

# RIVEREAST News Bulletin

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**Remembering Veterans... Wreaths Across America is returning this year, with ceremonies coming next month. Paul Rioux, current commander of East Hampton VFW Post 5095, is shown here at last year's ceremony, ringing a bell as Linda Wallace, Wreaths Across America town leader, reads the name of a local veteran who gave his life while in service to the country. See related story on page 12.**

## RHAM Board Raises Grad Requirements

by Sarah McCoy

By the narrowest of margins, the RHAM Board of Education voted to raise the Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) score requirements in order for students to graduate.

The regional school board voted 5-4 (two members were absent) to raise the requirements, with one board member worrying the move could lead to an increase in students dropping out of school.

Earlier in the fall, RHAM High School Principal Scott Leslie presented the results from the March 2009 administration of the CAPTs. Like in past years, scores showed that about 95 percent of students achieved the "proficient" level on the test.

Feeling that the test wasn't a true measure of students' abilities, Leslie proposed at the September RHAM Board of Education (BOE) meeting that the school board increase the graduation requirements so that students had to score at the "goal" level. The CAPTs are scored into five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced. The tests are given to all sophomores across the state and tests students' abilities in reading, writing, math and science.

"I wish I could say to students, 'Hey, Mr. Leslie has to present the results to the Board of Ed.' and that was enough for them to do their best," Leslie said at the time. "The truth is we're

asking students to perform at their peak when, in reality, they're asked to do very little."

At Monday's meeting, the BOE took up the issue again.

Board member Maryanne Leichter was first to speak on the matter. She stated that she was "very much against the proposal," as she felt that it would mean more resources and staff to meet "an artificial mandate."

Leichter worried about the students who could study all year and still not pass the test. "The state department said proficient is fine. Who are we to say different?"

Board member Joe Farrell agreed. "It adds importance to a standardized test that's meaningless to everyone but us."

While the CAPT is used by school officials to pinpoint strengths and areas of focus for the district, they do not affect a student's grades or college admission.

BOE member Danny Holtsclaw agreed with Leichter and Farrell. He said he envisions 25-30 students each year who aren't able to pass the test and questioned how many of those students would give up and drop out. "This could destroy lives," he said.

Leslie responded by saying that he looked at the performance of students specifically at risk for not making goal on the CAPT. In the

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## Colchester Youth Memorialized in Ballfield

by Katy Nally

The chilly November winds paralleled the somber sentiments of Colchester residents Don and Pat Camp, who gathered on a Little League field last Thursday, Nov. 12, to remember their little one.

The Camps' 6-year-old son Cody died in 2006 after a battle with cancer.

As Don stood on the freshly raked baseball diamond that was built to commemorate Cody, he called the ceremony "bittersweet."

"There are no great things for us," he said. "There is only bittersweet."

Cody passed away Oct. 13, 2006, roughly two months after he was diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma.

Cody's friends, family and town officials braved the blustery weather and converged at Jack Jackter Intermediate School for a groundbreaking ceremony of the Cody Camp Memorial Field. Cody's parents addressed a crowd of about 20 and gravely thanked them for their continuous help and support. Pat did not speak to the crowd, but stood with her husband on home plate.

"If there's a heaven, and I sure hope there is one because that's all I got left, there's one pretty proud little boy up there," Don said, with Pat by his side.

Don said it was "ironic" that a field honoring his son should be built in a place Cody loved

so much. He said Cody was always so excited to get to his kindergarten class he would get in trouble for running in the hallways. To appease teachers, Don said Cody and his friends would slow down and excitedly "waddle" into class.

Don spoke to several of Cody's friends who came to the ceremony, recalling how a clan of boys would regularly tromp through the Camp home on their way to the dinner table. "I don't even think 'friend' is a strong enough word for some of you characters," Don said to the boys.

One of those "characters" who attended Thursday was Cody's best friend, 9-year-old Alec McGovern. Because the boys were so close, Alec's father, Bob McGovern, spearheaded the Cody field initiative.

McGovern said that after Cody died, the Camps were concerned their son would not be remembered. "When you're 6 years old, you haven't had the chance to make your mark," McGovern said. Since 2006, McGovern has worked with the town and volunteers to construct the field. Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle gave special thanks to McGovern who, she said "doesn't know the meaning of 'no' or 'never.'"

To memorialize Cody, a ballfield was a clear choice because he loved the game so much, Pat said recently. She said he played Little League for the A's, and passed away shortly after his

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**Family and friends of the late Cody Camp, as well as town officials, gathered last Thursday in Colchester for a ceremonial groundbreaking of the Cody Camp Memorial Field. Pictured, standing from left, are Bob McGovern, Bill Hettrick, Karen Loiselle, Ron Goldstein and Linda Hodge, Cody's parents, Pat and Don Camp, and his sister, Bryanna Camp. Several of Cody's friends are seated in front.**

## Ballfield cont. from Front Page

tee-ball season.

Cody's favorite team was the Red Sox and he went to his first major league Sox game at Fenway, just 11 days before he was diagnosed. Cody was fortunate to see Kevin Youkilis hit a home run in the sixth inning against the Detroit Tigers.

Even as Cody grew sicker, his love for the Red Sox was unwavering. The 6-year-old was never without his Red Sox hat, even throughout his bone marrow tests and chemotherapy treatments, according to the Cody Camp Foundation's website, [www.codycampfield.com](http://www.codycampfield.com).

Pat said that if Cody were alive today, he would be "in awe" of the baseball field that was constructed in his honor. She said he was "always in the back row" and did not like to call attention to himself. However, the field will memorialize Cody for years to come. Pat said it will give her son's friends the opportunity to practice America's pastime and reminisce about Cody.

But the field is not quite ready to be swarming with Little Leaguers. However, McGovern said it's well on its way to completion and should open this June. He said former or current Red Sox players would make guest appearances at the opening ceremony.

Construction of the field began eight weeks ago (Thursday was really a ceremonial groundbreaking) and fresh sod was laid last Friday. McGovern noted it's the only field in Colchester with an irrigation system.

"It shows what can happen when a community comes together," Linda Hodge said at the groundbreaking, one of her final appearances as the town's first selectman. She acknowledged how so many people helped out even in "hard economic times."

With the help and donations of local volunteers, much of the construction and engineering was done pro bono. McGovern said project would normally cost about \$600,000, and the foundation would spend an estimated \$125,000. "Everyone's really chipped in and donated their time," he said. "This demonstrates a tremendous giving back to the community."

Some of those donations went to the pur-

chase of 32,000 sq. ft. of sod and \$4,000 to gas up machines that excavated the land. McGovern said the original 2.5 acres of land were cleared from the abutting woods on the school's property and the land was excavated 11 feet deep to level the field.

Along with the commemorative field, a granite wall behind the dugout will memorialize other children of Colchester who have died before their time, McGovern said.

Cody was alive for only six years and 136 days. For 49 of those last days, Cody lived with his diagnosis and suffered through chemotherapy and other cancer treatments. Pat recalled the day he was diagnosed, on Aug. 25, 2006, calling it "hell," adding "even after he passed away, it was hell."

Pat said Cody complained of a stomach ache and she took him to a pediatrician who misdiagnosed him with gastritis, which is inflammation of the stomach lining. Pat said she went along with the diagnosis, but noticed Cody's pale complexion the next day and "knew something was wrong." She said she brought her son to the hospital where he was correctly diagnosed with Burkitt's lymphoma.

According to the American Cancer Society, this type of lymphoma is most often seen in boys ages 5 to 10. The society's website ([www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)) states, "This lymphoma is one of the fastest growing cancers known. In most cases, a child will develop a large tumor in his or her belly that may block the bowels."

Pat said she was shocked by the cancer diagnosis. "I still can't believe it now," she said.

Cody died over three years ago, but never parted with his official Manny Ramirez uniform shirt and his Sox cap, as he was buried wearing both of them.

Although he didn't know it at the time, Cody will be remembered by people he never met, and his story might change others in ways he never knew possible. And he now can share his love of baseball with hundreds of kids who will appreciate the sport as much as he did.

Volunteers who helped with the construction include: Jess McMinn, Bernie Begin, Vinny Vespa, Roger Palmer, Gary Souza, Terrance Clark and Winding Brook Turf Farm.

## Grad Requirements cont. from Front Page

current junior class there are 83 students with a grade point average between .6 and 2.6. Of those students all but three made proficient in at least one subject area and more than half (55) scored proficient in at least one area.

"What that tells me," Leslie said Monday, "is that the students I'd be most concerned about have demonstrated the ability to succeed."

BOE member Jim Cherry disagreed with some of his fellow board members. He said that RHAM students perform better than the average on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) because the test means a lot to them. Right now, Cherry feels that the CAPT doesn't mean much to students therefore the results are nearly meaningless to school officials.

Board Chair Sue Griffiths pointed out that there are safety nets in place for students who don't pass the CAPT their sophomore year. Students are able to retake the test their junior year or present a portfolio their senior year to high-

light their abilities.

Griffiths also said that, she believes, the CAPT is good way for students to become familiar with the standardized testing process. "Testing is such a big piece of post-secondary education," she said Monday. "This encourages students to do the best they can in testing situations."

Leslie added that about 15-20 school districts across the state have upped their graduation requirement to require students to achieve goal on the test.

The motion to raise the requirements to goal starting with the Class of 2013 (current freshmen) passed 5-4. Griffiths, Cherry, Deborah Dee, Mike Turner and Dieter Zimmer voted in favor of the proposal with Leichter, Farrell, Holtsclaw and Thomas Tremont voting against it. Board members Ken Lee and T.J. Morrelli-Wolfe were absent.

# New Store in Marlborough Offers Array of Items for Pets

by Katy Nally

Fancy felines and deluxe dogs have flocked to Hoochy Poochy since its opening in October, for its array of yummy treats, specialty beds and toys galore.

Owners David New and Christine Small said their pet boutique is unlike large pet store chains because it offers a rare selection of novelty pet items, accompanied by a welcoming staff.

The store, in the Shoppes at Marlborough Barn, looks like it's ready to host a classy pet party. In one corner there are two café chairs with a matching table assembled near a collection of bulk dog treats nestled on short Greek columns. Some lucky pups have sampled the Chicken Kung Pug and the Chicken Littles treats. New and Small said many dog owners have raved about the treats after their pooch devours them. However, New and Small both admitted to trying the Peanut Butter Oatmeal Crunch treats. "I've tried it," Small said, "They're good." "We can honestly say the treats are good," New added, laughing.

New also said the yogurt covered monkey treats are tasty. The smiling orange monkeys are piled on a wire plate and sit staring out at customers from the glass display case.

But in case the pooch is more accustomed to the finer things and happens to pooh-pooh monkey treats, Hoochy Poochy also offers Poochie Sushi - California rolls for dogs. There is also Mutt Merlot, which is bite-sized doggie treats in a clear, plastic wine bottle. New said the doggy hooch could be offered at a dinner party, instead of a bottle of wine, if the homeowner were a dog lover.

But Hoochy Poochy did not forget about the spunky kitties. The store also offers Kitty Catbernet, which is similar to the pup version, and several toys that contain catnip. Like the pooches, cats also have their own selection of beds, bowls and toys.

New and Small, both Glastonbury residents,

summed up their merchandise as ranging from "boutique, specialty items" to novelty gifts that are animal related to regular pet toys.

The owners said customers from "all walks of life" come in to Hoochy Poochy, but all have a shared love for their precious pets. New said he frequently asks owners to share their pet stories. He said about 80 percent of Hoochy Poochy's customers have rescued animals, including some from puppy mills in Texas and others that were stranded in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. Small said the store would likely hold pet adoption days during the spring and summer and showcase local Humane Societies.

New said other owners go on to talk about their pets' personalities, their likes and dislikes and their bad behaviors. "It's amazing what people tell you about their pets," he said.

When asked what his dog was like, New replied, "Oh my dog's a mess." New has a 2-year-old white Pomeranian named Taboo. He said Taboo is an attention hog and is very playful. Small, who has a 4-year-old black Pug named Maya, said her pup is more reserved and sometimes looks at people with an expression of "Are you serious?"

Taboo and Pug, as well as New's three cats, Zeus, Suki and Kissy, and Small's cat Paco, were all inspiration for Hoochy Poochy. Small said that, as pet store owners, they should be able to "walk the walk" and relate to customers based on their own experience. The duo said their pets use some of the same items for sale at Hoochy Poochy including collars, toys and beds.

Not only do Maya and Taboo wear Hoochy Poochy merchandise, but an entire wall in the store is dedicated to the pooches. Next to the café table and chairs that have Poochie Sushi ready, large black-and-white photos of Maya and Taboo quizzically look on at customers. But the two pups are not alone on the back wall.



**The Hoochy Poochy Pet Boutique opened recently in the Shoppes at Marlborough Barn. Groovy pooches and spunky kitties who visit the store can be memorialized on the Paws of Fame wall, pictured on the left.**

Near Maya and Taboo is a myriad of other pooches and kitties in decorative frames, all plastered to the "Paws of Fame" wall. New and Small said pet owners can ask to post a framed portrait of their dog or cat on the commemorative wall.

Hoochy Poochy has only been open just over a month, but already the Paws of Fame boasts dozens of pets with personality. Small said the business is off to a great start and there are even ideas in the works for next year, including

doggie socials, pet Reiki sessions and dog training courses. Coming in a matter of weeks is Santa Claus, who will be at the shop on Dec. 12 to pose for pictures with pets.

The pet boutique is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. On Thursdays the store will be open until 7 p.m. through Christmas. Hoochy Poochy is located at 45 North Main St. and for more information call 860-295-0909 or e-mail [hoochy.poochy@att.net](mailto:hoochy.poochy@att.net).

# East Hampton Resident Named State's Premier Tree Farmer

by Michael McCoy

Peter Bergan was just named the state's Tree Farmer of the Year – but it actually has little to do with the hundreds of Christmas Trees he sells annually.

The Connecticut division of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) notified Bergan last month that he was chosen as its 2009 Tree Farmer of the Year.

Peter Bergan and his wife Arlene bought the 50-acre farm from the Commerford family in 1978. At that time, Bergan said, the four Commerford siblings could not agree whether to develop the property or preserve it. The oldest brother eventually sold it to the Bergans, who have preserved it. (And because of the 2002 Forest Legacy Conservation Program designation, the 44 acres that compose the tree farm are now preserved forever.)

The Bergans actually moved to town a year earlier, renting an apartment. When they bought the farm, located on Clark Hill Road, there was not another home in sight, something that spooked Arlene. However, she admitted, "It's so peaceful here." Since two other farms had already claimed the name "Clark Hill," Bergan named the spot Peaceful Hill Tree Farm.

"I'm an animal man myself," said Bergan, whose nature is as gentle as his 6'6" frame is imposing. Originally, the farm's focus was animals (cows, pigs, chickens), serving as recreation for the family, as well as fodder for his four children's 4H projects. But Bergan said they sold off the animals when the kids got older and spent more time bickering over who would tend to them than actually tending to them. (Those kids now range in age from 30-40 years old.) Now, the only Peaceful Hill animal is his dog Pebbles, 8, a German shorthaired pointer.

In 1984, Bergan decided to start a Christmas tree farm, partly to keep the rest of the farm viable. "I didn't hardly know a fir from a spruce," he admitted. As it happens, 1984 was also the year that the property was designated a certified tree farm.

While the tree farm is lucrative (though Bergan figured you'd need at least 10 times the six acres he has to make a living from the endeavor), it has also given Bergan the means to better take care of the larger tree farm. At first glance, this larger farm contains dozens of types of trees, but when those groups are broken down further (black oak, sugar maple) it leaves hundreds of varieties in Bergan's tree stand, or forest.

For the month leading up to Christmas, Bergan said the farm employs about five or six people, and he hires a couple of high school students during planting season. Otherwise, Bergan said, "What gets done around here is with my two hands." As for the 15 years that he worked full time as a truck driver and single-handedly maintained the Christmas tree farm, not to mention the entire tree farm, Bergan smiled, "I don't know how I had time to run this place."

As a retiree, he has now devoted all of his time to the tree farm, putting in 40-50 hours a week. Though not born into farming, Bergan has always been drawn to it. "My mother said I always had dirt under my fingernails."

The farm sells not only dozens of varieties of Christmas trees (blue spruce, Turkish fir), but firewood, ornaments, wreaths, cider and hot chocolate. The wreaths are fashioned from double-tapped (or misshapen) trees – Christmas trees that are completely healthy, but not much to look at.

Bergan, 66, grew up in Middletown and graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School. In 1964, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, stationed in Norfolk, VA aboard a Destroyer. In 1967, he started working for Holmes, where he previously worked as a high school student. Bergan racked up 40 years as a truck driver before retiring from Bailey's Express in 1998. He and Arlene have been married for 42 years, and are regular attendees of St. Patrick's Church.

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, Bergan will be honored during part of the fifth annual Connecticut Forest Conservation and Research Forum at the Rome Ballroom in Storrs.

Robert Rocks, a service forester with the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection's Department of Forestry has known Bergan since he became a certified tree farmer. Plus, because of Peaceful Hill's Forest Legacy designation, Rocks looks over the farm every year.

Rocks is also a member of the Connecticut division of the ATFS' executive board. The ATFS was created in 1941 to "promote renewable resources on private lands," said Rocks.

Rocks was also the one who nominated Bergan for the award. He said Bergan received the honor thanks to his "good conservation ethic." Bergan's stewardship plan, participation in the legacy program and involvement in the forestry community all contributed to his be-



Resident Peter Bergan was recently named the state's tree farmer of the year. He's shown here with his dog Pebbles in front of the farm's driveway. As the smaller sign suggests, Bergan's Peaceful Hill Tree Farm is celebrating its 25th anniversary as a certified tree farm.

ing chosen. (Bergan is involved in a slew of farm- and forestry-related organizations, including the Farm Bureau, which, he said, "gives us a voice in Hartford." He also recently wrapped up several years on the town's Conservation Commission.) Also helping him get the award was his building of access trails, creating a wild-life pond and forest stand improvements.

Managing the forest actually involves clearing trees, such as those that compete for nutrients with more desirable trees, or those with disease, such as chestnut blight or cankered birch. These cankers sort look like knots, and Bergan actually said, "The bowl makers go crazy for them."

Another virtue of Bergan's management is the system of access roads and trailers he has built over the last 25 years. "Part of having a tree farm is getting out to it year-round," figured Bergan, who rambles around the forest in his off-road Kubota, sort of a golf cart on steroids.

Bergan also provides cover and habitats for

animals, such as duck boxes, brush piles for small mammals and mountain laurels for nesting deer. He also pointed out that simply preserving the trees in "their natural growing state" provides "clean water for the Earth."

Rocks also said that even though the Christmas tree component is a cash crop that is harvested yearly, it is still replanted and considered "a sustainable good use of land," as opposed to putting in subdivisions.

According to Rocks, Peaceful Hill is one of about 300 tree farms in Connecticut and 90,000 in the country.

Peaceful Hill Christmas Tree Farm, located at 118 Clark Hill Rd., will open Friday, Nov. 27, and stay open until shortly after Christmas. Hours of operation are 9:30 a.m. until dark. Cut-your own Christmas trees run \$40, while cut trees (a first this year) will be priced as marked.

The farm can be contacted at 267-4341. Its website is [www.peacefulhilltreefarm.com](http://www.peacefulhilltreefarm.com). More information on tree farming can be viewed at [www.treefarmsystem.org](http://www.treefarmsystem.org).

# School Board to Decide Fate of Brownstone School in Portland

by Michael McCoy

The Board of Education (BOE) is inching closer to determining just what to do about Brownstone Intermediate School.

Though still probably months away from a decision, the school board continued their Brownstone Intermediate School (BIS) conversation Tuesday, raising questions about how to distribute classes among school facilities, should the facility cease to be a school building.

"We've been looking at the needs of our facilities for a couple years now," BOE Chairman Chris Phelps said.

It's BIS itself that raises this issue in the first place. The school was built in 1931-32, and it started to become apparent as early as 1989 that repairs were needed. Now, there are about a million dollars' worth of renovations that, school board members said, should be addressed in the coming years. However, the question is whether they are worth doing.

Paul Bengston, director of buildings and

grounds for the school district, explained the necessary improvements this week. They included replacing the windows on the Middlesex Avenue side of the school, as well as the floor tile. Tiles from the suspended ceilings in the rear also need to be switched out. (The rear addition was added in 1967.)

In addition, though extensive work was done on front part of the roof two years ago, the rear section of the school needs a new roof.

Bengston also said one of the biggest projects is the need for completely renovated boys' and girls' lavatories near the school front entrance. This includes replacing the plumbing.

"With maintenance, the building could last for another 40 to 50 years," Bengston estimated

According to Phelps, the BOE could decide to discontinue its use as a school facility and find other places for grades five and six, who currently occupy it. The second option is to go ahead with the million-dollar plan.

Off the table, it seems, is the notion of re-

placing the building. However, Phelps did recall that addressing BIS was at one point to be the second phase of major school facility improvements, following the creation of the middle-high school complex. However, between that \$38.6 million project and the current recession, Phelps figured the BOE was not about to suggest another major building project.

Should the school board decide to abandon BIS, most likely sixth grade would move to the middle school, while fifth grade would migrate to Gildersleeve School, which currently holds fourth and fifth grades. If the BOE goes that way, the move could happen as early as the fall.

If the board opts for fixing up BIS, Phelps estimated the work would happen the summer of 2011 and would not displace students. Instead, he expected the fourth grade to move to BIS and second grade to move from Valley View School to Gildersleeve School. Should that happen, the modular units at Valley View – of which Phelps snickered "They're anything but tem-

porary" – would be removed.

Phelps said there's enough space in the schools to support either decision and noted that the estimated school enrollment is on a "moderate downward trend over the next decade." (Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said Thursday the BOE had yet to decide if sixth grade would remain a part of BIS if the building stayed a school, although she stressed there would be space at the school to keep sixth grade there and still add the fourth-graders.)

The BOE will most likely not decide until 2010. According to Phelps, Doyen said the district should have at least six months to get ready for any shifts. So, with school starting at the tail end of August next year, that gives the BOE through February to decide; though Phelps hoped it would be sooner. In addition, he said he hoped to "reach out to the PTO organizations" to get their input on this decision.

Phelps expected the BOE to discuss the matter again during its next meeting, Dec. 8.

# Longtime Marlborough Resident Remembered Fondly

by Katy Nally

Throughout his 80 years, Robert Moore assumed so many roles, acquired so many nicknames and donned such an array of uniforms that a “bucket list” for the former Marlborough resident seemed obsolete.

In fact, when Moore’s grandson delivered his grandfather’s eulogy he mentioned Moore was not one to keep a bucket list because he had lived such a full life.

“I hope I live half the life he had lived by the time I’m 80,” Moore’s daughter, Dorry Palmer of Hebron, said.

Even in retirement, Moore accomplished everything he set out to do – he bought a red Mazda Miata and he moved to the beach.

Moore, who was dedicated to public service in Marlborough, died Friday, Nov. 6.

On Oct. 30, Moore and his wife Dorothy were at the Elks Club, when Moore began feeling sick, Palmer said. He was later taken to Yale New Haven where doctors found a blockage in his intestine caused by a calcified and cracked blood vessel.

Just one week after being admitted, Moore passed away. He was surrounded by his family, including his wife and their eight children.

Moore was born Dec. 6, 1928, in Ware, MA. His family later moved to Hartford where Moore attended Bulkeley High School. It was there he met his future wife, Dorothy Quirk, and the two grew to be inseparable throughout their 57 years of marriage. “They were attached at the hip,” Palmer said.

Moore went on to the Connecticut Teachers College and graduated in 1950. He and Dorothy then moved to Marlborough so he could be near Mary Hall School – then a three-room schoolhouse – where he would teach for four years. The two stayed in Marlborough, but Moore switched from Mary Hall to teach third, fourth and fifth grade in the East Hampton school system for the next 31 years. Palmer said many past students came to her father’s funeral, saying he was their favorite teacher.

Moore began giving back to Marlborough just two years after he moved to town. In 1952, he joined the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department and later served as Fire Commissioner until 2005. Palmer spent over half his life as a volunteer fireman and was always excited for the department barbecues where, Palmer said, he was the chicken grill master.

He was also very active in the local Board of Finance (BOF) and the Democratic Town Committee (DTC). Shawn Fisher, DTC chair, remembered Moore as “an always-giving individual.” The DTC recently recognized Moore

as the Citizen of the Year, and Fisher spoke on his behalf.

Fisher said Moore was a clear choice for the award because he was admired by so many people in town and he always had the “best interest of the community at heart.” He called Moore a “loyal and hardworking Democrat,” saying his “whole life was dedicated to public service.”

When asked about Moore, First Selectman Bill Black, also a Democrat, lit up and said he remembered him as “fun to be around” and “full of life.” Black said he and Moore worked together professionally and were also friends. “He was very active in town government and in the Fire Department,” he said. “He was a good person and had a good life.”

In addition to the DTC, Moore also made a name for himself when he chaired the BOF. According to Palmer, her father was instrumental in persuading the town to invest in Blish Park, which would be the town’s first public park. Palmer said her family had property on Lake Terramuggus, but the park would allow all residents to enjoy the beach in the summer. “We always went to the beach, but he just did that for everybody else in town,” Palmer said, “so they’d have a place to swim.”

But Moore’s dedication to Marlborough didn’t stop there. In 1978, Moore also signed on as the local judge of probate. And, being as attached as he was to his wife, Dorothy worked as the probate clerk. During the 16 years Moore worked at the probate court, everyone in town came to know him as “Judge” – even his children used the nickname, Palmer said.

But “Judge” would go by many other names throughout his lifetime. With the summers off, Moore picked up various odd jobs around town. He worked as a motor vehicle appeals officer, an accountant, a substitute traffic cop, a plumber, a mailman and a bartender.

But, as attached as Moore was to his hometown, he was even closer to his family. “He was the rock in not just Marlborough but also in our family,” Moore’s daughter, Marlborough resident Mary Walz said. Palmer added that Moore was a “great father” who was “there for all of us.”

Moore and his wife had eight children, with an even split of boys and girls. The family later grew to include 16 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Despite the large size of the family, everyone managed to congregate each Sunday at Moore’s house for dinner, which began promptly at 5 p.m. The Judge ate three square, home-cooked meals a day, with breakfast at 8



**Robert Moore, a longtime resident of Marlborough, passed away Oct. 30. Moore is pictured on a beach near his new house in Madison doing the crossword, something he did every day.**

a.m., lunch at noon and dinner was always at 5 p.m. Palmer said even Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners began at the stroke of five.

Even after the Judge moved to Madison, he still hosted the Sunday dinners, though he went by a new name – the “Tidemaster.” After Moore moved to Madison, Palmer said he became infatuated with the tides. She said Moore could not step through his front door without exclaiming, “It’s high tide” or “It’s low tide.” Palmer said his beach neighbors even greeted Moore as the Tidemaster when he ventured to the beach each day.

The Tidemaster even had a sidekick during the summer months, as Palmer’s son would live with his grandfather when school let out. Palmer called her son and Moore “best friends.” “I think he loved his grandchildren more than his own kids,” she said jokingly. The grandson and grandfather would sit together and Moore would teasingly “harass” Palmer’s son about his life. She explained her father had a “very dry sense of humor” and “he was always cracking jokes with everybody.”

As the Tidemaster welcomed his grandson each summer, he would join another family

every Friday – his friends at the Elks Club. “He always told us to treat our friends like our family and our family like our friends,” Walz said. Palmer remembered her parents looked forward to the end of the week when they could meet up with their fellow Elks.

Moore was so devoted to the Westbrook Lodge that he even dressed as penguin for the Elks’ Christmas parade. Incidentally, the club named Moore Irishman of the Year in 2008, which was another addition to his laundry list of names and recognitions the longtime Marlborough resident received.

But no matter what he went by, whether it was Judge, or the Tidemaster or Bob, and no matter what he dressed like, if it was a penguin, a traffic cop or a fireman, Moore was first and foremost a family man and a public servant to Marlborough.

“I hope I have a little bit of my dad in me, to make Marlborough a great town,” Walz said.

Services were held Nov. 10 at St. John Fisher Church. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Marlborough Volunteer Fire Department, P.O. Box 237, Marlborough, CT 06447.

## RHAM BOE to Hold District Meeting on Floor Money

by Sarah McCoy

With unanimous support the RHAM Board of Education (BOE) voted this week to bring to district meeting a proposal to use the balance of the flooring settlement money to fix an athletic field and pay down debt.

At its Monday meeting, the school board put forth a resolution to spend \$28,000 fixing half of the football practice field and \$190,000 to pay down the debt associated with the administrative office space construction that wrapped up this past summer. This project cost just over \$300,000 and the district intended on paying it back over the course of the next five years at a rate (\$70,000) equal to amount spent in rent and utilities for the previous office location.

This decision comes three years after the school district received a \$1.1 million settlement with the parties responsible for improperly installing the flooring tiles at the high school. After repairing the floors, \$218,000 was left in the account prompting a discussion on how those funds should be used.

At a special meeting last week, officials from Andover, Hebron and Marlborough asked the

BOE to use the money to pay down debt. School board members responded on Monday with no discussion, deciding unanimously to spend the bulk of the money available to do just that.

The balance, \$28,000, will be used to fix the practice football field, which was not included in the school construction project completed in 2003, due to budget concerns. According to school officials, rocks and pieces of the roadway that previously ran underneath where the field currently stands have made their way to the surface, thus rendering the space nearly unusable.

Another \$28,000 was allocated at the October BOE meeting to fix the other half of the field. This money came from a savings in the tuition line item, due to the fact that the district won’t have to pay for students attending magnet schools like they had planned.

The district meeting to vote on the proposed spending plan is scheduled for Monday, Nov. 30, at 6:30 p.m., in the auditorium at RHAM High School, 85 Wall St., Hebron.

## Portland School Board Gets the Dirt on Athletic Fields

by Michael McCoy

Discussion during Tuesday night’s Board of Education (BOE) meeting in Portland got a little... dirty.

Carl Johnson, the town’s ground maintenance supervisor, reported to the BOE about the state of the middle-high school athletic fields.

Paul Bengston, district director of buildings and grounds, explained Wednesday that his crew “has had problems trying to grow a good stand of grass...in the fields.” So, he said, Johnson extracted a soil sample in the late spring or early summer and shipped it to the soil analysis department at the University of Connecticut.

Bengston said the sample contained a “very high silt count,” which made the soil hard, thus difficult for grass roots to penetrate and take hold.

So, Johnson recommended purchasing a \$17,000 Verti-Quake rotary turf decompactor.

According to Bengston, the Verti-Quake, which is attached to the back of a tractor, punctures the soil with knives, then shakes, shattering the ground. The next step is sprinkling sand, which falls into the ground, making it more porous, and allowing water to enter. This would be done with an overseeder, which the town already owns.

“The goal is to soften the ground,” Bengston said.

He also figured that during the first go-round,

the knives would only penetrate the ground about a couple of inches, and that the process would have to be repeated another two or three times during the first year.

BOE Chairman Chris Phelps said the 11 acres of athletic space “get very heavy use,” especially for soccer and baseball.

One way or the other, Phelps said, mitigating the fields will take more than just “putting down grass seed every fall.”

Though Phelps would not reveal where he stood on the purchase, he said the board would rely on the experts since, “No one on the board is a turf management specialist.”

Phelps said the school board will have to decide whether to buy the equipment before it submits their proposed 2010-11 budget to the town. The latter happens just after the New Year.

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Also at Tuesday’s meeting, the BOE ratified the paraprofessionals’ contract during executive session. Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said a physical copy of the contract was not yet available, but she reported that the contract includes a 2 percent increase with “no step movement” retroactive to July 1, 2009. There will be a “complete freeze” in 2010, and another 2 percent increase without steps in 2011.

There are 27 paraprofessionals in the school district, 26 of whom are full-time.

# RHAM Girls' Volleyball Game Headed Back to Finals

by Sarah McCoy

It's déjà vu all over again for the RHAM High School girls' volleyball team.

The team is headed to its third straight state championship game after beating Jonathan Law High School of Milford on Wednesday night. RHAM defeated Law in the state championships last year.

On Saturday, the Sachems will face Joel Barlow High School of Redding – the same school RHAM defeated to win its first state title in 2007. RHAM goes into the game with a record of 21-0 and the number 1 seed in the Class M tournament. Joel Barlow has a record of 18-4 and is the 11 seed.

That game starts at 1 p.m. at Berlin High School.

To get to that game RHAM defeated Law 3-0 lead by seniors Kelsey Welling (13 kills, four blocks), Tessa Smolinski (seven kills, 10 digs), Mallory Grosso (five aces) and Ellie Linden (25 assists).

The Sachems jumped out to an early lead on Wednesday after Smolinski served eight straight points to put RHAM up 8-3. Law came back to close the score to 12-11 forcing RHAM head coach Tim Guernsey to use a timeout.

After the break, the Sachems came out focused and by the time RHAM senior Chelsea Fenton's rainbow found the deck between the two Law lines of defense the score was 23-18. The Sachems held on to win the first set 25-23.

The second game started out with the two teams trading points. Neither team got more than three points ahead until the Sachems began to pull away at 19-15. Smolinski brought the game to a close at 25-19 with a spike that found the ground before the Law team could even react.

The final game started much the same way, with the two teams going back and forth. The score was knotted at 16 when Law went on a mini-run, forcing Guernsey to take a timeout down 16-20.

Whatever he said worked as the Sachems responded with a run of their own to, again, tie the score- this time at 20-20. It was tied again at 21 and 22 when Grosso, running out of bounds with her back to the net, hit a ball over her head that Law couldn't return. The Sachems lead was safe for good as RHAM would go on to win the third game (and match) 25-22.

Guernsey said afterwards that he feels the semi-final game is the hardest to play because of the pressure in wanting to get to the finals. He said he was pleased with the intensity the Sachems brought on Wednesday, but doesn't think the team played its best. "Maybe at stretches, but as a whole, we didn't play our best ball game," he said after the game.

Prior to Saturday's game, Guernsey said he plans to keep practices loose and get the players relaxed.

After Wednesday's game, Welling admitted that he had a bit of nerves. "But, as soon as the first ball went up, I had tunnel vision on what we needed to do," she said.

Welling and Smolinski both agreed that chemistry has a lot to do with the success the Sachems have had over the last three seasons. "We're best friends off the court," Welling said.

Going into Wednesday's game, Smolinski said that she was saddened to think that she might have already had the last practice with her teammates. She's thrilled to have a few more before Saturday's championship – even if they are at 6 a.m.

# Marlborough Library Expansion Put on Hold

by Katy Nally

Renovation plans for Richmond Memorial Library have been placed on hold, even though the library was granted \$250,000 in September from the state for expansion plans.

Director of the library, Nancy Wood, said this week that, due to state regulations, the Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant would not finance the approximately \$50,000 to \$70,000 to be used for engineering and design.

At the Nov. 4 meeting of the Richmond Memorial Library Association, Wood said the Board of Selectmen (BOS) asked if the library could fund the costs of engineering and design, but the board was not optimistic. She said the board would have to raise the amount or tap into their emergency endowment fund, so they declined.

However, board members did not think there was enough support in town for the \$50,000 to \$70,000 to be raised, so they agreed to table the issue and revisit it at their September meeting in 2010.

Wood said the board did not think the renovation plans would be successful this year because of its competition with other projects going on in Marlborough, including the sewers. "Personally, I don't think it's the year for this," she said.

But Wood said the engineering and design costs are only "part of the issue." She said the renovations would cost between \$750,000 to \$1 million, so more funding would be needed. The town applied for a \$500,000 STEAP grant, but was only awarded half the amount.

However, Wood said the town could still

apply for these extra funds, even as the library board waits to revisit the issue. But construction will not commence until the engineering and design phase is completed, she said.

At Tuesday's BOS meeting, First Selectman Bill Black said the town would "look and see what our options are," as far as additional funds, and said one idea would be to talk to the Office of Policy and Management.

Black added that the library must make a decision on the \$250,000 STEAP grant within the year. He said there used to be a three-year time allowance, but it was recently decreased to only one year.

Marlborough was awarded the STEAP money on Sept. 25, along with several other towns in the area.

The original plans to renovate the library included the completion of the second floor, Wood said when the issue was first reported in the *Rivereast*. The upstairs has been incomplete since the library opened Wood said. Two new side dormers, a handicap accessible bathroom and an elevator were also in the renovation plans.

This was the second construction project proposed for the library since 2007. Two years ago, through a referendum vote Marlborough residents voted down a more-than-\$5-million project to revamp the library.

When asked how she felt about the renovation hiatus, the library director said she "supports the town," the board and their decisions, but the library ultimately "needs more space." "That issue," she said "is not going to go away."

## Colchester Police News

11/9: Kyle Czaplicki, 19, of 6 Stoneybrook Dr., Marlborough, was charged with failure to appear in court, State Police said.

11/10: Justin Collins, 32 of 131 Gill St., was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

11/10: A 17-year-old male was charged with sixth-degree larceny, State Police said. According to police reports, the victim was Towne Auction of Colchester.

11/11 At 5:45 p.m., a victim reported unknown persons had cut the copper pipes from her greenhouse on Amston Road, State Police

said. The case is under investigation.

11/12: At 8:15 a.m., it was reported that an unknown person entered a locked house on Amston Road and stole a bottle of medication, State Police said.

11/13: Ralph Byington, 48, of 60 Linwood Ave., Apt. D, was charged with violation of probation, State Police said.

11/15: David Roux, 41, of 170 Lakeside Dr., Lebanon, was charged with DUI, operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended and having no front plate, State Police said.

## East Hampton Police News

11/3 — Mark Robinson, 31, of 14 White Sands Rd., Moodus, was issued a ticket for traveling unreasonably fast, East Hampton Police said.

11/3 — Edwin Banning, 44, of 50 Perry St., Middletown, was arrested for driving unreasonably fast, operating an unregistered motor vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without a license, operating without insurance, improper use of plates and failure to appear, police said.

11/6 — A 17-year-old male juvenile was arrested for breach of peace, third-degree assault, sixth-degree larceny, third-degree robbery and accessory to third-degree burglary, police said.

11/6 — David Goddard, 45, of 99 Cedar St., Norwich, was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone, police said.

11/7 — Thomas McArthur, 28, of 478 Air-

line Ave., Portland, was arrested for reckless driving, operating under suspension, speeding and violation of probation, police said.

11/7 — David Lafave, 34, of 270 Wooberry Cir., Middletown, was arrested for third-degree burglary, second-degree criminal mischief and third-degree conspiracy to commit burglary, police said.

11/7 — Marissa Gennaro, 20, of 30 Slater Ave., Norwich, was issued a ticket for speeding, police said.

11/8 — Arsenio Sanchez, 20, of 72 Barton Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to stop upon request, operating on a public highway, negligent operation and operation without a valid registration, police said.

11/9 — Tammy Einsiedel, 39, of 6 Edgerton St., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a traffic light, police said.

## Portland Police News

11/15 — Melissa Mishler, 22, of 50-F Rose Circle, Middletown, was charged with second-degree breach of peace and criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

11/16 — A 15-year-old male was arrested for unlawful discharge of firearm and second-degree reckless endangerment, police said.

11/17 — William Myers, 44, of 64 Great Hill Pond Rd., was charged with operating under the influence, failure to drive in proper lane and insufficient insurance, police said.

## Hebron Police News

11/10: At 9:44 a.m., it was reported that sometime between Nov. 6 at 9 a.m. and Nov. 10 at 9:30 a.m. someone damaged a band flute at RHAM High School. The case is still being investigated by Hebron Resident State Trooper Mark Gendron. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Gendron's office at 860-228-3710.

## Marlborough Police News

11/12: A Colchester resident's 1994 Landrover was stolen and the driver veered off of Route 2 in Marlborough and struck a tree. The occupant of the car was not found, but there was evidence of an injury, State Police said. The owner of the vehicle was notified of the accident and an extensive K-9 search of the area was conducted to locate the occupant, but he/she was not found, police said.

11/14: Jane Keams-Finnegan, 43, of 23 Blish Rd., was charged with two counts of violation of probation, State Police said.

## Colchester Man Tasered by Cops

A Colchester resident police were attempting to pull over tried to run into his house to evade arrest, police said, and ultimately had to be tasered.

On Sunday, Nov. 15, John Ogint, 45, of 76 Standish Rd., was traveling 62 miles per hour in a 45 m.p.h. zone, State Police said. According to police, Ogint did not stop, even when a police car was behind him with its lights and siren on.

Ogint allegedly went down his road, into his driveway and attempted to quickly enter his house, and even attempted to close the door on the arresting trooper, Kevin Cook. Cook struck Ogint with a taser, police said, and Ogint "eventually submitted to handcuffing." According to police, Ogint had no complaint of injuries.

Ogint was charged with DUI, speeding and disobeying officers, police said.

Bond was set at \$500, police said, and Ogint is due in court Dec. 1.

# Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I sometimes am able to baffle friends by letting them know that various elderly celebrities are still alive. (No still-living-celeb shocks them as much as Shirley Temple, who – now known as Shirley Temple Black – is still very much alive, at age 81.) But I was blown away last week when I learned of Britain's last surviving World War I veteran. There's a World War I veteran surviving... anyplace? Not just someone born during the war; someone who actually is a veteran of it. I was shocked.

It turns out Claude Choules, 108, has been Britain's last surviving WWI vet since July, when Harry Patch, 111, passed away. The reason why he was in the news last week was because he's apparently against Remembrance Day (what they call Veterans Day across the pond; I like our name better). According to his family, Choules is against the glorification of war.

I guess Choules would be qualified to have such an opinion, as he certainly saw his share of it. After lying about his age, Choules joined the war effort as a British sailor in 1916. He went to the Australian navy in 1926, and served as an explosives and torpedo expert during World War II.

Today, Choules – just one of three still-living WWI vets worldwide – is blind and has lost almost all of his hearing. But, according to his daughter, he's "holding up well." Apparently, Choules said earlier that the secret to long life is simply "to just keep breathing."

\* \* \*

In the same vein as last week's etymology lesson on the history of "jack-o-lantern" comes this: Over the weekend, I was meandering around the ol' Interweb and came across an item about how the word "okay" came to be, and I figured I'd share it.

Apparently, from around 1838 to 1839, there was a short-lived fad in Boston and New York in which people, presumably for no other reason than to amuse themselves, would deliberately misspell words and then abbreviate those misspellings. For example, "K.G." meant "no go," as in "know go." (Apparently this was how people entertained themselves back then. Think about that the next time you complain there's nothing good on TV.) "O.K." stood for "oll korrekt" (as in "all correct"). The popularity of the phrase was given a boost in 1840, when New York-based supporters of Martin Van Buren called themselves members of the "O.K. Club," although in this case "O.K." mainly stood for "Old Kinderhook," which was Van Buren's nickname, derived from his boyhood home in Kinderhook, NY.

While Van Buren lost, the phrase hung around – and kept its original "oll korrekt" meaning. It was reportedly first spelled out as "okeh" in 1919, by Woodrow Wilson. He spelled it that way because *he* believed the

word was derived from the old Choctaw word "okeh," which meant "it is so." (The Choctaw theory doesn't really have any historical backing.) This spelling of the word didn't last very long; the spelling "okay" first appeared in 1929, and the word has been spelled that way ever since – at least, that is when it's not being spelled "O.K."

\* \* \*

Speaking of words....the New Oxford American Dictionary on Monday announced its "Word of the Year" for 2009. And that word is....unfriend. What does it mean? Well, it is a verb, for starters, and it means "To remove someone as a 'friend' on a social networking site such as Facebook." Christine Lindberg, the senior lexicographer for Oxford's U.S. dictionary program, said the word has both "currency and potential longevity."

While I understand the meaning of the word, and agree it will probably have usage well into the future, I think a better way to say it would be "defriend." Think about it: when you *befriend* someone, you become friends with them. In Facebook-ese, you're adding them as a friend. So, when you drop someone as a friend, wouldn't you *defriend* them? I get that "unfriend" accomplishes the same thing; I just think "defriend" sounds better.

There are several other words being added to the newest edition of the New Oxford American Dictionary that are born out of new technology, including: sexting (sending sexually explicit pictures and text messages via cell phone), intexticated (distracted while driving because you're texting on a cell phone), netbook (a small, super-portable laptop computer) and paywall (blocking access to a part of a website that is viewable only to paid subscribers).

And there are plenty of other, non-tech-related words being added, such as "tramp stamp" (which Oxford describes as a lower back tattoo that is "usually on a woman." I've never heard of it on a guy), "green state" (a state that has strict environmental regulations), "deleb," (a dead celebrity), "choice mom" (a woman who chooses to be a single mother) and "funemployed" (which is taking advantage of being newly-unemployed to have fun or pursue other interests).

Unfortunately, a few recent anti-Obama terms also made the cut, including "teabagger" (a person who protests Obama's tax policies and stimulus packages, often in the form of demonstrations known as "Tea Party Protests" – a term which kinda sickens me) and Sarah Palin's favorite, "death panel" (which Oxford describes as a "theoretical body that determines which patients deserve to live, when care is rationed").

\* \* \*

See you next week.

# Obituaries

## Portland

### Margaret (Pierce) Kabot

Margaret (Pierce) Kabot, 88, of East Hartford, loving wife of 47 years to the late John Kabot, peacefully passed away on Friday, Nov. 13, with family members by her side.

Born on December 12, 1920 on a farm in rural Windsor, ME, a daughter of the late L. Frank and Alice (McCurdy) Pierce, Margaret lived with an extended group of relatives including her father. She learned to get by with what was at hand. She felled her first bull moose when hunting alone at age 13, and was an excellent archer.

Margaret left the farm she loved so much and came to Connecticut to work at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft during the early 1940's seeking financial stability for herself and her daughter. During this period she learned to fly and joined the Civil Air Patrol.

She went back to Maine to care for her father but eventually returned to Pratt & Whitney where she met and married John Kabot. Thus began the most conventional phase of Margaret's life, raising two more daughters. She became the Sunday school teacher, Girl Scout leader, and chocolate chip cookie baker. She made her girls' clothes and together with John grew all of the family's vegetables in their large garden.

In 1968 she obtained her GED and returned to college. In 1972 she graduated from Eastern Connecticut State College with a BA degree in elementary education. After a brief stint of teaching, she returned to Pratt & Whitney, where she would retire from after over thirty years of combined service.

Margaret's first back to work purchase was a full size Yamaha motorcycle. She never drove a conventional auto again, preferring instead large vans and most recently her pick-up truck. In 1989 she built a second home on her family land in Windsor, ME.

In the 1990's she began to write poems, and many were published in the local paper in Maine. She became an avid crafter. She became active in the Senior Centers in East Hartford where she formed many lasting friendships. Margaret possessed a wealth of practical knowledge. Her "farmer mentality," independent spirit, and love of life will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Along with her beloved husband and parents, she was predeceased by a son-in-law, Gerald Russell; a grandson, Kirk Russell and a brother, Edward Sullivan. Margaret leaves behind three caring daughters, Gloria Russell of Windsor, ME, Janalyn Davis and her husband Daniel of Portland, Kimberly Kunze and her husband William of Hamden; a sister, Gladys Seigel of Palmer, MA; eight special grandchildren, Kevin Russell of Windsor, ME, Daniel Kunze and Kristin Kunze both of Hamden, Barney Davis, Hailey Davis, Harrison Davis, Henry Davis, and Georgia Davis all of Portland; four great-grandchildren; two great, great-grandchildren; many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be Sunday, Nov. 22, at 4 p.m. at the D'Esopo-East Hartford Memorial Chapel, 30 Carter Street, East Hartford. Relatives and friends may call at the funeral home chapel on Sunday afternoon from 2-4 p.m. Private burial will be held at the convenience of the family in Windsor, ME.

Memorial contributions in Margaret's memory may be made to the Connecticut Humane Society, 701 Russell Road, Newington, CT 06111.

For any on-line expressions of sympathy to the family please visit [www.desopo.com](http://www.desopo.com).

## East Hampton

### Frederick J. Perea

Frederick J. Perea, 61, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Paula (Barbour) Perea, died Friday, Nov. 13, at Hartford Hospital.

Born April 12, 1948, in New Britain, he was the son of the late Warren F. and Dorothy (Korzeniecky) Perea Jr.

Frederick was a resident of East Hampton for 25 years and had worked as a boiler mechanic for Blake Equipment before his illness. He had proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. He was a member of the American Legion Post No. 95 of Hebron, a member of the Orange, MA, Gun Club and a member of the Belltown Antique Auto Club. He had served as chairman of the Water Pollution Control Authority for the town of East Hampton, served on the Joint Facilities Commission for the town of East Hampton, and was a 20-year volunteer for the Connecticut Special Olympics Golf Tournament.

Besides his wife Paula, he is survived by his two sisters-in-law, Gail and her husband Bill Boughton of New Britain and Denise Goforth of California; four nephews and a niece, Dan and Mike Boughton and Jason, Matt and Michele Goforth.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 18, at 11:30 a.m. in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial will be private at the convenience of the family. Friends called at the funeral home Wednesday morning before the service.

Memorial donations may be made in Fred's memory to the charity of the donor's choice.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## East Hampton

### Richard John Ruel

Richard John Ruel, 61, of East Hampton, beloved husband of the late Karenann (Guzauskas) Ruel, died Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born April 23, 1948, in New Britain, he was the son of the late Paul Ruel Sr. and Evelyn (Perry) Ruel.

Richard grew up in New Britain and spent his summers at the family cottage in Madison. He served his country proudly in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam era. Richard moved to East Hampton in 1972 and served on the East Hampton Police Force from 1973 until his retirement as a sergeant in 1998. He was a member of the American Legion Post in Marlborough and had served as the sergeant-at-arms, a member of the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department Company No. Two, a member of the Polish Falcons in Middletown, and was active in the Monday Set-back League in East Hampton.

Richard lost the love of his life, Karenann, to cancer in 1999.

He is survived by his daughter, Raquel Walton and her husband Quentin of East Hampton; his son, Ryan Ruel and his wife Sarah of East Hampton; two sisters and three brothers, Patricia Riley and her husband Joseph of Cromwell, Shirley Swenson and her husband Kenneth of Pennsylvania, Paul Ruel J. and his wife Joan of New Britain, Raymond Ruel and his wife JoAnn of California, Robert Ruel and his wife Kathi of California; his four beloved grandchildren, Pierce and Lauren Walton and Alexandra and Logan fuel; several nieces and nephews; and his special friend, Cathie Slack of East Hampton.

A graveside service with military honors will be held Saturday, Nov. 21, at 11 a.m., in Lakeview Cemetery in East Hampton. Friends may call at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, today, Friday, Nov. 20, from 5-8 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the East Hampton Police Union Scholarship Fund, 20 East High St., East Hampton, CT 06424 or Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation, 1332 N. Halsted St., Suite 201, Chicago, IL 60642-2691.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Hebron

### John H. Horton

John H. Horton, known by his friends as "Honest John," of Sun City, AZ, formerly of Hebron, died Tuesday, Nov. 3, following complications from surgery. He was born in Etowah, TN, on April 25, 1929, the son of Gladys Adams Horton and Drewry Erskine Horton.

John joined the Navy at the age of 17, and served for five years until his medical retirement in 1950. While in the service, he was a hospital corpsman and neuro-psychiatric technician. Following Naval service, he moved to New Hampshire, and met his wife-to-be, Marilyn. After marrying and starting a family, he and Marilyn moved to Connecticut, ultimately settling in Hebron in 1962.

They raised five children, Deborah, John, Dana, Robert and Lisa. Through the next two decades, John and Marilyn were avid thespians, were members of the Podium Players and on occasion worked with the Hartford Stage Company. John was active in politics and was the scoutmaster for Troop 28 of Hebron for three years. He was also a member of the American Legion Post 95 and member of the Gilead Congregational Church in Hebron.

Two recurring themes in John's life were assisting others and "puttering." A bicycle repair shop, started in his basement during the late 1960s and operated through the mid-'70s, provided for both interests. Working along with his son, John II, they built and/or repaired bicycles for likely every child within riding distance of their home. John also loved softball, a sport which he enjoyed with his children and others. He threw a mean slow pitch softball and for a season, John was the pitcher who cinched many games for the Oooga Chuckers ball team, sponsored by Marty's Bag.

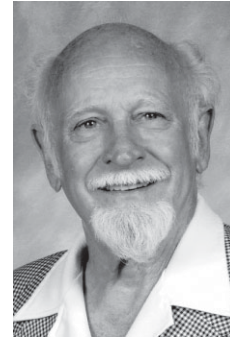
John retired from Stanadyne Corporation in March of 1991 and he and Marilyn moved to Sun City, AZ. There, they made many new friends and were members of the Lakeview United Methodist Church, the church Bowling Team and the Sun City Players theatre group. John was also an avid member of the "Sun City Rock Hounds" group, who shared a fascination with rocks, minerals and mineralogy. John volunteered for the Museum of Lake View Recreation Center, where he loved discussing, among other things, intriguing aspects of florescence in minerals. John was also a creative amateur chef, and he prepared wonderful meals for all who were close to him. His meals could truly be described as culinary extravaganzas and his friends knew the best restaurant in town was John Horton's kitchen.

John was predeceased by his brother, Wesley Horton; his son, John Harold Horton II; and his wife, Marilyn.

He is survived by his dear friend and companion, Ms. Donna Petterson of Sun City, AZ; his sister and brother-in-law, Patricia and Nelson Menard of Camillus, NY; and a dear uncle, Chet Adams of Citrus Heights, CA. Also surviving are his daughter, Deborah Horton Norris and her husband, Walter, and their loving dog, Nakai, of Hebron; son, Dana Horton and his wife Sharon, of Poquoson, VA; and their children, Jennifer and Evan, and five grandchildren; son, Robert Horton and his wife Robin and their children, Sean and Carissa, of Vernon; and daughter, Lisa Blanchard and her husband David, of Gilamanton Iron Works, NH, and their children Ian, Colleen and Tucker, and their granddaughter; daughter-in-law, Donna Horton, of West Haven, and her children John, Wesley, Trevor, Clarissa, Jae and Rory.

John was a lifelong entertainer, humorist, skeptic and lay minister. All who knew and loved John Horton witnessed his love of life and his fierce independence. A shared sentiment among friends and family was that, as he left this earthly plane and sped to his next destination, John was singing "I did it my way." John always said that "life is for the living, so keep living well."

In lieu of flowers and in John's memory, donations may be made to the Troop 28 Boy Scout Troop, care of Deborah Horton, 78 Marjorie Cir., Hebron, CT 06248 or the Gilead Congregational Church General Building Fund, 672 Gilead St., Hebron, CT 06248.



## East Hampton

### Dorothy Wyman Pettengill

Dorothy Wyman (Dean) Pettengill, 94, of Chestnut Hill Road, East Hampton, left this world Wednesday, Nov. 11, after a short illness and surrounded by her loving family. Born Jan. 9, 1915, in East Haddam and raised in Colchester, she was the daughter of the late Marshall and Amanda (Wyman) Dean, and beloved wife of Louis O. Pettengill of East Hampton for 62 years.

She is survived by a son, Donald L. Pettengill and his wife Ellen of Chestnut Hill Road, East Hampton; a daughter, Christine P. Etlinger and her husband Richard of Whitewood Road, Killingworth; eight grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandson, Oliver. Also surviving are two sisters, Edith Bazar of East Hampton and Hilda McNally of South Windsor.

In addition to her husband Louis, she is predeceased by a son, Edward W. Pettengill; two brothers, Howard Dean of Colchester and Gordon Dean of Norwich; two sisters, Alice Koshko of California and Helen Goulet of Colchester; and two half-brothers, Searles Dean Sr. and Francis Dean, both of Old Lyme.

Dorothy was a 4-H Leader and served on the Middlesex County 4-H Advisory Committee. She was also an active member of the baking contest committee of the Association of Connecticut Fairs for 15 years. She was a constant companion to her husband Louis during his years of service as president of the Association of Connecticut Fairs, 4-H Club Leader, 4-H Camp and 4-H Advisory Committee Chairman.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home 112 Main St. East Hampton on Sunday, Nov. 15, Funeral services were held Monday in the Spencer Funeral Home. Burial followed in Lakeview Cemetery.

Memorial contributions in Dorothy's memory may be made to the Louis Pettengill Memorial Scholarship, c/o 4-H Advisory Committee, UCONN Extension Center, 1066 Saybrook Road, Box 70, Haddam, CT 06438.

To leave online condolences, visit [www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com](http://www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com).

## Colchester

### Shirley E. Busk

Shirley E. Busk, 83, formerly of Manchester, passed away Saturday, Nov. 14, at Harrington Court in Colchester. She was born March 12, 1926, in Derby, daughter of the late Theodore and Leila (Weed) Busk, attended local schools and had been a resident of Manchester since 1960. Prior to her retirement in 1986, Shirley was employed at Manchester Memorial Hospital for over 28 years as a registered nurse. She was a former member of North United Methodist Church in Manchester and a member of the Connecticut State Nurses Association.

Shirley is survived by her brother-in-law, Robert Busk of Hilton Head, SC; a nephew and two nieces, Ralph Busk and Kristine Spinnaker, both of Michigan; Amy McNaughton of Marlborough; and many grandnieces and grandnephews.

Besides her parents she was predeceased by her sister, Evelyn Busk.

Funeral services and burial will be held in Riverside Cemetery in Shelton and will be private. There are no calling hours.

Memorial contributions may be made to the North United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 300 Parker St., Manchester, CT 06040. The Holmes Funeral Home in Manchester has care of arrangements.

## Portland

### Denise M. Manning

Denise M. Manning, 30, of Freestone Avenue, Portland, died Friday, Nov. 6, at Yale-New Haven Hospital. Born in Middletown May 5, 1979, a daughter of Veronica Grasse of Maine and Roger Manning of Portland, she was a lifelong area resident. She had been employed by Home Health Care of Middletown.

Besides her parents, she is survived by her brother, Kevin Manning of New Hampshire; her maternal grandparents, Ray and Elsie Duquette of FL; her step-grandparents, John and Catherine Grasse; her aunts and uncles, Betty (Albert) Thomas of Connecticut, George (Sue) Wachtarz of Iraq and Louisiana, Alfred Wachtarz of Florida, Robert (Janice) Wachtarz of Connecticut, Sharon (Edward) Handy of Connecticut, and many cousins, second cousins, friends and co-workers.

Funeral services will be private. There are no calling hours.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland.

## *Colchester*

### **Leona Butova**

Leona Butova, 93, wife of the late Joseph Butova Sr., of Enfield, formerly of Colchester, passed away Friday, Nov. 13, in East Windsor. She was born Aug. 25, 1916, in Jersey City, NJ, daughter of the late Kazimier and Benedykta Dyczewski Olubowic. For many years, she operated the former Lee's Coffee shop in Colchester. Leona was a member of the St. Joseph Polish Women Society, St. Andrew's Ladies Guild, VFW and American Legion Women Auxiliary.

She leaves behind her caregiver, who was her beloved granddaughter, Susan Lyons; her grandsons, Michael, David, Richard Lyons II and Sean Dickerson, also Rick Lyons and Kenneth Lyons; a daughter, Christine Passamno; two sisters, Anna Raymond and Helen Churney; six great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Leona was predeceased by her son, Joseph Jr.; her daughter, Patricia Ann Butova; a brother, Steven Olubowic; and four sisters, Katherine Raymond, Stella Bashiloff, Betty Wilcox and Patricia Lambert.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held Monday, Nov. 16, at St. Andrew's Church on Norwich Avenue, Colchester. Interment was private. Visitation was held Monday before her Mass, at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 S. Main St., Colchester.

## *Portland*

### **Sebastian "Nebo" Milardo**

Sebastian "Nebo" Milardo, 80, husband of Lynette Belcourt Milardo, of Hilltop Drive, Portland, died Tuesday, Nov. 17, at Wadsworth Glen Health Center in Middletown. He was predeceased by his first wife, Eleanor Csere Milardo.

Born in Middletown, Sept. 9, 1929, a son of the late Nebo Salvatore and Mary Cannatta Milardo, he was a lifelong area resident. He had worked as a self-employed carpenter for many years and had been a member of the Portland Fire Department where he had served on the Fire Department Drill Team. He was an avid gardener and loved canning the vegetables that he grew himself. He loved traveling with Lynette and was happiest spending time with family and friends. He also was a big fan of UConn Men's basketball. He was a U.S. Army veteran having served in the Korean War and was a member of the VFW. He was a past member of the Portland Exchange Club and was a parishioner of the Church of Saint Mary.

Besides his wife Lynette, he is survived by his daughters, Mary Dolce and her husband Steven and Susan Reynolds, all of East Hampton; his sons, Donald Milardo of Northbridge, MA, and David Milardo and his dear friend Angela Caldara of Portland; his son-in-law, Brian Reynolds of East Hampton; his stepson, Frank Violissi and his wife Lisa of Portland; his sister, Mary Jane Milardo of Portland; his grandchildren, Rachel Reynolds and Peter Reynolds, both of Middletown, and Shawn Reynolds of Portland; his step-grandchildren, Brook and Brittany Vigneri and Tyler and Nickolas Violissi; and several in-laws, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his brother, Nebo Salvatore Milardo, Jr.; and his stepdaughter, Michele Violissi.

His family received relatives and friends in the Portland Memorial Funeral Home, 231 Main St., Portland, Thursday, Nov. 19. Funeral services will be held today, Friday, Nov. 20, at 9:15 a.m. from the Portland Memorial Funeral home and at 10 a.m. in the Church of Saint Mary for a Mass of Christian Burial. Interment, with military honors, will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Gifts in his memory may be sent to the Wadsworth Glen Residents Activity Fund 30 Boston Rd., Middletown, CT 06457, or to the Church of Saint Mary, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland, CT 06480.

For directions, or to leave a online expression of sympathy, visit [www.portlandmemorialfh.net](http://www.portlandmemorialfh.net).