, was involved in a one-vehicle accident on West High Street at Oakum Dock Road, police said, and added that Lemay was arrested for improper use of a marker, operating under suspension, operating without insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

8/24 — Cara L. Culbert, 26, of 4 Ellis St., was arrested pursuant to a warrant for third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police

said.

8/25 — Mark A. Pellegrini, 48, of 40 Skinner St., was arrested for speeding, police said.

8/25 — Michael V. Korol, 55, of 36 Skinner St., was arrested for operating an unregistered motor vehicle and operating under suspension, police said.

8/25 — Michael J. Cannata, 29, of 218 Main St., Portland, was arrested for violation of a protective order, police said.

8/25 — Keith R. Munsell, 23, of 39 School House Ln., was arrested for speeding, police said.

8/26 — Matthew M. Modglin, 32, of 21 Main St., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

8/26 — Thomas Farrell, 51, of 88 Bartlett St., Portland, was arrested for operating an unregistered vehicle, misuse of plates, operating a motor vehicle without insurance and operating a motor vehicle without a license, police said.

8/27 — Garrett Wilson, 18, of 216 B North Moodus Rd., Moodus, and Kyle Zajac, 19, of 156 Falls Rd., Moodus, were both issued tickets for traveling fast, police said.

Colchester Woman Attends Democratic National Convention

by Kristina Histen

A Colchester woman said Wednesday she “was moved” by attending the Democratic National Convention, held last week in Denver, CO.

Dorothy Mrowka, 65, has been involved in local politics since 1975. Currently, she is the vice chair of the Democratic Town Committee and is a member of the 33rd District State Central Committee for Women. She has also been president of the National Federation of Democratic Women.

Mrowka was also a delegate to the convention from Connecticut’s 2nd Congressional District to support former candidate Senator Hillary Clinton. She won the spot back in April, at the Delegate Convention held in town. This was her fifth time at a National Convention and fourth time as a delegate. This year’s convention however, was the biggest she’s ever seen.

“I’ve never seen so many people in one place at once,” Mrowka said. “There was about 75-80,000 people; the place was just full.”

She was directly on the floor at the convention with the other delegates and was impressed at how everything was organized considering how many people were there.

“It was exciting to be there,” Mrowka said. “It was exciting to be a delegate at a convention where history is being made.”

Although Mrowka would have liked to have seen Clinton win because she thought she would have made a great president, she also believes Senator Barack Obama will do “a great job.”

She said “it was awesome” to hear Obama speak at the convention and felt people were “unbelievably moved” by him.

People were jumping up and down, screaming, hugging each other and full-grown men were even sobbing hysterically, she said. They “were really touched” to see someone like Obama get up there and be a candidate for president. She feels as though the biggest issues right now are the economy and the war.

“Democrats have a better chance,” Mrowka said. “I’ve never seen this many young people getting involved in campaigns as I have this year. Registration is three to one across the state. The people he has brought in and energized for this campaign has been unbelievable across the country.

“We’ve tried [to get young people] involved and have been unsuccessful in past years,” she continued. “I’m hoping there will be enough energy left for them to come out in November because I think that will make a difference.”

Although Clinton had stood up during roll call to make it unanimous for Obama, Mrowka had already cast her ballot for her. She had voted in the morning before Clinton had released her delegates and didn’t change her vote after that. But, she will support the candidate that wins because “that’s what it’s all about.”

“I hope the Democratic Party wins the White House,” she said. “We haven’t been there in a long time.”

Water Questions Added to Portland November Ballot

by Michael McCoy

Portland residents concerned with the town’s summer water woes may be happy to know that there will be a referendum question to address the issue included on the Election Day ballot on Nov. 4.

Though this news comes in the wake of the town’s system testing positive for total coliform bacteria in late July and early August, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said “we had been planning to do this for quite a few months,” speaking of the initiative brought before the selectmen by Bransfield and Public Works Director Rick Kelsey.

The plan amounts to two major improvements to the water system that will come in the form of two referenda. The first is whether or not to spend \$1.025 million on water storage tank improvements. This includes the demolition and replacement of the 54-year-old 500,000-gallon storage tank on High Street, as well as cleaning, repairing, and applying coating to the interior and exterior walls of the one million gallon storage tank on High Street.

Also, two 500,000-gallon tanks on Old Marlborough Turnpike will also be improved.

The other question concerns spending \$816,000 to replace the 5,000-foot water main that runs from the High Street tanks to Route 66.

Water main breaks have been a fairly common occurrence on Main Street of late, prompting Bransfield to admit, “A lot of the customers have been understandably upset with the interruption of service.”

“We anticipate that rates will have to be increased” should the referenda pass, Bransfield said. Indeed, they would have to increase, as water system users will pay for the improvements through fees. (Bransfield estimated there are about 2,000 accounts with the water system.)

The project would be funded through the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Fund, which helps municipalities fund such projects at low interest rates. Bransfield said the money would be paid back over the course of at least 20 years.

Bransfield also noted that the town has con-

tacted Congressman John Larson, requesting any possible grants available to offset costs.

On Aug. 26, the matter went before the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) who voted it through 4-0. “It’s more of a referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission,” Bransfield said, reporting that any improvements to town facilities must be reviewed by the PZC to make sure they conform with the Plan of Conservation and Development.

The following evening, Aug. 27, the Board of Selectmen voted unanimously to send the questions to referendum.

Bransfield and Kelsey voiced sentiments that these were simply improvements that needed to happen. “Some of our pipes are over 100 years old,” she said. Speaking to the Main Street one in particular, she said, “It’s old pipe, it’s brittle and it needs to be replaced.”

Kelsey said the Main Street water main is between 50 and 60 years old, and that its life expectancy is around 40 years. It was made from asbestos cement piping, while the new one will be fashioned from cement-lined ductile iron piping.

“At the time, it was installed, it was an accepted type of pipe and was cost-effective,” Kelsey said of the old water main. He added that it was “not installed correctly,” explaining that such mains are typically embedded with sand or stone, but not so much in this case. He also called the material “not very resilient.”

“They’re long overdue,” Kelsey commented of the improvements overall.

Should the referenda pass on Nov. 4, Bransfield estimated construction would not begin for approximately another year, however, she added, “We would start the engineering right away.”

On a related note, as recently as last week, water samples came back from EML laboratory of Wallingford, testing negative for the total coliform bacteria. Despite the end of the water concerns, Bransfield said, “We’re continuing to work with [engineer specializing in drinking water] Paul Ritsick” to look for ways to improve the water system.

Obituaries

Colchester

TyCody Dzikiewicz

TyCody Dzikiewicz, “No No Pe,” 16, of Colchester, passed away Monday, Sept. 1, from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident.

Born July 9, 1992 in Hartford, he was the son of Ed Dzikiewicz and Anna-leah Garrison, both of Colchester.

Ty was about to begin his junior year at Bacon Academy in Colchester and had aspirations of serving his country and community after graduation. He was very active and loved the outdoors, especially motorcycling, snow and long boarding. Ty also loved to tinker and fix things around the house. Most importantly, he was a friend to everyone he met and will be loved and missed always.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his sister, Nicole Dzikiewicz; his brother, Storm Garrison of Boston, MA; his grandmother, Carole Garrison of East Hartford; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by his grandparents, Thomas and Arlene Dzikiewicz and Edward Garrison.

As his final gift to this world, TyCody was able to give the gift of life through organ donation.

Friends may call 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 7, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester.

The Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated 11 a.m. Monday directly at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Avenue, Colchester, with Fr. Michael Giannitelli, officiating. Interment will follow in the Dzikiewicz family plot in the Hillside Cemetery, East Hartford.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Colchester-Hayward Vol. Fire Dept., 18-54 Old Hartford Road, Colchester.

For online condolences, visit auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Hebron

Helen Hodge

Helen (Hills) Hodge, 71, a lifelong resident of Gilead (Hebron), died peacefully at the Marlborough Health Care on Aug. 31, after a nearly year-long battle with cancer. She was born the daughter of Jesse A. and Gertrude S. (Anderson) Hills in Hartford on Nov. 9, 1936.

Helen is survived by her daughter, Gerri (Geraldine) of Manchester. She was predeceased by her son, Edward Joseph Hodge in 1994, who left her a grandson, Edward Thomas Hodge. His family consists of two children, Britney and Codey and their mom Kaylee and his mom Sharon. She also leaves six siblings: three brothers, Jesse M. Hills of Florida, Harold G. Hills of Massachusetts and Oscar D. Hills and his wife, Susanna of Hebron, three sisters, Laura H. Scriven of Coventry, Elaine H. Hale of Springfield, MO and Betty J. Dove of Colchester and several nieces and nephews.

She retired from Pittsburgh Plate Glass Industries after 30 years of service. She then went to work at her hobby: “Genealogy.” As a life member of The Connecticut Society of Genealogists, she retired as the Office Manager after 15 years. She was also a member of the National Genealogy Society. Helen was a member of the Gilead Congregational Church and was President of the Cemetery Association.

Memorial services will be held Monday, Sept. 8, at 10 a.m., at Gilead Congregational Church 672 Gilead St. (Route 85), Hebron. Burial will follow in the Gilead Cemetery. Family and friends may call Monday, Sept. 8, from 9-10 a.m. at the church. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Gilead Congregational Church. Arrangements are being taken care of by the Holmes Funeral Home, Manchester.

Marlborough

Harold Alderson

Harold “Quiet Bear” Alderson, 76, of Marlborough, formerly of Andover, passed away Sunday, Aug. 10, at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford. Mr. Alderson was born in Springfield, MA, on Feb. 12, 1932, and was the son of the late Harry and Viola (Gustafson) Alderson.

Bear was a longtime member of Alcoholics Anonymous and served as a drug and alcohol counselor in the Connecticut prison system for many years. He was proud of his Bachelor of Science degree and of his honorable discharge from the United States Air Force. Bear was also proud of his American Indian heritage and was involved with the Wampanoag Tribe as a drummer.

He is survived by a daughter, Elaine Royster of Philadelphia, PA. Services were private. The Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester had care of arrangements.

Portland

Salvatore T. Lombardo

Salvatore T. “Stretch” Lombardo, 94, formerly of Elizabeth Road, Portland, died Saturday, Aug. 30, at the Newington Health Care Center, where he was a resident for the past seven years. He was the husband of the late Victoria Wasicki Lombardo. Born in Ivoryton Sept. 29, 1913, a son of the late Anthony and Jenny Bartolotta Lombardo, he was a Portland resident for over 60 years.

He had been employed by the Hamilton Standard Co. in Windsor Locks for many years until his retirement in 1974. He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the U.S. Army in Co. B, 169th Infantry Div. in the Pacific Theater. He was a member of the DAV, the Catholic War Veterans, and the AARP Brownstone Chapter. He was also active with the Portland Senior Center and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Mr. Lombardo is survived by his daughter Anita L. Lombardo of Newington; his sister Gloria Lombardo of Meriden; his brother Richard Lombardo of Higganum; and several cousins, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his sister Nancy Lombardo, and his brothers, Carl Lombardo, Joseph Lombardo, and Anthony Lombardo and Vincent Lombardo.

His daughter would like to thank the staff of the Newington Health Care Center for the care and support given to Salvatore. His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main Street, Portland, Tuesday, Sept. 2. Funeral services were Wednesday, Sept. 3, from the Portland Memorial Funeral Home and at the Church of Saint Mary, where a Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Rev. John F. Ashe. Interment, with Military Honors, was in St. Mary’s Cemetery.

Colchester

John E. Turick

John E. Turick, 75, of Longwood Drive, East Haddam, beloved husband of Marilyn J. (Felth) Turick died Sunday, Aug. 31, at Harrington Court, Colchester. He was born March 18, 1933, in Winsted, son of the late John and Anna (Ostrowski) Turick and had lived in Canton and Winsted prior to moving to Colchester three years ago.

Mr. Turick owned and operated J & G Machining in Winsted for many years prior to his retirement. John enjoyed being outdoors, farming and the company of his “good ol’ buddies.” He was always there to help his neighbors and friends with any repairs they needed. John was a loving and devoted husband and father.

Besides his wife of 40 years, he is survived by two daughters, Elaine Pound of Winsted and Lynn Grey of Clearwater, FL; a son, John Turick, Jr. of Lebanon; a step-daughter, Donna Charbonneau of Bluffton, SC; a stepson, William J. Stajos of Barkhamsted; a brother-in-law, Maurice Werner of Canton and many grandchildren, great grandchildren, nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his two brothers, Russell L. Turick and Albert Turick and two sisters, Louise Dubiel and Arlene Werner.

There are no calling hours. Graveside service and burial was Thursday, Sept. 4, at Canton Baptist Cemetery, Canton Springs Rd., Canton, with the Reverend James Wheeler officiating. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Connecticut Children’s Medical Center Foundation, Inc., 282 Washington St., Hartford, CT 06106.

Vincent Funeral Home, Canton, is assisting the family with the arrangements. For online condolences, visit www.vincentfuneralhome.com.

Salem

Robert A. Johnson

Robert A. Johnson, 80, of Dogwood Dr., Southington, died Wednesday, Aug. 27, at the Hospital of Central Connecticut at New Britain General. He was the loving husband of Dolores (Eckel) Johnson for 53 years. Born Aug. 21, 1928, in New Britain to the late George H. and Martha (Pashadal) Johnson, he lived in Southington for 52 years.

Mr. Johnson worked for the former Sherwood Industries, Kensington, before retiring in 1993 and served his country in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He enjoyed many years with family and friends at Gardner Lake in Salem.

In addition to his wife Dolores, he is survived by three sons, Philip Johnson, Kenneth Johnson and his wife Kristyl, all of Southington, and Glenn Johnson and his longtime companion Sue Michaud of Wolcott, one brother, Herman Johnson and his wife Elizabeth of New Britain and one sister Helen Alagna of Southington. He also leaves his grandson Karl and his two granddaughters Kylie and Jessica. He was predeceased by his brother Raymond Johnson.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Sept. 2, at Plantsville Memorial Funeral Home, 975 S. Main St., Plantsville. Burial with full military honors followed in South End Cemetery, Southington. Calling hours were prior to the service, at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers donations in Robert’s memory may be made to the VNA of Central Connecticut, Inc. 80 Meriden Ave., Southington, CT 06489. For online guest book and directions, visit www.Legacy.com.

Marlborough

William Foley

William D. Foley, 70, of Marlborough, husband to Dorothy (Bagot) Foley, entered into the Lord’s care unexpectedly on Aug. 30, at his home in Marlborough. Born Feb. 19, 1938, in Gloucester, MA, he was a son of the late Edward and Bertha (Comeau) Foley.

William was a stonemason by trade. He owned and operated Shamrock Stone Co./W.D. Foley Mason Contractors. He supplied stone to numerous mason contractors in the area. He then passed those skills in masonry onto his son. Twenty years ago he had a hobby which he then turned into a thriving business, Williams Cartridge Co. He supplied ammunition to numerous police departments throughout Connecticut. He also received awards for his many donations and contributions to the Police Explorers.

He was an active member of the church community. He maintained a farm at his home for many years where he had several animals and fields upon fields of fruits and vegetables. He was very proud of his beautiful farmland. Pumpkins for all! He was often seen cooking in his own kitchen, cooking for his family or one of his family restaurants, Sweets and Treats, Foley’s Place and Country Chicken and Ribs; all of which were located in Marlborough. But, the real joy of his life was his family.

Besides his beloved wife of 48 years, William leaves behind four children: two sons, Timothy Foley and his wife Cheryl of Marlborough, and James Foley and his wife Christine of Colchester; two daughters, Denise Vashalifski of Marlborough and Patricia Zaino, also of Marlborough; one sister, Carolyn Cahalane of Hanover, MA; nine grandchildren, Scott, Heather, Rachel, David, Wesley, Connor, Ryan, Kyle and Ethan; and two great-grandchildren, Hanna and Gage.

William’s son, David Foley, predeceased him in 1978.

The funeral was held Thursday, Sept. 4, at 10 a.m. at Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Fellowship Community Evangelical Free Church, 24 South Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447, or to the Marlborough Ambulance Association, P.O. Box 308, Marlborough, CT 06447-0308.

