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On Saturday, The First Congregational Church of Portland, located on Main Street, will celebrate the culmination of its first major building project in 25 years. The renovation included new siding, work on the steeple, a new clock and various changes to the interior.

Portland Church Celebrating Renovation

by Michael McCoy

They say that donations actually increase during times of financial hardship. Perhaps that's how the First Congregational Church of Portland has just completed a half-million dollar project.

Though the "Harvest Celebration Dinner" is a traditional event this time of year for the Congregational Church, it is typically an event for the congregation. However, this year, the church decided to open it to the whole community to showcase the building's renovations, as well as some old church artifacts. The dinner and tour are this Saturday, Nov. 14, in the church's Fellowship Hall.

Joe Aresco, a Portland native, who has attended the church for the last decade, was chairman of the church's Building Committee. According to Aresco, in 2005, the congregation, which numbers about 320 in membership and 125 in Sunday attendance, gave input to their building priorities. The overwhelming results were that the exterior and interior of the sanctuary needed to be improved.

"If we didn't take care of the building, it could have gotten worse and worse," Aresco said.

In 2008 a Capital Campaign Committee was formed, and, working with consultants, they determined the project would cost about \$500,000.

Aresco recalled, "If we were going to do it, we wanted to make sure we did it the right way." So, the work was shepherded by the Building Committee. In addition to Aresco, that included John Steele, Linda Cunningham and Jeff Fraulino. Aresco said the last two, Bob Dimock and Dave Strong, were onsite just about every day.

The first order of business was to replace the boiler, which dated back to the 1950s. That was 2008, but the rest of the physical work happened

this past summer, including, most visibly, the exterior, which was covered in scaffolding for much of the season. This included replaced plywood and siding, and a brand new (and much whiter) paint job.

Aresco said as they started work in the steeple, they found that it was severely rotten. "[Water] was finding its way in there for years," he said. In many cases, it was reduced to powder, so much of the steeple's interior structure was rebuilt.

The steeple's midsection also got a new clock.

Though nothing this destructive had happened in the sanctuary (unless you call installing mustard-yellow carpet destructive), it still needed some updating. This included repainting the entire interior as well as laying a new and serene blue carpet. The pews got new cushions and were lacquered and painted as well.

The bulk of the work was done between mid-June and late August.

Aresco commended all three major contractors on their work. The exterior work was done by RA Parady & Sons, the painting by Central Connecticut Paint and the carpeting by G.A. Olsen & Sons.

The church's goal was to return to the sanctuary on the Sunday after Labor Day, a goal it met exactly. (During the summer, parishioners worshipped in the downstairs Fellowship Hall.)

In addition the church will also donate five percent of the pledges they collect to Silver Lake Conference Center in Sharon. Each year, the church send kids to camp there, and it is currently looking to do renovations of its own. It is a ministry of the Connecticut Conference of the United Church of Christ.

According to an account written by church
See Church on Page 2

RHAM, Towns Discuss Uses for Flooring Money

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM Board of Education (BOE) this week authorized the crafting of a potential resolution for how to spend the remaining money the district received as a result of the flooring settlement.

At a meeting on Monday, BOE Chair Sue Griffiths made a motion to draft a resolution for \$190,000 of the \$218,000 surplus to go toward paying down the debt on the administrative office space and the remaining \$28,000 to fix the football practice field. The motion passed by a vote of 6-0 with Joe Farrell and Danny Holtsclaw abstaining.

The motion doesn't lock the board into that decision, though. Griffiths said she made the motion so at next Monday's meeting, the school board could see in writing a possible way to spend the funds. "I was looking for board members to say what ideas, they felt, are appropriate to ask voters to fund," she said after last Monday's meeting.

Last year, the regional school district approved a short-term loan for \$350,000 to construct office space to house the superintendent of schools, finance director and their administrative assistant in lieu of renting space. The BOE planned to allocate \$70,000 (the amount in rent the district previously paid) for 5 years to pay off the note. "Now," Griffiths said at Monday's meeting, "we're in a position to pay it off much sooner."

Andover, Hebron and Marlborough town officials were invited to Monday's meeting, so the board could gauge their desires for this money. Hebron Board of Selectmen Chair Jeff Watt, who had served as chair of the RHAM school board from 2002-04, said that he wanted to see the BOE used the money to pay down debt.

He said that when the school district took out a \$500,000 note in 2005 to patch the floors and seek financial reparations from the compa-

nies responsible for the shoddy work, the intent was to repay that note as soon as possible. Since that time the short-term note has been rolled into a larger bond associated with the schools' construction project.

Because the bond isn't due yet the district would have to pay bond counsel and financial administration fees to be able to pay down the note. "We would spend \$200,000 to answer questions and not have anything left to pay down the debt," Farrell said on Monday night.

However, Watt and town officials from Andover and Marlborough agreed that if the money was used to reduce other debt (like the administrative office space) the net effect to taxpayers would be the same. "I believe that doing this would satisfy the original intent which was to pay down the debt," Watt said Monday.

Town officials also supported the district in their desire to fix the football practice field. The field, located along Wall Street, was not in-

cluded as part of the building construction project earlier in the decade, due to budget concerns. As a result rocks and asphalt are now coming through the turf, presenting safety concerns for the students that use the facility.

At its Oct. 26 meeting, the BOE voted to allocate \$28,000 from the tuition line item to fix half of the field. Due to a change in the state budget the district will not need to pay for magnet school tuition leaving an additional \$69,000 in the account. What isn't used to fix the field will be used for classroom supplies - one of the hardest-hit areas in last year's budget.

On Monday, Andover Board of Education Chair Jay Lindy, also an Andover selectman, said he would support fixing the field as there is an "obvious safety issue." Marlborough Board of Finance Chair Cathi Gaudinski agreed with Lindy.

Hebron Board of Finance member Mal
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Church cont. from Front Page

historian Nancy Johnson, nine families formed the Third Society of Middletown in 1710, which eventually moved to Portland. Reverend Daniel Newell was ordained as minister on Oct. 25, 1721. At this time, the group became the First Congregational Church, which consisted of 29 members. They met at the corner of William and High streets. After outgrowing buildings in 1751 and 1850, the church ended up at 554 Main St., where it exists today.

The church was designed by Henry Austin, and was built for \$7,650.

A double-bank pipe organ was added in 1876. Though the organ was replaced in 1996, some of the original pipes remain.

In 1944, a hurricane damaged the north steeple, forcing the church to remove it.

The church's first expansion came in 1955, when a new vestry, Fellowship Hall, and kitchen were added. In 1979, the parking lot was paved, and in 1983 the church was expanded for meeting room and office space. The last major renovation came in 1988, when the sanctuary was refurbished. Until now, of course.

"I think it was a fabulous job," said Aresco, who knows the difference between shoddy and

exceptional work. (He owns Aresco Construction in Middletown.)

"It's wonderful; we're all thrilled with the results," said Reverend Jane Hawken, who praised the "hard work of the Capital Campaign Committee" and the "generosity of our contributors."

She later added, "It truly is a testament to the commitment of our members and friends."

The dinner and tour will run continuously from 5-7 p.m., and will include ham, vegetables, baked beans, rolls and apple crisp. Tickets are \$12 for adults, \$10 for seniors, and \$8 for children under 12. Apple crisp may also be taken to go for \$3. Tickets are available at the door, and anyone with questions may call Mary Pont at 342-0753

In addition, the church will host a free walk-through, and eight different displays will showcase items like a pulpit from the church's second location, a pew rental sheet dating back to 1826, and a communion set from 1767.

The church is still waiting to receive the rest of its pledges before tallying the final numbers, but Aresco said he hoped there's enough to repave the driveway. If not, this is still being considered as a project in the near future.

Money cont. from Front Page

Leichter and Hebron selectman Brian O'Connell said that while they want to see the field fixed, they believe it's a separate issue. "The intent when the \$500,000 note was taken was to pay down the debt as soon as a settlement was reached," Leichter told the school board. "Do that and I will support you in funding the field project through another means. They are separate issues."

Superintendent of Schools Robert Siminski reported that the field is only being used for specific drills because of the potential safety risks. He said the plan is to begin work on at

least half of the field in the early spring so the fields would be available for use 18 months later, in the fall of 2011.

The RHAM BOE will meet Monday, Nov. 16, at 6:30 p.m., in the music room at the high school, 85 Wall St., Hebron, to possibly take action on the drafted resolution. Any proposal would need to be voted on at district meeting before the money is spent. If the BOE does vote to send a proposal to district meeting, that vote could take place as early as Nov. 30 – the last day in office for the current board.

Hodge Holds Final Colchester BOS Meeting

by Katy Nally

In the wake of elections, last Thursday's meeting of the Board of Selectmen was one of new beginnings and last goodbyes.

As a new library director was appointed, First Selectman Linda Hodge and selectman John Malsbenden, neither of whom sought re-election, participated in their final meeting.

The first selectman did not reflect over her time as an elected official, but during public comments, resident Merja Lehtinen thanked Hodge for her two years of service. "Thank you for showing us in town that we could once again work in a nonpartisan fashion," she said. "I truly hope you'll run again."

Malsbenden reminisced about his eight years as a board member. He described the hiring of Town Planner Adam Turner as his greatest accomplishment and thanked Town Engineer Sal Tassone for his service. The retiring Democrat received a round of applause after his goodbye speech.

But before the selectmen said their goodbyes, they welcomed the new Cragin Library director. Hodge said Kate Byroade was a unanimous choice among a panel of interviewers.

Byroade said she began working in libraries

as a page when she was 16 and has held just about every job associated with them. She said, after working in Manchester, she is excited about her move to Colchester because of its small-town atmosphere. Byroade mentioned she was impressed with Cragin's renovation and the "community's dedication" to the project. "I love the people, I love the community and I've come to love the rhythm of the library," the new director said.

Byroade will start at Cragin on Nov. 30.

As Byroade was initiated, six town officials resigned from their respective boards and committees, including Hodge's replacement, Republican Gregg Schuster. The new first selectman resigned from his position of chairman on the Republican Town Committee (RTC). Along with Schuster, Ron Goldstein, Mary Tomasi, James Ford, Rob Tarlov and Cathy Pompei also resigned from various boards and commissions, due to their elections last week to new boards and commissions.

After appointments and resignations, the board wrapped up the meeting by discussing additional funds for the open youth center.

Valerie Geato, director of youth services, said her afterschool program is understaffed due to budget cuts. The program runs Mondays for seventh- and eighth-graders and Wednesdays for sixth-graders.

The director said she would like to be in line with state recommendations of 10 kids to one supervisor. The center currently has four part-time employees, which is down one from last year, and two full-time project coordinators. Geato said the ratio is always shifting because the number of kids fluctuates each week. She said, some days there are 45 kids and other days there are 95. "I don't want to get to the point where I feel like I don't know what's happening," she said at the meeting.

Geato said Monday it's not necessarily about numbers, but more about supervision because the open youth center is spread out across five rooms, a parking lot and a green.

Geato said there is no money in the center's budget for another employee, so she asked the selectmen to consider an appropriation of \$1,200.

Maggie Cosgrove, Colchester's financial di-

rector, said Geato went to the selectmen as a precautionary measure, and will go to the Board of Finance (BOF) next. She said the extra steps are because many boards and commissions are in a "transition mode."

The selectmen seemed to be on board with the appropriation to the open youth center and moved to bring the matter to the BOF.

"The number of kids has significantly increased, and that's the bottom line," Hodge said. "The other alternative is limiting the number of kids."

Selectman Rosemary Coyle said this appropriation was a worthy cause. "One of the things we hear all the time is 'what are the kids doing in town?'" The open youth center is part of Colchester youth services, which is open Monday through Friday.

"I definitely understand this is a difficult time financially, but people who vote on boards have always had the best interest of kids," Geato said Monday.

The next Board of Selectmen's meeting, scheduled for Nov. 19, will be Schuster's first board meeting as first selectman.

Still No Approval for Midnight Police Shift in Colchester

by Katy Nally

The agreement between the town and the local police department for a new midnight shift has gone through a second round of scrutinizing from the police union, and it still did not receive approval.

According to Tony Camillari, a Police Commission member, the language in the memo of understanding written by town officials is too restrictive. The memo, he said, "took away the collective bargaining rights of the officers." He said the memo restricted officers on the midnight shift from filing grievances within the three-month trial period. (The midnight shift is experimental and would only last three months.)

First Selectman Linda Hodge said the memo "doesn't allow [officers] to take staff issues pertaining to the trial third shift to mediation or arbitration," because these solutions would cost the town money. Hodge explained there are three levels of grievances before these last two that would not deplete funds. She said the second draft of the memo allowed officers participating in the trial shift to bring complaints to the resident state trooper, which is level one, the first selectmen, level two, and level three would be the police commission.

"We're not taking all their rights away,"

Hodge said.

Originally, the memo was drafted by the first selectman and the town's attorney and sent to the Colchester Police Union, but it was not approved. Camillari said it was then sent back to attorneys for changes, but the union rejected it a second time and it made its way back to the Police Commission. "I thought it would be corrected, but not a whole lot changed," Camillari said of the second review.

Hodge said the first draft restricted officers on the third shift from filing any grievances pertaining to staff issues. However, regarding the second time around, Hodge said "we took out all the stuff they didn't like."

"We had anticipated that they would look at this as a partnership between the town and the union," she said. However, she said a compromise was not reached.

The first selectman said she tried for several weeks to arrange meetings between the concerned parties to rewrite the memo, but "it just didn't happen." Camillari listed those involved including the resident state trooper supervisor, the Colchester State Police and the first selectman.

With the second rejection of the memo and

no meetings held, Hodge said she refrained from taking action on the agreement and turned it over to her replacement, Gregg Schuster.

Revising the memo will now be a priority for Schuster, who will be appointed as Colchester's first selectman Nov. 16.

"I am hopeful Mr. Schuster will see the benefit for the citizens and go along with the Police Commission's recommendations," Glenn Morron, chairman of the Police Commission, said Tuesday.

The idea for a midnight shift has been in the works since September, according to Police Commission meeting minutes and, Hodge admitted, "It has taken longer than I've anticipated."

According to a police task force study from October 2006, the staffing issue of the local police department is of "overriding concern."

"There should be at least two Colchester Police Officers on duty at all times," the report read. "The four-hour block of time between 3 a.m. and 7 a.m. also leaves a large communication gap between officers going off duty and officers coming on duty." The study listed four major areas of concern, including achieving 24-7 police coverage. (There is continuous, round-

the-clock coverage by State Police Troop K, which is located in Colchester.)

Camillari said the hours of the experimental midnight shift have not yet been established, but the shift would fill a gap within the department's schedule. "We're trying to be proactive, not reactive," Morron said. "We're trying to prevent burglaries, break-ins and criminal mischief complaints." He said the trial midnight shift would allow the department to compile more statistics on local crime.

Morron said the shift is within the budget of the department because it requires "no added expenses." "If any issues arise we can always stop it," he noted.

Morron added that the commission has implemented experimental shifts before. He said there was a swing shift from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. that lasted a few months, which began without a memo of agreement.

According to Hodge, this memo is necessary because the midnight shift "deviates from the contract [with the police union] a little bit." "We need to follow the contract," she said.

Camillari said the matter would be further discussed at the next Police Commission meeting on Nov. 30.



A ghastly skeleton in a zombie graveyard is one of the many spooky offerings at David Durel's annual Halloween Celebration. In the photo at right, Durel hands the director of The Food Bank of Marlborough, Linda Cherry, a check for \$170, which he collected through donations at this year's celebration.



Marlborough Resident Raises Money for Food Bank Through Haunted House

by Katy Nally

Terror reigns over 15 Washington Rd. every Halloween when an ordinary house on the lake is overrun by ghoulish creatures, a chainsaw maniac and spooky props.

David Durel has transformed his lawn, garage and basement into a Halloween nightmare each October since he moved to town in 2005. This year, however, townspeople came out to the scary wonderland not only for the fright fest, but to support The Food Bank of Marlborough.

Durel raised \$170 solely through donations, as there is no admission charge, and a truck bed of food then dropped off the goods the weekend after Halloween.

"This kind of donation is major for us," Linda Cherry, director of the food bank, said last Saturday. While sorting through Durel's donations, she added, "This is wonderful because you get such a variety."

Durel and his haunted-house goers amassed hundreds of food items, many of which are only available to the food bank through donations. Cherry said the bank can purchase food from Foodshare, but it still relies on the community for items not available through the state organization.

Durel's donation will go to the 59 families, or 168 individuals, of Marlborough who use the food bank, Cherry said. As of Saturday, the food bank had 47 families signed up to receive a box full of Thanksgiving food, which includes items like stuffing, cranberry sauce and apple juice.

Several items from Durel will be included in these boxes.

Cherry said the monetary donations go into a sub-account of the Marlborough Congregational Church, which is affiliated with the food bank.

This was the first year Durel asked attendees to bring non-perishable food or money. He said the donations were his inspiration to go through with the Halloween celebration.

Durel said a lot of work goes into buying, creating and setting up his holiday props. "The display has become so elaborate, time consuming, and tiring, that I needed a charity this year for inspiration, as I swore last year's would be the last time," Durel wrote on his blog. He said four to five props have moveable parts that he wired, including a witch who stirs a cauldron and a body that pops out of a coffin.

The "Halloween guy," as he's known throughout the year, said many props wear store-bought masks, while their bodies are hand-made. He said he finds inspiration for new creatures in the masks.

Durel and his fiancée, Brenda Lee, said they hit up stores the day after Halloween and raid the half-priced items. He said each year he tries to add a new figure or improve the existing ones.

This year, Durel's basement hosted a mad scientist lab, as well as the "dot room." In the lab, a figure was dressed in a white lab coat and operated on a body. To set the mood, there were

flaming skulls and body parts strewn about.

Next to the lab, Lee staked out the dot room, which has black walls with neon-colored shapes scattered around. With only a black light to illuminate the shapes, Lee was perfectly camouflaged in her black suit with neon dots. She said she jumped out at unsuspecting visitors and even scared a few un-spookable teenagers.

Outside was equally terrifying. Durel's lawn was a maze of lights that weaved around frightening creatures. In one corner, Jason from *Friday the 13th*, in his legendary hockey mask held a giant knife and above him, a demonic being stared at visitors from the roof with beady red eyes. If that weren't enough, Durel said there was a volunteer who ran around with a chainless chainsaw to scare people. Visitors walked through the lawn and ventured into the garage.

One compartment of Durel's three-car garage held a man who was being electrocuted and another displayed a creature popping out of a coffin.

Durel said his mom convinced him to purchase the bona fide coffin a few years ago. At the time, he said, he was a little apprehensive and thought maybe his Halloween decorations had gone too far. "It kind of creeped me out because it was a little too close to reality," he said. But the Halloween guy went with it and set up the coffin this year.

His original holiday scheme started when he "put a few decorations up," and the celebration

has since burgeoned.

Durel said he began the haunted house for fun and to entertain his love for Halloween. He recalled one Halloween prop his parents created when he was a kid that left an impression. He said a victim lay on a table and he remembered walking up to the body and poking it to see if it was alive.

In his blog, Durel said his first prop was a grim reaper with a single spotlight. He said his sister added tombstones made from Styrofoam and paint sticks and people showed up at the makeshift haunted house. "That was the beginning of the end," Durel said on his blog. "Every year since then, it's become more and more elaborate and refined."

Durel said his celebration has grown every year to the point where his basement is overflowing with seasonal props. "There's only so much room to store the Halloween stuff," he said.

Durel said he spends much of October working on props and wiring others to move on their own. "Almost everyday after work in October, I worked on them," he said.

The Halloween guy said he was unsure if he would suffer the holiday celebration again next October, but, he said each November he is less than enthusiastic to repeat the haunted house. Durel said if he holds another Halloween fright fest he would most likely collect donations again. "It's such a worthwhile cause," he said.

East Hampton Council Continuing Search for Peace and Quiet

by Michael McCoy

The new Town Council's first meeting was not exactly explosive, though a familiar issue came up once again – noise.

For several years, residents have complained about noise, almost always citing Angelico's Lakehouse Restaurant on North Main Street. It seems that about once a year, an organized group of nearby residents turns out to tell the council their woes. The throng most recently came out last June, demanding a municipal noise ordinance be enacted. But by the end, they seemed somewhat placated by the council's promise to address the matter sans ordinance. This involved purchasing a sound pressure meter that police could use when investigating a complaint.

During Tuesday's meeting, Planning, Zoning, and Building Administrator Jim Carey gave an update. He said Paul Angelico (who owns the restaurant) applied to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a site modification in August in order to address the sound coming from the Tiki bar. This included a barrier wall, a roof over the music stage, and new and improved roof over the Tiki bar. The Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) hired acoustics consultant Marc Cote to review the application.

Carey said the PZC denied the application in October, for two reasons: commission members felt the proposed modifications would, by

and large, not provide the desired results. They also wanted to prevent Angelico from wasting money, Carey said.

However, Carey added, "It's the Planning and Zoning Commission's sincere desire...that some solution could be reached."

Speaking of Angelico, Carey said there was "not a lot of motivation to be very cooperative." On Thursday, Carey added that Angelico was "between a rock and a hard place."

"I'm grateful it's getting cold," chuckled Carey. Of course, this is because there is no live music in the winter. However, he, as well as seemingly each council member, agreed that the time to act is now, so something could be in place come the spring.

Though Cote's report was extensive, it did not direct the town on what to do, other than study the existing structures and noise output further to determine what new structures would mitigate the sound. He did specifically recommend, however, that Angelico's install their own sound system, eliminating one of the variables, while giving the restaurant greater control over the volume.

O'Keefe called Cote's recommendations "not unreasonable."

Council member Sue Weintraub suggested forming a three or four-person subcommittee to tackle the issue of noise. However, her mo-

tion was the rare one that wasn't seconded.

Town Council Chair Melissa Engel mentioned the time and effort devoted to this issue but admitted, "It hasn't produced results that make everybody happy."

One clearly unhappy resident is Fran Klein, who has of late been the most outspoken proponent of a noise ordinance. She called Angelico's plans "abominable" and criticized the council for not being effective.

"You talk long-term; you talk long-range," she scolded. "I'm really, really upset."

It's an interesting change of pace for Town Clerk Sandy Wieleba to preside over a Town Council meeting, which is the case just for the five or so minutes before a chairman is elected. At this week's meeting, Thom Cordeiro nominated Melissa Engel for the job. (Engel was the chair for the past two years on the previous council.) As the only nominee, the council voted 6-0 to reinstate her as chair.

Though not an actual rule, historically, the candidate with the most votes is given the position of chairman, which was the case two years ago. This year, John Tuttle received more votes than anyone, but turned down the opportunity.

"I was very grateful with the results of the

election," said Tuttle just before the chairman vote Tuesday night. But he said he had made it clear all along the campaign that he would not seek the chairman seat. "I have a career that requires me to travel extensively," he explained, adding, "It's no surprise to my party." (Tuttle is a Democrat, while Engel is a Republican. The seven-member council features three Republicans and three Democrats, with the seventh councilman a Chatham Party member.)

"Every incumbent who sought re-election was re-elected," he said. "I take that as a message from the voters that they wanted some consistency."

Engel said of Tuttle, "He deserves it," and grinned while adding, "I mean that in all the nicest ways."

Tuttle wound up being voted in 6-0 as the vice chairman.

Finally, late in the meeting, the council voted 7-0 to appoint Thomas O'Brien to the Board of Finance. Appropriately enough, brand new Town Council member Barbara Moore, whose seat O'Brien was to fill, made the motion. (O'Brien missed winning a seat outright on Election Day by just 84 votes.)

The next Town Council meeting is scheduled for Nov. 24.



Andover resident Christine Whitehead recently released her first novel, *Tell Me When It Hurts*, a romance/thriller.

Andover Resident Publishes Debut Novel

by Sarah McCoy

When Christine Whitehead couldn't find a book to read while she waited in an airport, the Andover resident decided to take matters into her own hands.

Eight years later, Whitehead has released her first book – a self-published novel about healing, romance and a bit of revenge. At its surface, *Tell Me When It Hurts* is the story of Archer Loh, a happily-married mother of one Connecticut attorney whose life is thrown into crisis when her daughter is murdered and her marriage falls apart.

In an attempt to cope with her out-of-control life, Archer relocates to Wyoming and taps into her long-forgotten assassin skills (in her younger years she was recruited to be a government assassin before opting, instead, to get married and have a family) and turns into a vigilante. Coming alongside the protagonist is Connor – a wealthy Eastern transplant who moves in next door to Archer.

The novel is the story of a year in their lives as they come together to support one another.

To find inspiration for her book Whitehead didn't have to look very far. There are many similarities between Archer and herself; i.e., they both come from Hungarian decent, love to ride horses and are in need of healing. "The book is about a mother dealing with her daughter's death and demise of her once rock-solid marriage but it's also has a larger theme of heartbreak and healing," she said last month.

For Whitehead, heartbreak came at age 7, when her parents died of unrelated causes just months apart. She moved to Connecticut to live with her aunt and uncle but Whitehead struggled to cope with the curveball life had thrown her. She fell into patterns of anorexic and obsessive behaviors into her young adult years.

Now a divorce lawyer in Hartford, Whitehead tapped into her own experiences as well as what she has seen at her firm to craft a story that both describes and offers healing.

She started in 2001 with just an idea for a book. "I had the beginning and the ending figured out but I needed to fill in the middle,"

she said.

Whitehead describes the novel as a "romance with thriller aspects to it." One thing is for certain, "It's far from chick lit," she said. Even the cover of the novel – which shows the side of a woman wielding a gun on a horse – stands in stark contrast to the typical romance novels.

It took until the beginning of 2008 for Whitehead to finish writing, editing and rewriting.

Even though writing is a major part of her job as an attorney, Whitehead said the style of writing is vastly different. She expressed gratitude for her classmates in a writing class at Manchester Community College, for their role in helping her make characters and story come to life. "I got to a point where I was reading my story so much that I lost the ability to be objective," she said of the writing process. "I signed up for the class and got wonderful observations and perspectives. They were my toughest critics but it was really helpful."

Initially, Whitehead had hoped to sign on with an agent to help her print, distribute and market *Tell Me When It Hurts*. However, this proved to be a difficult task as a new writer. Instead she published the book herself through Arbor Books Self-Publishing Services.

The novel is available through Amazon.com or at Bookworm in West Hartford.

So far, Whitehead said she's sold over 300 copies of the book and has been told that landing an agent could be easier now that she's proven the book can sell. In the meantime, Whitehead is busy working on her next book. Like the first time around, the idea for the novel is already kicking around in her head.

For Whitehead, who writes almost every night, the process of completing a novel has been an enjoyable one. She said she has formed a bond with her characters and loves that she can make them real through words.

Whitehead has started a website to promote the book and share her own experiences. For more information, visit www.tellmewhenit_hurtsbook.com.



Pictured above are bags, dresses and sweaters for sale at Your Closet or Mine consignment shop. The store opened Oct. 3 and sells many designer name brands for much less than the original cost.

Colchester Consignment Shop Offers Mix of New and Like-New Clothes

by Katy Nally

Calvin and Anne Klein might choke on their snazzy designer labels if they knew how much their trendy threads are going for at Your Closet or Mine.

The new consignment shop next to Hair Magic on Norwich Avenue offers like-new and brand new clothes, most of which are designer brands said owner Lexie Conlin.

In the women's section on Wednesday there was a two-piece Anne Klein suit for \$28 and a black jacket from The Limited for \$10. The men's side offered brand new dress shirts, still in the packaging, with one for \$22, down from \$200. The entire three-roomed shop is bursting with high-quality items sold at a fraction of their original cost.

Echoing the slogan of store like Marshalls, Conlin said casually, "Why pay full price? People love to get a good deal." She said her store is a haven for people who are "watching pennies" because of the economy.

Conlin said she has over 200 consigners who regularly bring in clothes. Conlin then sorts through the garments and if items are not in great condition they are not accepted. Consigners who give to Your Closet or Mine usually receive 40 to 50 percent of what the item sells for, Conlin said. However, she said few people collect on their sales and instead, they generally trade it in for credit to be used in her store. "We don't give out a lot of checks," Conlin said.

One person who shops on credit at Conlin's store is her daughter Marisa, 12. When asked if she has anything from her mom's store, Marisa pointed to the striped green shirt she was wearing. She said her favorite find was a small, black Coach purse with its familiar pattern of Cs.

But treasures like a Coach bag can go quickly, Conlin warned. She remembered one woman who worked at Macy's and dropped off several brand new Tahari suits that were priced from \$300 to \$500. She said within the week another woman, who needed work attire for her new job and was the same dress size, bought the suits for less than 15 percent of the original cost – about \$40, Conlin said.

Items for sale at Your Closet or Mine move quickly in part because of their designer labels,

but also because of their cost. Conlin said clothes that have been on the rack for 30 days go on sale for 20 percent off, those that are 60 days old are 50 percent off and if they're 90 days old they're 75 percent off. Conlin said if they still refuse to fly off the shelves they compiled into a \$1 bin and the proceeds go to a charity of the month. She said recently she donated the sales to the Humane Society at her daughters' request. Other months she gave \$80 to \$150 to local food banks or churches.

Your Closet or Mine is the second consignment shop Conlin has owned. The East Haddam resident also opened Kids Stuff Consignment in Haddam. Conlin said she sold children's clothing and maternity wear at her old store. At her new store, clothing for men, women (including maternity), juniors and children is offered as well as shoes.

Conlin's new store opened Oct. 3 after she looked at 20 other buildings in six towns and decided on her location next to Hair Magic. She said she knew it was the right building after visiting for a mere 10 minutes. And meeting Dottie Seitz, owner of neighboring store Hair Magic, sealed the deal. Conlin said she and Seitz work together to create a unique, social atmosphere.

The two stores also provide customers for one another. Conlin said one woman came in to Your Closet or Mine after realizing Hair Magic was closed, said she "had to have" a leather jacket, paid \$75 and left.

Other than the banter between the two owners, Conlin said what sets her store apart from other consignment shops is the quality. She said she is picky when sorting through loads of clothing from consigners.

Even though Your Closet or Mine's trendy clothes can go fast, Conlin said there's always "something for everyone." She said her store offers items for "all ages and all sizes."

Your Closet or Mine, located at 24 Norwich Ave. is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., although the store stays open until 8 p.m. on Thursdays. On Sundays the store is open from noon-4 p.m. For more information, call Conlin at 537-7711.

Griffin Named Interim Finance Director in Hebron

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) has apparently moved on from the Jim Day saga.

At a meeting last Thursday, Nov. 5, the selectmen said they are satisfied with the responses the management team of Andy Tierney, Mike O'Leary and Donna Lanza gave to a letter of concerns written by Day, the town's former finance director. The board also voted to name Financial Administrator Elaine Griffin as the town's interim finance director until Day's replacement has been found.

Day had written a letter to the BOS early last month outlining concerns about how the town was being run. He was placed on administrative leave the following week, and then fired at the Oct. 15 selectmen's meeting. Tierney has maintained that the decision to let Day go was in no way a response to his letter.

On Oct. 20, the management team responded to the items brought up in Day's letter.

Last Thursday, selectmen said they had no further questions on any of Day's concerns and were eager to move ahead in the process to find a new finance director for the town.

Until that hiring is made, Griffin will serve as interim finance director. She served in the same capacity last December, when former finance director Mike Hillsberg left for a position in Groton. She has been employed by the town for nearly 17 years and, earlier this week, said she feels comfortable in her new role.

BOS members said last Thursday that they would like to hire a town manager first, and then have that individual involved in the hiring

of a new finance director – meaning Griffin might be filling in for quite awhile. The selectmen have not yet reconvened the search committee for the new town manager, which had been suspended in August. The board has been waiting for newly-elected selectman Dan Larson to be sworn in. That will happen next Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m., at the Old Town Hall on Main Street; the selectmen will hold their next meeting two days later.

The town will begin the budget process in the near future and it will be on Griffin to present a proposed budget to the BOS for their consideration. "It's not new or scary," she said earlier this week. "I have worked gathering and entering data for the budget before."

Griffin said she may be interested in applying for the permanent finance director position though it would depend on what criteria the BOS requires for the position. She currently holds an associate's degree in finance.

Now that Hebron has named an interim finance director, the town can finalize its application for a Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) award for excellence in financial reporting. The town's finance department has received this award twice before, and Griffin said the town's auditors have indicated that the department stands a good chance to earn it again.

A final audit report for the town's 2008-09 fiscal year is expected to be available in the middle of December.

Accused Apple Thief in Hebron Assaults Glastonbury Orchard Owner

by Shawn R. Dagle

A Hebron man was arrested after the theft of apples from an orchard on Birch Mountain Road in Glastonbury turned violent early last week, according to Glastonbury Police.

Richard Pezzente, 48, of 105 Old Colchester Rd., was arrested Nov. 3, police said, after he was confronted by the orchard's owner for allegedly attempting to steal apples and then assaulted the owner before fleeing the scene.

The incident was the second involving the theft of apples from the orchard – which contains approximately 500 apple trees – in the last two weeks.

On Oct. 27, a Brattleboro, VT, resident was arrested after he allegedly was found by the orchard's owner with freshly picked apples in his vehicle.

During the latest incident, the owner of the orchard saw Pezzente's vehicle parked near his property, police said. When he went to investigate, he allegedly saw Pezzente shaking the branches of one of the trees and gathering up the apples and putting them into a black garbage bag.

When confronted by the owner, Pezzente allegedly responded that he had permission to be picking the apples. The owner informed him that he did not – that he was the owner of the property and had given no such permission.

Pezzente then pushed past the owner and climbed into his vehicle, said police. Not will-

ing to let Pezzente escape, the orchard owner stood in front of his vehicle and called 911, police reported.

While the orchard owner was on the phone with the police dispatcher, Pezzente allegedly began to bump him with his car in an attempt to get him to move. When that didn't work, he parked his car, climbed out and assaulted the owner, said police.

According to police, Pezzente got the orchard owner in a choke hold and dragged him to the side of the road. Pezzente then climbed back into his car and drove off, police said.

Police put out a description of the vehicle as well as the license plate number that the orchard owner was able to take down before Pezzente sped off. Pezzente was subsequently stopped and taken into custody by Manchester police on Interstate 384.

According to Glastonbury Police Public Information Officer Sgt. Joel White, police do not usually get a lot of calls involving illegal picking at local orchards. In this case, White said there were clearly posted "no trespassing" signs.

Pezzente was charged with first-degree robbery, sixth-degree larceny, third-degree assault, third-degree strangulation and third-degree criminal trespass, according to Glastonbury Police.

His bond was set at \$100,000, police said, and he was due in court Nov. 4.

Coshow Keeps East Hampton Seat After Recount

by Michael McCoy

East Hampton completed a recount Monday morning, though the outcome remained the same.

On Election Day, Nov. 3, all three Board of Assessment Appeals incumbents all retained their seats. Republicans Barbara Suprono and George Coshow took 1,445 and 1,296 votes respectively. The leading votegetter was Democrat Kevin Flannery with 1,518. The lone challenger, John Wright, was unsuccessful, with 1,291

As per state statute, "close vote" recount is automatically triggered when a race involves a win of within 0.5 percent of all votes cast, or 20 votes. The five-vote difference between Flannery's and Coshow's totals easily meets both criteria.

So Monday, Nov. 9, from around 9 a.m.-

noon, Town Clerk Sandy Wieleba said a handful of people from both parties attended the recount in town hall. This includes ballot checkers, the registrars of voters, the town committee chairs, and the two candidates.

According to Wieleba, this time around, Wright got 1,287 votes, to Coshow's 1,294. So, Coshow's victory stood.

A press release from Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz said, "Many races in this year's municipal elections were decided by just a handful of votes. These recounts serve as a good reminder why it is so important that everyone who is eligible to vote registers and makes their voice heard on Election Day by casting a ballot, since every vote truly does matter."

East Hampton Police News

10/11 — Jesse Bartlette, 17, of 46 Stack St., Middletown, and Jan Trendowski, 52, of 39 Beebe Rd., East Haddam, were involved in a car-vs-motorcycle accident at the intersection of Route 16 and Cedar Ridge Road, East Hampton Police said, adding that Bartlette was issued a ticket for making an improper turn.

10/30 — Gary R. Pawloski, 49, of 15 O'Neil Ln., was arrested for disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and risk of injury to a minor, police said.

10/31 — Mary Jo A. Mackel, 32, of 9 Belaire Ter., Portland, was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police said.

10/31 — A 17-year-old female juvenile was

arrested for sixth-degree larceny, police said.

11/1 — Chase A. White, 18, of 121 Mott Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for towing an unregistered trailer, police said.

11/2 — Joseph R. Nedobity, 26, of 62 Haddam Neck Rd., Middle Haddam, was arrested pursuant to a court-ordered warrant on charges of third-degree burglary, violation of probation and first-degree failure to appear, police said.

11/2 — Shelly A. Hayes, 45, of 20 Harlan Pl., was issued a ticket for speeding, police said.

11/3 — Cherie L. Carrier, 40, of 202 Hillard St., Manchester, was issued a ticket for throwing object at a motor vehicle and reckless use of the highway by a pedestrian, police said.

Colchester PZC Approves Expansion of Stop & Shop Plaza

by Katy Nally

After more than a year in the making, expansion plans for the Stop & Shop complex on Linwood Avenue were approved at the Nov. 4 Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) meeting.

"We're done," Town Planner Adam Turner said Tuesday. "We look forward to working with them to get this constructed."

Turner called the expansion project "well-established" and said the town has been working on the plans for more than a year.

"We've worked a long time on this and to see it come to fruition is exciting," said First Selectman Linda Hodge.

Hodge, who advocated economic development two years ago during her campaign, called the project "a real positive step forward." She said the town worked hard to bring in the "services the residents have been asking for," but could not comment on which stores will occupy the new site.

The complex, on 99 Linwood Ave., will be expanded by 20,050 sq. ft. and will include an 11,500 sq. ft. free-standing unit. However, the project developers, WB ARC, LLC, declined to comment on the project and when construction will begin.

PZC Chair Joe Mathieu, said the Stop & Shop building will be expanded on what is, if facing the complex, its right side, though the supermarket won't necessarily move into the new space. He said another structure will be added to the left of the Stop & Shop. The chairman said the independent structure will butt against the fence behind the old Chevrolet dealership and the hill will be excavated.

Mathieu said he was excited about the project. "This is a section of town we're interested in developing from a retail perspective," he said. "I think it's a good fit for the town and a good use of existing space."

The PZC began holding public meetings

on the proposal in September; there were several issues raised during those meetings, which Turner said were resolved. According to Turner, pedestrian walkways were added to the plans, the signage throughout the complex will be uniform and he said the town was satisfied with the truck routes outlined in the proposal.

Turner said there would be minor changes made to the parking lot. "They might have to take a space or two out," he said.

The developer's attorney, David Sherwood, said the traffic should not be a problem because it would be "managed by the stoplight." "I think it's going to be an asset to Colchester," he said. "It's in the commercial heart of the town."

Hodge noted one complaint she heard from citizens. She said some residents questioned why a new structure would be developed while there are vacant ones in town without tenants. To this she said, "We don't envision that the stores will be empty."

Despite some criticism, there was not much opposition to the project in the past few months. According to the minutes, when the public hearing opened on Sept. 16 several residents publicly supported the application, with most feeling it would be a good commercial addition for the town, and no one spoke against it. When the hearing closed on Oct. 21, only resident George Veneziano spoke in favor of the proposal, also calling it a good addition, and no one spoke against it.

Similarly, the parties involved had only good things to say about the application process. "We appreciate the guidance and assistance we received from the town staff, especially Adam Turner," Sherwood said.

Sherwood and the developers "did everything we asked them to do," Turner said, adding the town was satisfied with the plans.

Colchester Police News

10/28: Deborah Figarsky, 54, of 37 Brownleigh Rd., West Hartford, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

10/28: 16-year-old youthful offender turned themselves in for third-degree burglary and criminal mischief, State Police said.

10/29: At around 1 a.m. at Harry’s Place on 104 Broadway St., a witness said two men in dark clothing ran into the woods from a nearby parking lot, one minute after an audible alarm sounded. There were signs of an order window being forcibly entered. There was minor damage done to the screen window, but nothing was taken from inside. It remains under investigation, State Police said.

10/29: Nestor Pabon, 59, of 11 Colchester Commons, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

10/29: Joey Reaume, 20, of 96 Hammond Crt, turned self in for third-degree burglary and third-degree criminal mischief, State Police said.

10/29: Dustin Cote, 21, whose address was listed as P.O. Box 20, Colchester, was charged with carrying a pistol or a revolver without a permit, selling, delivering or transferring pistols and revolvers and stealing a firearm, State Police said.

10/30: Joshua Ganoe, 19, of 103 South Ridge Rd., Willimantic, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, misuse of plates, operating an unregistered vehicle and having a tail light out, State Police said.

10/30: Tyler Poole, 18, of 93 Pickeral Lake Rd., was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

10/30: Alexander Peck, 21, of 120 Stollman Rd., turned self in for third-degree larceny and credit card fraud, State Polices said.

10/31: Raymond Goulet, 37, of Westchester Rd., was charged with six counts of risk of in-

jury to a minor, DWI, breach of peace and operating a vehicle with a suspended license, State Police said. According to the news release, Goulet was arrested while driving several kids who were trick-or-treating.

11/1: Brenda Sinsigallo, 46, of 91 Oak Street, Windsor Locks, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

11/1: Naomi England, 35, of 288 Norwich Ave., Apt 1, was charged with failure to carry license, speeding, DUI and a stop sign violation, State Police said.

11/2: Jerome Januszewski, 62, of 108 Hagan Rd., Salem, turned himself in on the charge of leaving a child unsupervised, State Police said.

11/3: Robert McMillan, 19, of 43 White St., West Haven, was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

11/3: Daniel Delisco, 49, of 7 Palmon Ctr., Cromwell, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain lane, State Police said.

11/5: Floyd Fook, 26, 175 Main St., Niantic, turned himself in for failure to appear in court, State Police said.

11/5: Peter Kevorkian, 24, of 44 Brainard Rd., was charged with three counts of stealing a firearm, third-degree larceny and third-degree burglary, State Police said.

11/8: Fallon Saldo, 27, of 1339 Main Rd., Stamford VT, was charged with DUI and failure to maintain proper lane, State Police said.

11/8: Ashley Barcomb, 25, of 83 Pleasant St., was charged with third-degree robbery, third-degree assault sixth-degree larceny and interfering with a police officer, State Police said.

11/8: Peter Ezold, 25, of 83 Pleasant St., was charged with third-degree robbery, third-degree assault, sixth-degree larceny and interfering with a police officer, State Police said.

11/8: Sean Anderson, 22, of 83 Pleasant St., was charged with sixth-degree larceny and interfering with a police officer, State Police said.

Andover Police News

11/2: At 5:36 p.m., a burglary at 217 Long Hill Rd. was reported, State Police said. The home was illegally entered through an unlocked door and a few pocket knives and loose change were reported missing. There are no suspects and the case remains under investigation, according to police.

Marlborough Police News

11/2: At 3:59 p.m., a burglary at 21 Emily Rd. was reported, State Police said. Two engagement rings were stolen while the victim was on vacation, police said, and there are no known suspects.

11/2: At 6:48 p.m., a burglary at 34 South Stony Brook Dr. was reported, State Police said. The home was entered unlawfully and a large amount of “precious” jewelry was taken, police said. There was no forced entry and there are no suspects, according to police.

11/6: four juveniles and one youth offender were charged with throwing objects at a school bus on Roberts Road, State Police said.

11/7: Scott Brown, 31, of 52 Colonial Ct., Plainville was charged with DUI and reckless driving, State Police said.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Roughly a year from now, Connecticut will elect a new governor. And while we obviously don’t know yet who it will be, we found out this week one person it *won’t* be: the one who currently holds the office.

M. Jodi Rell’s announcement Monday that she won’t seek another term as governor may have surprised some, but it didn’t come as a huge shock to me. The writing’s been on the wall for a few months now. Look at her handling of the budget situation over the summer. It drug on and on, and finally, after a budget was adopted, Rell sat back and just *let* it become law, taking the rather lame position of “Well, I won’t pass it, but I won’t veto it either.” As a couple people have noted to me since then, if Rell really were eyeing another run in 2010, she wouldn’t have taken such an incredibly unassertive stance.

So, Rell’s announcement on Monday didn’t take me greatly by surprise. I will say, though, it was good she made the declaration when she did, as it gives the Republicans some time to eye potential candidates. That’s key, since the Democratic gubernatorial hopefuls have been organizing themselves for 2010 for a few months now.

I was at my parents’ house Monday night, and my dad, basically a lifelong Republican (although he voted for Kerry in ’04 and Obama in ’08; can’t fault him for either vote), said he was sorry to see her go. He also said Rell was going out “at the top of her game.” I didn’t really argue with him, but I can’t say I agree. I mean, if you compare her to her immediate predecessor, then I suppose she’s leaving at the top of her game; I don’t think she’ll be going to jail anytime soon. But the budget mess this year really hurt her popularity. In fact, I’m not sure if, had she chose to run again next year, she’d have even won.

Rell’s approval ratings really took a hit during the summer, no doubt as a result of the budget situation. They hit 59 percent in September, according to a Quinnipiac University poll. While that’s an approval rating that would have made George W. Bush do the Dance of Joy, it represented quite the dip for Rell, who enjoyed sky-high numbers for a while after replacing John Rowland.

And speaking of Rowland: When reflecting on Rell’s time as governor, that’s something you really can’t overlook. When Rowland resigned amid a corruption scandal, Connecticut made national headlines, for all the wrong reasons. Rell restored a sense of dignity to the office, which was something the state sorely needed at that time. And despite this year’s budget woes, that rehabilitation will always be a part of her legacy.

* * *

I visited some college friends last weekend and, for various reasons, found myself in Grand Central Station in New York City last Friday afternoon, the day of the parade celebrating the Yankees’ world championship. I had taken the train in from New Haven, and while I realized on the way down it was Yankee Day, I didn’t realize the train would be getting into Grand Central at about the same time the parade ended. The station was absolutely stuffed with Yankee fans, many of whom had probably played hooky from work and were now looking to go back home. I’ve

never seen such a concentration of Yankee memorabilia except for perhaps Yankee Stadium itself.

As I walked around Grand Central, I suddenly started to feel a little self-conscious. I had packed my clothes for the weekend in a Mets duffel bag I had gotten as a giveaway at Shea Stadium. So there I was, like an orange and blue speck amidst a sea of black and white pinstripes.

I made it onto my train to Poughkeepsie and discovered that it too was jam-packed with Yankee fans. I finally found a seat in between two other passengers, stashed my duffel bag onto the overhead bin, and squeezed in.

During the course of the trip, the car gradually emptied out. When the train came to its final destination (Poughkeepsie being the last stop), I reached up to pull down my duffel bag. I noticed a passenger in front of me, clad in a Yankee cap or Yankee T-shirt or some other piece of Bronx Bomber paraphernalia, staring at my bag as I pulled it down. He’d no doubt spotted the Mets logo emblazoned across the side. Before he had a chance to say anything, I just looked at him and dryly remarked, “Yeah, I’ve had a bad day.”

* * *

The history of words and phrases has always interested me. So I was intrigued when, last weekend, I came across a story in a magazine explaining where the jack-o-lantern got its name. (Yes, I realize Halloween has come and gone; bear with me, it’s an interesting story.) Apparently, it has its start in Irish folklore, with a drunk named Stingy Jack. Stingy Jack was quite the trickster and, according to legend, even fooled the devil on multiple occasions. One such occurrence came when he tricked the devil into climbing a tree. While the devil was up there, Stingy Jack placed crosses around it, so that the devil could not come down – that is, not until he promised not to drag Jack to hell.

Eventually, Jack died. As punishment for his wicked ways, St. Peter denied him entrance into heaven. The devil, though, kept his word, and wouldn’t allow Jack into hell either. Instead, he sent Jack back to earth, condemning him to roam it for eternity, with only a glowing coal ember placed inside a carved-out turnip to light his way. Stingy Jack became known as Jack of the Lantern, and then simply Jack O’Lantern.

Throughout Ireland, Scotland and England, people started carving their own lanterns to keep Stingy Jack away on Halloween – which, of course, is All Hallows’ Eve, supposedly the day when the dead walk among the living. Items like turnips, beets and potatoes were used. It wasn’t until some of those Irishmen, Brits and Scots moved to the United States in the 18th and 19th centuries that the lanterns began to be carved in pumpkins.

Was there really a drunken trickster named Stingy Jack who outwitted the devil? Doubtful. But it sure did make for a fun story. And after reading it, just why we call a carved pumpkin a “jack-o-lantern” made a lot more sense.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Harry W. Odell

Harry William Odell, 86, of Glastonbury, and beloved husband for 63 years of Priscilla (Marston) Odell, passed away on Tuesday, Nov. 3, surrounded by his family. He was born in Lynn, MA, son of the late Harry W. and Marie (Rioux) Odell, and was reared in Marblehead, MA by his paternal grandparents.



Harry graduated in 1942 from Marblehead High School, where he played on the record-holding football team that traveled to Massillon, Ohio to play that city's championship team. Following high school, Harry served his country proudly in the U.S. Army during World War II in the 29th Division, 116th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Battalion, Company M in the European theater, including the Omaha Beach landing in Normandy.

Upon returning home, Harry married Priscilla and studied engineering and management at Lowell Institute, MIT, Northeastern University, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He worked for numerous companies over the course of his lengthy career, including General Electric, Anderson Nichols, United Shoe Machinery, Standard-Knapp, Borg-Warner, Colt Industries, and the Maine Department of Economic Development.

Harry belonged to the Philanthropic Lodge of the Masons of Marblehead, MA and the Sphinx Temple A.A.O.N.M.S. of Newington, CT. He also very much enjoyed the outdoors as a member of the Appalachian Mountain Club and the New England 4,000-Footers Club, with his last hike being up Mt. Katahdin in Maine.

Harry is survived by his loving wife, and their three children: Wendy Odell Berryman and her husband Richard of West Lebanon, NH, Kimberly Odell Ordway and her husband David of Freeport, ME, and Craig W. Odell of East Hampton, CT; his six grandchildren: Jaime Berryman, Tracy Burton and her husband Shawn, Shonna and Gregory Ordway, Leigh Ann and Hailey Odell; two great grandchildren: Emma and Logan Burton; and several nieces and nephews. Harry was predeceased by both of his parents and his sister Ruth Robinson.

A service to celebrate Harry's life was held Wednesday afternoon (Nov. 11) at the South Congregational Church in Glastonbury. In lieu of flowers, the Odell family requests that you make contributions in Harry's memory to either: the 29th Division Association, 206 Linden Ponds Way, #112, Hingham, MA 02043, or the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111 (800-452-0114). Please honor Harry's memory by visiting his guestbook at www.glastonburyfuneral.com

Colchester

Francis Louis Van Cedarfield

Francis Louis Van Cedarfield, 69, of Colchester, passed away Thursday, Nov. 5. Born Dec. 3, 1939, in Hartford, he was a son of the late Anton and Emily (Bliss) Van Cedarfield. Mr. Van Cedarfield had worked as a farmhand for various poultry farms in the area for many years.

He is survived by five siblings, Peggy Corsaro of East Hampton, Barbara Standish of Colchester, Ernest of Interlachen, FL, David of Colchester and Jackie of Poplar Branch, NC; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by six siblings: Myrtle, Bennett, Lawrence, Daniel, James and Rachel.

Friends gathered Tuesday at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. A memorial service will be observed at 1 p.m., followed by committal in the family plot in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Apple Rehab Colchester Recreation Fund, 36 Broadway, Colchester 06415.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Marlborough

Robert John Moore Sr.

Robert J. Moore Sr. of Madison, formerly of Marlborough, died Friday evening, Nov. 6, after a very brief illness. Bob was born Dec. 6, 1928, in Ware, MA, the son of the late John and Mary (Mulvaney) Moore.

He grew up in Hartford and graduated from Bulkeley High School in 1946, where he met his wife of 57 years, Dorothy (Quirk) Moore. In 1950, after graduating from Connecticut Teachers College, he and Dorothy moved to Marlborough to be closer to Mary Hall School where he taught in what was then a three-room school house. Four years later, he took a teaching job with the East Hampton School system, where he taught for 31 more years.

Bob served as Marlborough's Judge of Probate from 1978-94. He joined the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department in 1952, and later served as fire commissioner until his retirement in 2005, when he moved to Madison. He was a member of the Democratic Town Committee and served on several local boards. Notably, he was the chairman of the Marlborough Board of Finance and was instrumental in the founding of Blish Park, the public beach for town residents. He was a member of the Westbrook Lodge of Elks No. 1784, where he was named the 2008 Irishman of the Year. He was also a lifelong supporter of the American Legion in Marlborough and the VFW in East Hampton.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by eight children and their spouses: John Moore of Marlborough, Tim and Melissa Moore of Florida, Bob and Denise Moore of Ohio, Dan and Donna Moore of Marlborough, Dorry and Doug Palmer of Hebron, Kathy Taylor of Marlborough, Mary and Rich Walz of Marlborough and Patty Meskers of Marlborough; 17 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a dearest sister-in-law, Dorothy Quirk of West Hartford.

A funeral liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, Nov. 10, in St. John Fisher Church in Marlborough. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family in Marlborough Cemetery. Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, on Monday evening, Nov. 9.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447. To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

Vivian C. Jesmonth

Vivian C. Jesmonth, 76, of 48 Fairway Dr., died Tuesday, Nov. 3, at Harrington Court Healthcare. On Sept. 3, 1933, she was born in Plainfield, the daughter of the late Maximilien and Cecile (Fournier) Lavigueur.

Vivian grew up in Plainfield and was a graduate of Killingly High School Class of 1951. After high school she attended the Backus Hospital School of Nursing in Norwich, graduating in 1954. On Nov. 13, 1954, she was married to John Jesmonth at Sacred Heart Church in Wauregan; they were only a week away from celebrating their 55th anniversary. She worked for a short time at Backus as a registered nurse before leaving to start her family. She returned to nursing in the 1970s when her children were in high school, and retired from Backus in 1989.

Vivian was involved with several local civic organizations including the Norwich Garden Club. She was an active member of the Backus Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association and was a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church in Norwichtown for many years. She was a loving wife and mother, enjoyed reading, gardening and cooking, and spending time with her family or going to lunch with her friends.

In addition to her husband John, she is survived by her children, Kim Lamagna and husband Peter of South Glastonbury and Kevin Jesmonth and wife Katherine of Colchester; grandchildren, Cassandra Jesmonth and Troy and Madison Lamagna; brother, Richard Lavigueur of Brooklyn; and sister, Lois Mortensen of Junction City, OR.

She was predeceased by her son, LTJG Michael Jesmonth, U.S.C.G.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Nov. 9, at Sacred Heart Church of Norwichtown, 52 West Town St., Norwich. Burial will follow in St. Joseph Cemetery. There are no calling hours.

Donations in her memory may be made to Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter, 279 New Britain Rd., Kensington, CT 06037.

The Woyasz & Son Funeral Home, 141 Central Ave., Norwich, is in charge of arrangements.

Marlborough

Wesley Irving Nowsch

Wesley Irving Nowsch, 84, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Muriel (Fuller) Nowsch and widower of the late Mildred (McAllister) Nowsch, went home to be with the Lord Thursday morning, Nov. 5.

Born Aug. 21, 1925, in Rockville, he was the son of the late Max and Lottie (Milton) Nowsch. Over the years, Mr. Nowsch was employed in a variety of professions. He worked as a professional truck driver as well as in carpentry, sheet metal and as an insurance adjuster. He combined his love for horses and driving, working for Allegra Farms where he drove a horse and carriage for countless weddings, special events and was even featured in a few television and movie productions.

He was a proud and active member of the First Company Governor's Horse Guard for over 60 years. The owner of Rockledge Ranch in Marlborough, his love of horses included raising, training and showing American Quarter horses. He was a longtime resident of Marlborough, where he was active in the community and served as a volunteer ambulance driver and town constable. He also managed and coached RHAM football.

A man of great faith, Mr. Nowsch was a member and deacon of the Marlborough Congregational Church. He later became a member of Colchester Bible Baptist Church for over 20 years where he served in the AWANA youth group program.

He loved horses, farming, riding his tractor and chopping wood. He will be remembered for his sense of humor, generosity, integrity, work ethic, but mostly for his love and devotion for his family. He will be greatly missed.

In addition to his loving wife, he is survived by five daughters and their spouses: Janet and Frank Zaino of St. James City, FL; Patti and Robert Koshko, Karen and Joseph Currier, Donna and Bret Brierley, and Peggy Poresky, all of Marlborough; three sisters, Rita Rankl of Maine, Shirley Strickland of New Hampshire and Frances Hodge of Marlborough; a brother, Richard Nowsch of Marlborough; 14 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; and a host of extended family members and friends.

In addition to Mildred, his beloved first wife of 48 years, he was predeceased by four brothers, Milton, Melvin, Robert and George.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Nov. 6, at the Colchester Bible Baptist Church, 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester. Interment followed in the Marlborough Cemetery. There were no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or to the Christian Camp, c/o Colchester Bible Baptist Church, 38 Chestnut Hill Rd., Colchester, CT 06415.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester. For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Gwenda Edwina Williams

Gwenda Edwina Williams, 84, of Colchester and formerly of Montclair, NJ, passed away Thursday, Nov. 5, at Masonic Care Hospital Hospice in Wallingford. Born Aug. 17, 1925 in Glenridge, NJ, she was the daughter of Dudley and Elizabeth (Mills) Cummings.

She was a graduate of Montclair High School in Montclair, NJ. She went to work for the Picatinny Arsenal in Picatinny, NJ, during WWII, New Jersey Bell Telephone Co. and Essex County of New Jersey. Mrs. Williams was politically involved in the Democratic party and served as an Essex County Committee woman for 15 years. She was also involved with various community organizations including the Montclair Grass Roots, the Montclair branch of the NAACP, the Essex County League of Women Voters and the National Council of Negro Women. Mrs. Williams was a lifelong member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Montclair, NJ.

Mrs. Williams is survived by her daughter Irene Williams, with whom she made her home; daughter Gwenda Williams of West Orange, NJ; son Azariah Williams of Stanhope, NJ; son Gerald Williams of Philadelphia, PA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 14, at Christ Episcopal Church in Glenridge, NJ.

Donations in her memory may be made to Masonicare Hospice, 33 North Plains Road, Wallingford, CT 06492.

Arrangements entrusted to New Haven Funeral Services.

Hebron

Mary R. Knox

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Mary R. Knox, 95 of Hebron. She was born June 25, 1914, and died Nov. 9.

Mary led a remarkable life. She and her husband Win were always up for doing anything. They loved giving parties, traveling, working, volunteering and most of all enjoying their friends and family. Most of their friends were years younger than Mary and Win and even so, most could not keep up with them. Mary was so active in the town of Winchester, MA, where she lived most of her adult life. She was a realtor, an insurance agent and a soloist at several churches. As a singer she loved donating her services to entertain several senior centers. As a volunteer she held every position in the En Ka Society from president on down. She was active in the Winton Club shows. She started a ladies' attire shop in her home and later moved it to Lexington, MA to open "Mary Knox Fashions." She continued to love this side of her life until the age of 91.

She volunteered to organize, write and commentate fashion shows for so many charitable organizations that they are too numerous to list. Mary was also a poet. She wrote children's poetry and never let an opportunity go by where she could write a poem for her friends and family. Her distant relatives bought Shelter Island, NY, from the Indians. Mary's mother was born there and Mary and her family summered on the island. She lived the later part of her life in Hebron with her daughter and son-in-law.

Mary was predeceased by her husband, Winthrop Souther Knox Jr. She is survived by her daughter, Cynthia "Petey" Goodrich and her husband Dr. C. Paul Goodrich; her son, Winthrop Souther Knox III and his wife Janice Knox; five grandchildren: Frank Knox, Jodi (Knox) Brennan, Robert Goodrich, Shari (Knox) Ventura and Aimee Goodrich; eight great-grandchildren: Nora and Amelia Knox, Clayton and Kristen Goodrich, Angelina and Nicolas Ventura and Abigail and Paige Brennan; five nieces and nephews: Doug Ramsdell, Richard Knox, Judy Hyers, Jane St. John and Jeffrey Gegenheimer; nine great-nieces and nephews; five great-great-nieces and nephews; and two great-great-great nieces and nephews.

Our deepest thanks go to Mary's caregivers for all their love, time and expertise in caring for our mom: Lisa Kaiser Matteson, Anita Huse, Cathy Peacock, the wonderful staff at Middlesex Emergency in Marlborough and all the VNA and hospice nurses and volunteers.

Memorial services will be held at Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT 06040 on Saturday, Dec. 5, at noon with a luncheon reception following at the church.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: The En Ka Society, 1037 Main St., Winchester, MA 01890; Concordia Lutheran Church, 40 Pitkin St., Manchester, CT 06040; Heifer International, www.heifer.org/gift; or the MSPCA, www.MSPCA.org.



Marlborough

Paula Morande

Paula (Uccello) Morande, 64, of Marlborough and formerly of Glastonbury, beloved wife of William Morande Sr., passed away Monday, Nov. 9, surrounded by her family at Hartford Hospital after a courageous battle with COPD.



Paula was born on March 20, 1945, daughter of the late James and Theresa (Martell) Uccello. She graduated from Bulkeley High School in 1963 and lived in Hartford until 1965 when she married Bill. They moved to Montana and then to California and came back to Connecticut in 1975.

She leaves behind her children whom she loved dearly: her daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Thomas Tynes of Framingham, MA; her son, William Morande, Jr. of Glastonbury; her five grandchildren who were the light of her life, Matthew, Grace and David Morande of Glastonbury, Jacob and Joshua Tynes of Framingham, MA; a brother, James Uccello and his wife Diane of Putnam; her brothers and sisters-in-law, James and Donna Morande of Maine, Robert and Alys Morande of Cromwell, John and Christine Morande of Glastonbury, Susan and Joseph Dougherty of Glastonbury and Mary Ann Morande of Florida. Paula was a very special and loving "Auntie" to several nieces and nephews. She also leaves behind her little Yorkie, Bella.

Paula was loved by many and she leaves many close friends behind. Friends that she and Bill would vacation with, they would ride their motorcycles, and just enjoy each other and have lots of laughs together. She was such a passionate person when she loved something you knew it. Some of the things were her country music, playing on the computer for hours, photography, watercolor painting and of course her grandchildren. Paula was a very generous and kind lady. She will be sadly missed by many.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Saturday, Nov. 14, at 10 a.m., in St. Paul Church, 2577 Main St., Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Holy Cross Cemetery, Glastonbury. Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, today, Friday, Nov. 13, from 5-8 p.m. Memorial donations may be made to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, Connecticut Chapter, 185 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT. 06109. www.CFF.org.