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RHAM High School Football Coach Tom Hammon, left, recently presented former Hebron resident Matt Daly, right, with the first ever Founder's Award. The two are flanked by members of the football team Mike Trapp (wearing number 68), Mark Danzi (77), Zak Trapp (61) and Matt Fitzpatrick (12).

RHAM Football Awards Daly

by Sarah McCoy

The RHAM High School football program recently honored a former Hebron resident with the first-ever Founder's Award, which was created to honor those individuals who supported the creation and development of the school's first football team.

And the first honoree seems to definitely meet the criteria.

Earlier this summer, Sachems Head Coach Tom Hammon gave out the first trophy to Matt Daly.

Daly lived in Hebron from 2002-06. In those four years he managed to leave a significant mark, as he served on the Board of Finance and challenged Edith Prague for the State Senate seat for the 19th District.

Daly also provided a sizable donation to start the football program at RHAM High School.

Daly now lives in Glastonbury and is running for the U.S. Congress against incumbent Joe Courtney.

"Football provided me with enormous life lessons," Daly said this week. "They can teach those same lessons to players today so I thought it was important that the school try its best to offer students that opportunity."

Daly said those lessons include the ability to

persevere when setbacks occur and developing a commitment to achieving ones goals. "You are part of a team that counts on you every day," he said. "It's something larger than yourself."

That same message is being carried on by Hammon, who is in his third year as head coach at RHAM. Football "is unique in that it's the ultimate team game," he said. "You have 11 guys doing 11 different things and everyone has to do their job to be successful. It's a way of preparing these guys for life."

Hammon said he created the Founder's Award for a simple reason. "I felt that it was important we recognize the people who do or have done extraordinary things for this program," he said. "Our first award was obvious."

At this point, Hammon doesn't plan on making the award an annual event but rather an honor to be given "when appropriate," he said.

He went on to say that he has a running list of potential future recipients. "This is a very pro-soccer town," Hammon said. "It took a lot, both financially and other ways, to get the football program where it is today. We want to thank those people who have helped along the way."

See Football on Page 2

Hebron to Continue Three-Person Town Manager

by Sarah McCoy

The Hebron Board of Selectmen has stopped its search for a new town manager, leaving three long-time town employees to continue sharing the duties of the town's top official.

When former Town Manager Jared Clark left abruptly in March, the selectmen appointed Director of Public Works Andy Tierney, Town Planner Mike O'Leary and Executive Assistant Donna Lanza to split the work of the town manager. This was to be a temporary solution while the Board of Selectmen (BOS) formed a search committee to find a full-time replacement.

Earlier this week, BOS Chair Jeff Watt reported that the search committee has suspended its work, preferring, instead, to keep the same three-headed approach to town leadership. "We feel like this group has been effective and productive in their roles," Watt said. "As of right now, nothing has been finalized. We will sit down and work through some of the issues that would come up if this [structure] was to continue on a more permanent basis."

At their last meeting, the selectmen scheduled a workshop for Sept. 3 at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the details of what may become a more permanent version of the town manager role. "The Board of Selectmen know this is a unique situation," Watt said. "But the town deserves to have people who know the town and care about its people. These are the right three people."

Karen Strid, a former BOS chair, said she has no qualms about the three employees. "I think they're three wonderful people who are

excellent in their own roles," she said. "My concern is that we have three people giving more than 100 percent to one job and then dividing another. What's going to fall by the wayside?"

BOS Vice Chair Mark Stuart said there are still many questions to be answered to ensure that nothing is left out. "If you build a structure around individuals that's fine as long as the individuals are in place," he explained. "That's much different than looking at it from an organizational standpoint. It needs to make sense in both ways."

Watt and Stuart both stressed that the decision to suspend the search committee does not necessarily mean that the town will continue to operate as it presently does. "There are still many questions to be asked," Stuart said Thursday.

Some of those questions will include what happens if one of the three individuals leaves or retires, and who has final authority. Strid wondered if the three-person approach violated the town charter, which stipulates that one individual must hold the top post.

Stuart said the BOS is looking at that now but suggests that Tierney could be named town manager and delegate some of the typical responsibilities of the role to other members of the management team.

Former Town Manager Robert Lee said that the approach made sense to him. "All three employees know Hebron and know the people," he said. "That goes a long way."

Lee continued by saying that, with the high



Hebron will continue to employ the three-person town manager setup it has used since Jared Clark departed in March. Pictured from left are the three: Town Planner Mike O'Leary, Executive Assistant Donna Lanza and Director of Public Works Andy Tierney.

turnover Hebron has recently experienced in the town manager role, continuing the current setup could afford the town some time to consider what they're looking for and some separation from the previous administrations.

"I know the selectmen have given it a lot of thought and I think it's something that could work for the town," he said.

Watt said the final decision will be based on
 See Town Manager on Page 2

Town Manager cont. from Front Page

what's best for Hebron.

One of the reasons why the current set-up has worked thus far, Watt said, is the number of employees who have stepped up and increased their workload. At the workshop next month the BOS will consider the roles of many town employees, not just Tierney, Lanza and O'Leary.

For the past several months, the town has saved money by not hiring a formal town manager. When the BOS considers making the set-

Football cont. from Front Page

Hammon said Daly's contribution was vital to starting the program.

"Matt is a great role model for the kids to see," he said. "America's been good to him and now he's giving back in a big way."

Daly said he came to almost every game when he lived in town but now only gets to the field occasionally. "It's an amazing environment they're building at RHAM," he said. "I'm just proud that I was in a position where I could help."

up a more permanent one, Watt explained, additional salary figures would be considered given the increased workload. Therefore, he said, there is no guarantee that continuing the current structure would result in a savings for residents.

"It's too early to tell," Watt said. "What I can say is that the decision to pursue this isn't a financial one. It's a case of trying to have the most effective leadership in position for residents."

Daly played football at Fairfield Preparatory High School and, later at, Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. His son Jake currently plays in the Glastonbury Youth League.

The RHAM High School football team will play its first game on the season at home on Sept. 19 at 11 a.m. The regular season concludes with the annual Battle for the Rail on Thanksgiving morning against Bacon Academy. Now in its fourth year, Bacon holds the Rail advantage 2-1.

Marlborough Day Deemed Success

by Katy Nally

The second annual Marlborough Day was a great success, organizers said this week, with over 700 people who attended and 30 exhibitors that came out to show their support for the community.

Friends and families gathered at Blish Park last Sunday, Aug. 23, to participate in activities and to watch demonstrations put on by local businesses. The Marlborough Business Association (MBA) organized the event.

New to Marlborough Day this year was a waffle ball tournament, which Jessica Olander, an administrative assistant with the MBA, said was a huge success. She said it would definitely be included in next year's event. The day-long affair also featured two live musical performances, by Gail Wade and the CW Jazz Quartet, and a performance by magician Jonathan Jacques. The exhibitors that attended included MBA members, area businesses and civic organizations.

Due to sponsors and contributions from the MBA, there was no charge for the event. Each attendee also received a raffle ticket for a drawing at the end of the day. Many gift certificates and two grand prizes were won. One was a \$250 gift certificate to Pat's Market, while the other was a \$250 gift certificate to Citgo. Others won gift certificates for spa treatments and financial advising as well as dining certificates to local restaurants such as the Marlborough Tavern. No one left empty-handed, though, as each family was given a tote bag as a souvenir.

"It was a great all-around family event,"

Olander said.

The MBA spent \$2,000 on the event, while sponsors supplied gift certificates and other funds. Donna Finocchiaro, the president of the association, said about 90 percent of the businesses that attended last year's inaugural Marlborough Day returned for this year's event. She said Marlborough Day is a great opportunity for businesses to get exposure.

Dance teacher Shannon Yager said many people registered with her dance school, the Jacqueline Roach School of Dance, after last year's Marlborough Day and even more registered after this year's event. Yager and her students performed a hip hop routine and encouraged others to get up and dance.

"It was a lot of work and a lot of fun," Yager said. "We had a great time. I love watching my girls perform and to see my old students."

Last year, the MBA brought back Marlborough Day – which hadn't been held since 2003, when the Park and Recreation Department presented it – to "give back to the community and to bring everyone together," Olander said. According to Finocchiaro, the association usually hosts smaller events throughout the year, but one central community celebration was needed.

"It's one event that everyone can attend together – a community event before the busy holiday season kicks in," she said.

Plans are already in the works for next year, Olander said.

"It's going to be bigger and better than ever," she said.

Marlborough Resident Returns to Stage with Modern Riffs

by Sarah McCoy

The Modern Riffs are a mixed band.

They're a mix of generations, genres, and tastes.

The result is an eight-piece jazz/rock/funk sound that has scored the band numerous area gigs. Last month, for example, the band played at the annual Greater Hartford Festival of Jazz at Bushnell Park, and earlier this month the group had shows at Governor's Tavern in East Hampton and at Manchester Community College. Concerts at the Hebron Harvest Fair and Marlborough Congregational Church follow in upcoming weeks.

The group is led by veteran saxophonist Bruce Phelps of Marlborough.

Phelps became hooked on music early on in his life. It took music a little while to hook on to him, though. "I was terrible," he said of his time playing clarinet as he grew up in Waterbury.

Phelps was so terrible that his parents sent him to private lessons with Johnny Hesser, a talented musician in his own right.

Within a few years, Phelps had switched to the saxophone and improved immensely. By the age of 13 he was playing shows with Hesser.

Phelps played in a series of bands during college in the 1970s and later, in the early 1980s, became a member of Top Brass, a jazz band.

His playing days were put on hiatus shortly thereafter, when Phelps and his wife began a family. Though family and career commitments kept him busy, Phelps knew the timing would be right to eventually begin playing again.

That time came last year.

With his children grown, Phelps began to consider how he wanted to get back into his music. That's when he remembered his mentors – Hesser and George Manstan, of Westbrook.

Manstan, after passing on his own chance for fame, formed a band with local high school musicians (including Phelps) to help them improve. And now after a 28-year break, Phelps is not only back playing with a band, he's duplicating Manstan's program in his hometown.

"The way I saw it is I could focus on me and do better on my own or spread it out a bit and help younger musicians," Phelps said.

Last summer, Phelps began recruiting members to the new band. Through connections with other bands and at Marlborough Congregational Church, where Phelps used to lead a wind ensemble, he recruited twins Molly and Emma Sayles (percussion and trombone, respectively) of Colchester, Matt Angelo (keyboard) of Marlborough, and Nick Aubin (guitar and saxophone) of Hebron.

The Sayles twins are students at Bacon Academy, while Angelo and Aubin attend RHAM High School.

Soon after the group expanded to include Anne Michaud (trumpet) and Eileen Cannon (vocals and flute), both of Marlborough, and Kim DuBois (bass) of Colchester.

In his recruitment process, Phelps said he was looking for the right mix. "First, you need people who are talented but are also team players and support each other," Phelps said.

DuBois, who joins Phelps as the only other adult member, called The Modern Riffs, "a wonderful opportunity."

"I tell the kids all the time we are all so lucky to have someone like [Bruce]. He is an extraordinary musician but, more than that, he's an extraordinary person," she said.

DuBois added that Phelps would be the last person to toot his own horn but that any praise that came Phelps' way was deserved.

Fellow band members agreed. "You do something like this because you enjoy what you're doing and who you're with," Aubin said. "I enjoy every part of this band."

DuBois added that while two-hour practices can get tedious with some groups, that's not the case here. "Before I know it we're wrapping up," she said. "Time just flies."

With a strong horn presence, the Modern Riffs certainly bring a jazzy interpretation to songs. However, they don't consider themselves a jazz band. Last February, the band released a CD with a healthy mix of classic rock, swing, jazz and easy listening.

"What's great about this group is everyone's individual backgrounds and preferences coming together to create a unique sound," Phelps said. "We've got players who, even though it might not be something they're into, will work



Local band The Modern Riffs, has been enjoying success lately, and will perform shows in Hebron and Marlborough next month. Pictured front row, from left, are Molly Sayles of Colchester and Bruce Phelps, Eileen Canon and Matt Angelo, all of Marlborough. Back row, from left, are Emma Sayles of Colchester, Anne Michaud of Marlborough, Nick Aubin of Hebron, and Kim Dubois of Colchester. The band, which formed last year, brings a combination of jazz, rock, swing, and funk sounds to their songs.

hard to make it their own."

Eileen, 16, has been involved with musical theater since she was young and joined the band to do something different. She said that the opportunity is one she is grateful for. "I'm exposed to so many more styles and sounds," she said. "It's such a privilege to play and learn together."

For Anne, 16, the invitation to join the band was an honor, she said. She brings to the band a love of Dixie music. "I would have been thrilled to go back and live during the '20s and '30s," she added. Though she admits that her fellow band members' tastes have expanded her musical repertoire. "I'm listening to stuff I

would've never had interest in before," she said.

Phelps smiles when he thinks back over this past year. Everything he wanted – to give students an opportunity to play, to grow as fellow musicians, to exchange interests in different types of sounds – it's all coming true.

The Modern Riffs' shows next month include a concert at the Hebron Harvest Fair, located at the Lions Fairgrounds on Route 85 in Hebron, on Saturday, Sept. 12, at 6:30 p.m., and a concert at Marlborough Congregational Church, 35 South Main St., the next day, Sunday, Sept. 13, at 10 a.m.

Colchester Students Getting Ready to Return to School

by Katy Nally

The summer is quickly ticking away for Colchester students, as school starts back up in less than a week.

When they return Tuesday, Sept. 1, students will notice some changes at their schools, such as new students, the effects of budget cuts and PowerSchool – the ultimate report card.

PowerSchool is a new database that parents use to access their child's grades even before tests and quizzes are handed back. They can also view students' class schedules and teachers, simply by logging on through the Colchester schools' website, www.colchesterct.org.

"We know PowerSchool is going to be a really important partnership, which will help kids do better in school," Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle said.

According to Loiselle, parents have always asked for more information regarding the performance of students and PowerSchool will provide them with a constantly-updated progress report. There have already been resounding thanks among those parents who spoke with the superintendent about PowerSchool.

"The parents just absolutely love it," Bacon Academy Principal Jeffry Mathieu said.

While the new database will be very helpful for parents, the students might not share their enthusiasm. Mathieu said the new system would put some added pressure on students, but it would be beneficial for them in the long run.

This school year also brought on new strategies for combating the H1N1 virus, also known as Swine Flu. According to Loiselle, faculty and staff at the Colchester schools have taken many precautionary measures to prepare for the upcoming flu season.

"We have a comprehensive plan in place," she said. "We've been working with the towns for two years to create a pandemic preparedness team ... so that we can identify when unusual patterns exist."

Loiselle said she has "educated parents and staff about how to take action to stop the spread of disease," and that the custodians will use a special solution that the health department has recommended for cleaning. There will also be weekly meetings with the health department.

Students at Bacon will also notice some changes outside the classroom. This year, due to budget cuts, funding for student activities was cut in half so extracurriculars will have different meeting schedules. No clubs were elimi-

nated, but members will meet less often to offset the decrease in funding. Mathieu said the drama club would only perform one play this school year, instead of two.

"I was thrilled the principal was able to make the reductions, but still keep all the clubs," Loiselle said.

The number of students per class will increase also due to budget cuts, Loiselle said, and at Bacon there will be 25 more students than last year, bringing the total to 996 students. New students will also start at Jack Jackter Intermediate School (JJIS), said Principal Deborah Sanberg. This summer, 22 families registered for the upcoming school year, some coming to Colchester from as far away as Europe.

But this increase in students is not the trend for some faculty. According to Loiselle, there will be fewer paraprofessionals this year, because of budget cuts.

Yet even in the midst of all these cuts, the curriculum at Bacon grew. Two courses were added including a more intense physical education class called sports performance and nutrition, which will teach students healthy ways to lose or gain weight. The two-part course is a

joint collaboration between the family and consumer services department and physical education. During one half of the class, students will practice cooking in food labs and learn about the dangers and myths associated with sports nutrition. Then students will learn specialized sports training and performance. Similarly, a new class offered by the business department called sports and entertainment marketing, will teach students how to promote, evaluate and manage sporting events.

Instead of new courses, the younger students at JJIS will learn two new songs on the first day of school. The faculty will teach kids "Go Now in Peace" and "So Many Ways to be Smart" as part of the opening day ceremony. Sanberg said "So Many Ways to be Smart" sends an important message that especially resonates in a HOT school.

A HOT school is a higher order thinking school, which, the principal said, establishes a connection between learning and an integration of the arts. JJIS is one of 14 HOT schools in Connecticut, according to the Commission on Culture and Tourism.

"We really believe in addressing all different intelligences," Sanberg said.

Calarco Looks to Move Hebron Parks and Rec. to Burnt Hill

by Sarah McCoy

In an effort to "consolidate" and "promote efficiency," Parks and Recreation Director Rich Calarco is requesting the approval to move his department to the recently-opened Burnt Hill Park.

During the past year, Calarco was able to tweak certain aspects of construction that have yielded over 400 square feet of space at the new park on East Street. This space, located in the white section of the park operations building, could be the future home to the entire Parks and Rec. department. This would effectively double the space the department has at the Town Office Building on Gilead Street, near the intersection of routes 66 and 85.

Earlier this summer, the Parks and Recreation Commission expressed their support for

the endeavor. The Board of Selectmen (BOS) expressed positive sentiments towards the proposal earlier this month. Calarco will go before the Planning and Zoning Commission (PZC) next month.

Before any move could take place, both PZC and BOS would need to give formal approval.

"There are a number of reasons why this makes sense," he said earlier this week. "I wouldn't be a good manager if I didn't say something about how we can make our department more efficient."

Reasons in favor of the move, Calarco said, include the ability to receive deliveries, having access to department inventory and safety. "At the opening ceremonies I had a number of people who shared their desire to use the park for walking, which is great," Calarco said. "By

moving our offices to the park we will ensure that there are at least two employees there during business hours. That seemed to make residents move comfortable with coming to the park by themselves."

There have also been times, Calarco reported, that employees have had to leave the office to accept a delivery at the park. "By having everything in one place we will save gas and time," he said.

Initial estimates for the potential move have come in at under \$30,000. However much of that expense will go towards items that the Parks and Rec. Department would need regardless of their relocation. Calarco said the expense would be covered by the small remaining balance from the park project bond as well as the department's own budget.

As far as ongoing expenses go, Calarco said it wouldn't cost any additional money to heat the office as the building is equipped with a sustainable burner that operates on recycled fuel. Thanks to stimulus funding the park is also equipped with photocells that should reduce the electricity consumption by 20 percent. "Ongoing costs would be minimal," Calarco said.

The department's potential relocation would also free up space at the Town Office Building. "The way I see it, it's a win-win for everyone," Calarco said.

If both the PZC and the BOS approve the move, Calarco said, he hopes it can happen before Dec. 1. The matter will next be discussed at the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m.

Belltown Monarch Makes it to Mexico

By Michael McCoy

Each fall, hundreds of millions of Monarch butterflies migrate to Mexico. Of the million tagged, only one or two percent are confirmed to have finished their trip.

This past year, one of those few that made it from Mexico came from none other than East Hampton.

From an aviary at her Old Marlborough Road home, Tuesday Warley has raised butterflies since 1997. From gathering the eggs from milkweed leave in early July to their hatching as caterpillars, to contorting themselves into a J-shaped chrysalis (a sort of cocoon), to emerging as butterflies two weeks later, Warley nurtures the Monarchs to maturity.

Once mature, the goal was always to release them into the wild. However, in 2007, Warley began tagging them as well. The tagging contributes to an ongoing study conducted by the University of Kansas's Entomology Department, through a program called Monarch Watch, started in 1992. Years of deep freezing in Mexico, where the Monarchs migrate to, caused a dramatic decline in the population. So, the university encouraged certified waystations to tag the butterflies. Then, anyone who recovers a tagged butterfly in Mexico receives five dollars from the university.

On a side note, the tag is nothing more than a tiny sticker applied to the discal cell, or top part of the wing. It is unobtrusive, and Warley waited until the tags evolved as such before she participated.

Warley's waystation is number 746 of 3,070 in the U.S. and Canada. To achieve this status,

she must meet criteria, such as providing enough milkweed and maintaining an aviary protected from predators like ladybugs, earwigs, spiders, and birds.

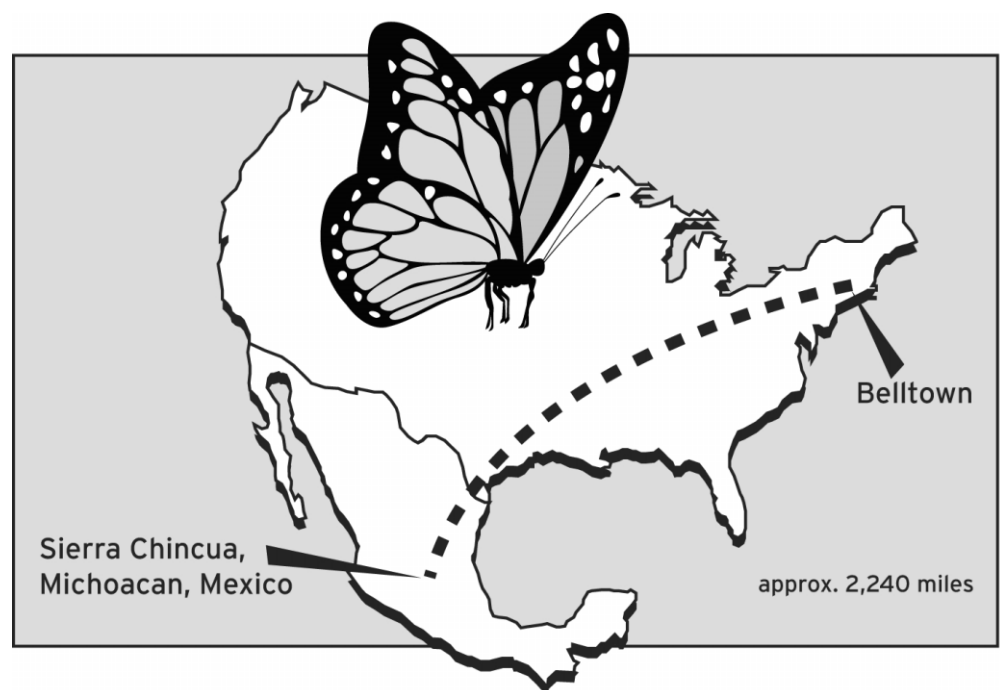
One to three hours after emerging from the chrysalis, the butterflies are en route to Mexico, and they travel 25 miles each day.

In mid-June, Warley found out that the female Monarch tagged LJE229 was discovered by local Javier Martinez in Michoacan, Mexico, located in the country's transatlantic volcanic region. Warley said Martinez looks for the butterflies each year as a source of income.

According to Warley, Michoacan is about 2,240 miles from East Hampton. However, butterflies don't exactly resemble missiles as they mosey through the air. So, the trip takes a while. Warley released the particular Monarch on Sept. 5, 2008. Martinez returned it to the University on March 9. It was already dead, which is the norm, since butterflies only live about eight months.

Once in Mexico they come to rest in fir trees, where they eventually die and fall to the ground.

Monarch LJE229 was one of 175 butterflies released by Warley in 2008. That's down from 244 in 2007. Even more striking, as of Wednesday, Warley had only released 55 this year, though, she will be releasing them through the end of November. According to Warley, milkweed has been becoming increasingly harder to find. So it's not only more difficult to find the eggs, but the food the butterflies eat as larva is scarcer. Another discouraging trend is that, thanks to increased rain, fewer butterflies have been completing their journey.



An East Hampton resident recently learned a Monarch butterfly she'd released last fall actually made it to Mexico.

Last fall, Warley remembers saying to her friends, "All I want is one to make it." She said for some of her friends, the news was enough to bring tears to their eyes.

"It's worth all the time and effort," said Warley, who called the news, "very satisfying." The good news is Warley will receive a cer-

tificate from Monarch Watch for her part in the effort. The bad news is Monarch Watch's funding is down \$40,000 from last year. A bounty of further information, such as a list of waystations, teacher materials, a tagging kit and, of course, how to make a donation is available at MonarchWatch.org.

New Children's Salon in Colchester Keeping Busy

by Katy Nally

For his summer 'do, 8-year-old Kevin Payne of Colchester went to Little Klippers and asked for a Mohawk, spiked with red gel.

This week, he returned to the Colchester salon, for a more appropriate back-to-school haircut.

As the owner of Little Klippers, Eileen Chaffin, cut Kevin's hair, he was intently focused on the store's Xbox 360, where he played as the UConn Huskies, home at Rentschler Field.

Little Klippers is a children's hair salon that opened in June. When kids come in for a haircut, they have their pick between an outer-space-themed side, which features an Xbox 360, or the underwater side with a DVD player. This side also has a golf cart salon chair and an airplane chair.

Since its opening, Chaffin said business has been booming, largely in part to the welcoming community.

"The parents are awesome," she said. "They've been telling everyone and they're so thrilled to have this here. It has been such a positive community effort."

Chaffin worked on and off for 11 years at Scissor Kids in Glastonbury. But, as an Amston resident, she said she recognized the need for a children's hair salon in the area. She opened up shop soon after her youngest child went off to college and she realized she missed working

with kids.

Kevin has been a regular since Chaffin gave him his edgy red 'do.

"We met her one day, then we came here forever," he said.

"He really likes going here," Kevin's mother Lynn Payne said.

Chaffin said many walk-ins, like Kevin, have been coming in lately to get their first-day-of-school cuts, though children of any age are welcome. She said her youngest customer was just 9 months old.

The really young children – those getting their very first haircut – receive an official 'first haircut' certificate, complete with their photo and some old locks as a souvenir.

And it's not only kids that make use of Little Klippers. Chaffin said sometimes parents are so impressed with their child's hairstyle that they ask for their own haircut.

As for Kevin, he said he was happy with his new cut and helped himself to a blue lollipop when it was over.

Little Klippers is located at 11 Hayward Ave. in Colchester, where the Pepperbarn Restaurant used to be. It is open from 9 a.m.- 5 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Thursdays; and 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturdays. Walk-ins are welcome but appointments are preferred. For more information, call 537-4000.



Little Klippers owner Eileen Chaffin, left, gives Kevin Payne, 8, a new haircut just in time for the start of school. Kevin, meanwhile, plays the Xbox 360.

Andover Considering Change to Tax Bills

by Sarah McCoy

Andover town officials are considering a change in policy that would have taxpayers pay their bills twice a year instead of the current quarterly set-up.

Earlier this year the Board of Finance recommended to the BOS that they consider this modification. The recommendation came in response to a cash flow issue the town was having in paying their share of the RHAM Board of Education levy in a timely manner.

"We haven't been collecting enough to pay all the bills we need to pay," BOF Chair Cathy Desrosiers explained before Wednesday's Board of Finance meeting.

Currently, personal property and real estate tax bills are due July 1, Oct. 1, Jan. 1 and April 1 of each year. If the town adopts a biannual collection the bills would be due July 1 and Jan. 1.

Motor vehicle taxes are due in full by July 1. That wouldn't change.

Earlier this year, the RHAM Board of Education responded to Andover's dilemma by expanding their collections from a 10-month commitment to 11 months. Between that and a switch to biannual tax collection, First Selectman Bob Burbank believes the town could drastically improve its cash flow status.

"There are three major aspects to our budget, AES (Andover Elementary School), RHAM and the town government," Desrosiers said. "The fiscally-responsible measure, that the Board of Finance would like to see, is for us to

pay each of those bills within a responsible time period."

Desrosiers went on to say that it's her hope to have a change in the tax collection process set prior to the 2010-11 budget deliberations.

At its August meeting, the Board of Selectmen (BOS) supported moving the issue to a Town Meeting to be held this fall.

Burbank said he doesn't know of any other towns that collect quarterly and added that the change would save the town money by eliminating the printing and mailing of additional tax bills. There would also be a small bump in interest accrued by the town because of the advanced collection.

On the negative side, Burbank said, taxpayers whose payments are not escrowed would be forced to come up with funds a few months earlier than they're used to.

"In reality, this change wouldn't affect 90 percent of the people in town," Desrosiers said. "It's the 10 percent of the population who don't escrow their payments that we're concerned about. We feel this is the appropriate thing to do and now we need to communicate that to the public."

At press time, a town meeting had yet to be scheduled. Burbank said he hoped to hold the meeting "sometime this fall." In order for the tax collection schedule to change a majority vote must be heard at the forthcoming town meeting with at least 25 registered voters in attendance.

Colchester Fire Truck Comes in Less Than Expected

by Katy Nally

The latest addition to the Colchester Fire Department is a brand new fire engine with all its bells and whistles. It cost the town \$618,000, which is actually \$142,000 less than expected and allotted.

The truck will replace the existing 1982 American LaFrance fire engine. According to Lt. Don Lee of the Colchester Hayward Volunteer Fire Department, trucks over 20 years old should be replaced because of wear and tear and so they comply with new efficiency standards.

Lee said the department was hit with a financial "double whammy" because of the old truck. In 2008 the cost of steel rose 15 percent, which meant the cost of an apparatus for the engine also increased. Then on Jan. 1, new emissions standards went into effect and the truck once again cost the department money.

But it's not quite time to get rid of the truck completely, because the new model will not be ready until next summer.

"The new truck will be state-of-the-art," Lee said. "It will greatly enhance our firefighting abilities."

The bidding process for the new truck began a month ago. In June, Colchester residents approved a \$2.3 million bond package that would fund the new engine, as well as a new ambulance, renovation plans for the track at Bacon Academy and road improvement work around the town. The amount designated for the fire engine was \$760,000. The contract for the new fire truck was awarded to Marion Fire Apparatus of Marion, WI, which was about \$50,000 less than the highest bid.

"We worked very hard to bring this truck in

under budget," Lee said. "That was our goal all through this. Some think we're out to spend every dime, but that's not the case."

"The fire department worked very hard to spend the taxpayers' money wisely, and they succeeded," said First Selectman Linda Hodge. "I'm very excited for them."

Despite saving money this time, there is other equipment that Lee said will need to be replaced soon, such as a 1986 hose tender engine and a 1989 pumper. Also, to keep up with constantly changing emission standards, the trucks will have to be outfitted with new parts. Starting in 2010, the trucks will use a chemical compound called urea to reduce the amount of pollutants emitted by the diesel engine. Urea reacts with the exhaust stream and "scrubs" the emissions. The fire engines will also get new catalytic converters to meet the 2009 emission standards for diesel engines. With the converter the trucks will emit less carbon monoxide. The converters coupled with the urea tanks will "add a whole boat-load of costs to industry vehicles," Lee said.

But because Lee and the rest of the committee were able to come under budget for the cost of the engine, the interest to be paid back on the bond will theoretically be less, said Chief Financial Officer Maggie Cosgrove. It's not yet definite whether the savings on the truck will decrease the interest payments on the bond, because bids for the other items tied to the same bond track have not begun, Cosgrove said. Still, she said, coming in under budget is a "very good thing" and that the savings would most likely be incorporated in future budgets.

Hebron BOS to Consider Tax Break for Farmers

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Selectmen (BOS) will hold a public hearing next month to gather input on a proposed ordinance that would give resident farmers a break on their taxes.

According to state statutes, towns have the ability to forgive up to \$100,000 in assessment for each building used by farmers who make or spend at least \$15,000 through farming. The ordinance does not apply to farmers' homes.

In a letter to Acting Town Manager Andy Tierney, Assessor Bob Musson reported that Hebron has six farmers who would qualify to apply for this tax break. If all six successfully applied, the result would be \$10,800 less in revenue for the town.

Even with the decreased revenue, Board of Selectman Chair Jeff Watt said there is support for the ordinance. "Farms are an integral part of the town's heritage," he said this week. "Anything we can do to support them I'm in favor of."

Watt reported that this proposed ordinance has unanimous support from the BOS.

Ned Ellis, owner of Mapleleaf Farms on Route 85, said the ordinance would mean a great deal to him. "I'm not one to beg for something, but I feel that we don't take a lot from the town in terms of services and we give a lot," he said this week.

That "giving" includes a promise for continual open space in town, clean air and acquifers. "I don't think people realize the benefit farming has for the area," Ellis said. "It might stink a little in the spring but we help to produce clean air and water for everyone."

Ellis said he has been meaning to approach the town regarding the possibility of a tax break for sometime now. However, with the economy getting worse and worse for dairy farmers, Ellis realized his time was now. "Milk should be \$9 a gallon based on 1970s prices and inflation," he said. "But who's going to pay that? We need help in other ways."

Watt said the BOS will hold a public hearing on the proposed ordinance on Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m., at Douglas Library, 22 Main St. The BOS will hold its regularly scheduled meeting immediately following the public hearing. At that time, one of the items on the agenda will be the adoption of the tax exemption ordinance for farm buildings.

If the BOS approved the ordinance, it would need to be published within 10 days and then open for repeal for another 21 days, according to the town charter. Eligible farmers may apply for the exemption once the BOS has approved the ordinance.

East Hampton Chatham Party Broadens its Ambitions

by Michael McCoy

A month after the Democrats and Republicans drafted their slates, the Chatham Party caucused last week, bringing the threefold campaign season completely underway in East Hampton.

The caucus was held at 7 p.m. Aug. 20 at home of Kyle Dostaler on William Drive. (Dostaler is the chairman of the Chatham Party.) The unanimously-approved slate includes some new and familiar faces. However, the most striking aspect of the slate may not be any one candidate in particular. Though this is the Chatham Party's third election, it is their first with candidates for boards other than Town Council. This year, their slate covers not just the chief legislative board, but the Board of Education, Board of Finance, and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA.)

Town Council candidates include the lone Chatham Party incumbent, Sue Weintraub, as well as past council members Dostaler and Derek Johnson, who both served from 2005-07. Among the newcomers is Scott Sanicki, a Pratt and Whitney engineer who has been at virtually every council meeting over the last year or so. Also new is Conservation-Lake Commission member John Jordan, who has backgrounds in both education and photography.

Conspicuously missing from the list of Town Council candidates is Scott Minnick, the one party member who has served for the last four years on the Town Council. Instead, Minnick, a teacher at Smith Middle School in Glastonbury, will run for the Board of Educa-

tion (BOE).

Minnick said the decision to run for the school board was two-fold. First, he said, there was such interest in running for Town Council that he decided to step aside. "I was willing to give up my spot for someone I felt was better than me," he said. He continued, "The five we've got are just top notch individuals."

Minnick, given his teaching career, also said of the BOE, "I think that's a natural place for me to be."

And, Minnick chuckled, "My wife's happy too." However, he earnestly remarked on the sacrifice four years on the council has meant to his family. Minnick also has two young children, one of whom is a first-grader at Memorial School. While he said working for the education of the town is no small task, "At the council level, the stakes are higher."

Minnick also noted that the four years on the council have been tumultuous, in that the Chatham Party has consistently butted heads with the Republicans and Democrats. Minnick said he expected that, if elected, the BOE would be a different environment. "I know the people on the Board of Education," he said. "I'm happy to work with them."

As for his time on the Town Council, Minnick said the last four years have been productive. As he has said in the past, Minnick accused the Republicans and Democrats in town as acting as one party and said he and the other Chathams "broke up their club." In even less-uncertain terms he added, "It's us against them."

Speaking to Minnick's BOE bid, Dostaler said, "The Glastonbury schools do a lot of things well from what I understand." Dostaler said he hopes Minnick could bring some of that know-how to East Hampton. He also counted his teaching background as a virtue, especially in terms of navigating teach contracts.

As far as the work Minnick and Weintraub have done since 2007, Dostaler said, "I think given the position they've been put in, they've done a tremendous job." Dostaler credited Weintraub for seeing the streetscape project through to fruition. He further said, "Scott and Sue asked the questions that needed to be asked that would never have been asked otherwise."

"It didn't come as a surprise to me at all," he said of Minnick's decision not to run for BOE, and figured of Town Council members in general, "I think two terms is plenty."

The other BOE candidate is nearly 40-year resident Molly-Kate Hall, mother of two preschool-aged children.

The Chatham Party is also running two candidates for the Board of Finance. Mary Ann Dostaler, wife of Kyle, currently serves on the Brownfield Redevelopment Agency, and is a former chair of the Economic Development Commission. Dostaler also runs her own marketing agency. Also running is Dean Maurice, a lifelong resident. Maurice is Director of Operations at ThomasReuters.

The ZBA race will include three Chatham Party candidates. One of those is Bob Hart, former chairman of the Lake Pocotopaug Com-

mission. A resident for over 25 years, Hart is currently Strategic Development Manager at Gilbarco/Veeder-Root and has racked up a 38-year engineering career. ZBA candidates also include lifetime resident Everett "Dick" Brece and Conservation-Lake Commission member Irene Curtis.

Dostaler called the slate "highly qualified," and noted the candidates' educational and professional expertise. "These are people who can get things done," he said.

As for his own candidacy, Dostaler, who lost his reelection bid in 2007, said he made up his mind to run in 2009 immediately after the last of several recounts in November 2007. Since his loss that year, it has been a rarity for him to miss a council meeting.

Dostaler said the party, which currently includes about 30 individuals, is planning at least one fundraiser, but did not yet have any details on it or other campaign events firmed up. However, he did chortle, "It's not going to be at a castle in another town," an obvious shot at the Republicans, which held a fundraiser this past Sunday at Wayne and Maria Rand's "castle" (a term Republicans used in advertising for the event) in Old Saybrook.

Speaking about the Chatham Party's four-year history, he said, "I think we've come a long way." He continued, "We've learned how to get things done and we've learned why things don't get done."

"We are more confident in our abilities," he said. "We're not the novices we once were."

Belltown Kids Return to Classroom Next Week

by Michael McCoy

East Hampton students may not exactly think August and school go together like chocolate and peanut butter, but for one day, they'll have to make due.

The school year in East Hampton will begin Monday, Aug. 31. "It's early for us this year," admitted Superintendent of Schools Judith Golden. "We have always started after Labor Day."

Golden said the decision for the early start was two-fold. First, last winter's weather pushed graduation back to the late date of June 23 two months ago. "The snow unnerved us a little," Golden said. Also, Labor Day is quite late this year; in fact, this year's Sept. 7 date is as late as it can possibly be (the holiday is always the first Monday in September).

Despite the possibility of last-minute vacations being impossible with the early date, Golden said she has neither heard sentiments for nor against the August return date from parents. "It doesn't seem to be an issue that people are upset about," she said.

Regardless of the early start, Golden sounded excited this week as she spoke about the upcoming year.

"We did a lot of summer work on curriculum," she said, explaining that math, science and language arts curriculums are virtually synched "horizontally and vertically," from kindergarten through eighth grade. That means the newly-reworked curriculum will be consistent across each grade, and streamlined from one grade to the next.

Golden also sounded quite upbeat about a new high school offering this fall. Karina

Mondelci will teach Advanced Placement (AP) Statistics, which 20 students are enrolled in right now. With this class, the high school now offers eight AP courses, something Golden clearly sees as a real virtue. "We're always pleased with our results," Golden said, commending the performance of the East Hampton students on past AP tests.

While students return Monday, teachers of course had a head start. Returning staff members came back to school Wednesday, Aug. 26, while new staff members arrived two days earlier.

However, the batch of new staff members last Monday and Tuesday was a much smaller bunch than normal. Golden said there are typically between 25 and 30 new staff members each fall. This week, though, there was just a quarter of that number – seven. This was likely a function of budget constraints and prospective retirees reluctant to leave their jobs so soon in the economic climate.

One of the fresh seven is brand new high school assistant principal Dr. Anthony Gasper.

The low numbers did not seem to break Golden's stride, as she said, "We had a wonderful opening." On Thursday, she called the week so far "very upbeat" and described the staff as "very engaged."

Over the next two weeks after the start of school, each school will host its open house. The middle school's will be Tuesday, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m. Memorial School's will be the same night, at 7 p.m. The high school will hold open house Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m. and Center School will hold one Thursday, Sept. 17, open house at 7 p.m.

Hebron School Board Changes Roof Plans

by Sarah McCoy

The Board of Education (BOE) has opted not to fulfill the state requirements for reimbursement for the Gilead Hill School roof project.

Last spring voters approved a Capital Improvements Plan budget, which included monies to replace part of the elementary school's roof. The roof, now over 20 years old, is situated at a 1/8" pitch.

The State of Connecticut will reimburse the town 50 percent of the project's cost, but only if the project is done to their specifications – which includes a 1/2" pitch for the roof. This seemingly insignificant difference comes at a high cost. Wayne Durocher, foreman for the custodial staff, reported that it would cost an additional \$100,000 to raise the roof.

The district's initial estimate for replacing the roof at the current 1/8" pitch was \$144,000.

"The architect [for the project] operated under the assumption that the state was still giving waivers for roofs that didn't quite meet the requirements," Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz explained. "We did some investigating and found that wasn't the case so the Board of Education had to make a decision."

Rather than putting the project on hold and waiting for state reimbursement, the BOE unanimously approved going forth with the project at the 1/8" pitch.

"It came down to cost and getting the project done this year," BOE Chair Jane Dube said. "This portion of the roof is 20-plus years old. We felt we couldn't wait and go back to CIP next year."

Dube explained that the 1/2" pitch helps to drain snow off the building at a faster rate. However, because the school has a gutter system instead of a drainage system on the roof, the 1/8" is more than adequate, she said. "The structure of the roof has functioned perfectly for over 20 years," Cruz said. "We felt moving forward within the initial estimate was the best plan."

Cruz informed the Board of Selectmen (BOS) of the school board's decision earlier this month. It was then that she indicated that the project is to be completed during April vacation of 2010.

At an earlier meeting of town officials, the town's director of finance, Jim Day, as well as the school district's director of finance, Bill Mazzara, both recommended the district not seek state reimbursement.

The BOE will meet this weekend for its annual retreat. Dube said the board will look to identify and finalize their goals for the upcoming school year. The next regular meeting of the BOE will be held Thursday, Sept. 10, at 7 p.m.

Portland Students Getting Ready for New School Year

by Michael McCoy

Remember the graduation two months ago, squeezed into the only two dry hours of that week? Well, that's ancient history as Portland students will strap on their backpacks once again this week.

The new school year begins in Portland Monday, Aug. 31. Though the return comes a full week before Labor Day, Superintendent of Schools Sally Doyen said the August start date is not unusual for the town. Combining this with the extremely late Labor Day, Doyen said, "This is a 'normal' time for us to be starting."

Staff reported back Wednesday, Aug. 26.

This year, the district will offer a few new courses. Two of these are the final courses to Project Lead the Way, a pre-engineering program. Project Lead the Way started in Portland three years ago, and these final two classes bring the program up to a total of five. The courses give participating students credit for college, similar to an Advanced Placement course.

In the spring, the high school will also offer Leadership Theory and Practice, which will

teach students skills they can apply to community service. Also this spring, the high school will offer its Water and People course for the second time. The course prepares students to further explore a career in water management and is the brainchild of the prolific Dave Kuzminski. It is taught by Seby Agostino, as well as Kuzminski.

"I think it's just a phenomenal experience," Doyen said of the course, and said of Kuzminski: "He's gotten a lot of state and national recognition."

Doyen said some of the students who took the course last spring are already pursuing careers in the field. She mentioned one in particular who is looking to work in Forestry, which will deal heavily with water management.

The course is the first of its kind in the United States.

Doyen also seemed quite enthusiastic about the expansion of Clickers Cloze. The tool was implemented just after last Christmas thanks

to a grant from the Gildersleeve Wheeler Education Trust, and an initiative by second-grade teacher Amy Raines. Using Clickers Cloze, during instructional time, students use handheld devices or clickers, to silently respond to questions and prompts by teachers. The device not only helps to determine if students have grasped particular concepts, but it also keeps them engaged. The teacher has a computer monitor, allowing them to keep tabs on the students' progress in real time.

The clickers were implemented throughout second grade last spring and before long, "everybody wanted it," laughed Doyen. According to Doyen, the program will first expand to the teachers at the high and middle schools who are most interested. Doyen expected it to catch on throughout the schools before long.

Also, this is the first year that Portland will participate in Open Choice, a program that brings students from Hartford students to suburban schools, an effort to address demographic segregation. The Board of Education approved

the district's participation last March after several meetings heavily attended by impassioned parents.

As decided at the time, Portland is accepting 12 students to start, broken down as three students in kindergarten and first, second and fourth grades.

"We are all very excited about it," Doyen said, who added that many of the participating students and parents visited the school and met the principals over the summer.

"I have total confidence they're going to fit in beautifully and it's going to be a big success," she said.

Open houses will begin about two weeks after the schools open. Valley View's will be held Wednesday, Sept. 16, at 5:30 p.m., the high school will hold one Thursday, Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. Brownstone Intermediate School's is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6:30 p.m. The middle school's is slated for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23, and Gildersleeve will bring up the rear Thursday, Sept. 24, at 6 p.m.

Portland Police: Alcohol, Speeding Led to Crash

by Michael McCoy

A midnight car accident sent two Portland girls to the hospital late last week, and police said this week alcohol and speeding were factors in the crash.

According to Portland Police Sergeant James Kelly, Katherine O'Brien, 18, and her 17-year-old passenger were traveling west on Isinglass Hill Road Wednesday, Aug. 19, when they veered onto the shoulder on the right, hit the guardrail and a utility pole, and flipped the car onto its roof. Kelly said a teenager in a car just behind them immediately called the accident in, around 11:50 p.m.

Kelly and officers Dave Bond and Dan Knapp arrived within minutes to see "several teens standing in the roadway." By that time, O'Brien had managed her way out of the 2002 Ford Taurus, but the passenger was stuck in the vehicle. Kelly estimated that between 15 and 20 emergency personnel eventually responded to the accident.

O'Brien escaped with just scrapes and minor lacerations, said Kelly, who actually had a conversation with her at the scene. She was taken by ambulance to Hartford Hospital and released the next day.

The passenger, whom police would not identify due to age, was not as fortunate. Firefighters extricated her from the car through the passenger door. Kelly said it was immediately apparent that the passenger had suffered "definite serious injuries," especially to her head, which seemed to at least be partially caused by 2x6 piece of wood attached to the guardrail. The plank "penetrated the windshield" during the accident, said Kelly,

and struck the passenger in the head. Despite this insight, Kelly said Officer Bond is still reconstructing the scene, and the investigation is ongoing.

The day after the accident, the passenger was listed in critical condition.

Kelly said he has reason to believe that both speed and alcohol were contributing factors to the accident. As for speed, Kelly said he could not yet elaborate. Kelly said he believes that the girls were coming from a party at 227 Isinglass Hill Rd. At the party, he said, there were around 10 individuals, all under 21, and alcohol was in use. Kelly said the party lasted at least several hours. However, Kelly also reported that the driver of the vehicle that followed the flipped car had not consumed alcohol.

So far, only one person has been charged: Angelo Lastrina, 18, who resides at the location of the party, Kelly said. Lastrina was charged with permitting minors to consume alcohol. Kelly denied rumors that accused Lastrina's parents of permitting the drinking, as they supervised. Kelly said he was aware of the rumors and looked into them, but said all evidence shows that Lastrina's parents were unaware of the party and not present at the home during it.

On Tuesday, Kelly said further charges are pending but that police had not yet applied for any other warrants. He estimated the investigation to finish up by early next week.

Kelly said Thursday the 17-year-old passenger was released from the hospital and given a clean bill of health.

Police News

8/12 — Mallery B. Reynolds, 22, of 64 Barton Hill Rd., East Hampton Police said.

8/12 — Jeffery Poe, 37, of 83 Middletown Ave., was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

8/13 — Michael E. Jones, 53, of 9 Lake Dr., was arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol, operating under suspension, no insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

8/13 — Keith White, 39, of 19 Middletown Ave., was issued a ticket for using a cell phone while driving, police said.

8/13 — Jeffery I. Rigoletti, 29, of 1A Lathrop Ln., Rocky Hill, was arrested for operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone and operating without insurance, police said.

8/13 — Jeffrey Robinson, 63, of 121 Wopowog Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

8/13 — Paul W. Banning, 45, of 12 Sherry Dr., was arrested for operating without insurance, operating an unregistered motor vehicle and obstructed view, police said.

8/14 — Troy S. DeLeon, 42, of 65 Childs Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to carry registration, police said.

8/14 — Daniel G. Woodis, 51, of 116 Bull Hill Rd., Colchester, was issued a ticket for failure to obey a control signal, police said.

8/14 — Christopher G. Burt, 52, of 21 Day Point Rd., was issued a ticket for failure to obey traffic signal, police said.

8/15 — Randy or Carole Bagley, 220 France St., Rocky Hill, was issued a ticket for improper parking, police said.

8/15 — Christopher Johnson, 42, of 10 Pinwood Crossing, Glastonbury, was issued a ticket for improper parking, police said.

8/15 — Carrier Crop, of 21 Mallard Cove, was issued a ticket for improper parking, police said.

8/15 — Jean Perez, 58, of 2533 Fairland Rd., Panama City, FL, was issued a ticket for improper parking, police said.

8/15 — Heather A. Desjardins, 24, of 123 Chestnut Hill Rd., was issued a ticket for a defective windshield, police said.

8/16 — Fabian Calle-Calle, 20, of 79 Fair St., Wallingford, was issued a ticket for operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

8/17 — Matthew R. Runyon, 21, of 24B Old Marlborough Rd., was arrested for third-degree criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, police said. Runyon was also arrested Aug. 18 for violation of a protective order, police said.

8/20 — Laura E. Johnston, 45, of 115 Old Andover Rd., Hebron, was issued a ticket for operating a motor vehicle while on a cell phone, police said.

Marlborough Police News

8/18: Thomas Prue, 30, of 27 Broadway Ave., Mystic, was charged with DUI and speeding, State Police said.

8/21: Michael Kopchick, 27, of 177 Weston St., Hartford, was arrested on a 2008 warrant for illegally obtaining prescription medication, State Police said.

Portland Police News

8/19 — Cheryl Russin, 51, of 188 Main St., was charged with third-degree identity theft and fifth-degree larceny, Portland Police said.

8/20 — Valerie Cruz, 24, of 99 Porterbrook Ave., East Hampton, was charged with operating a motor vehicle without a license, operating a motor vehicle with no insurance and operating an unregistered motor vehicle, police said.

Police News

8/3-Douglas Church, 20, of 171 Jones Hollow Rd. in Marlborough, was charged with second-degree sexual assault and risk of injury to a minor, State Police said.

8/15: Michael Keyes, 58, of 24 Goodrich Ave., Cromwell, was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

8/18: Paige Post, 31, of 103 Park Ave., was charged with DUI and failure to drive right, State Police said.

8/18: Joshua Metivier, 22, of 216 Prospect Hill Road, was charged with DUI and operation of a motor vehicle when license is suspended, State Police said.

8/18: A youth offender was charged possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

8/19: Shawn Amiot, 22, of 559 Old Hartford Road, was charged with possession of narcotics and possession of drug paraphernalia, State Police said.

Obituaries

Hebron

Kathleen Robinette Owens

Kathleen Robinette Owens, 37, of South Windsor and formerly of Hebron, passed away Wednesday, Aug. 19, at the Manchester Memorial Hospital. Born Oct. 6, 1971, in Manchester, she was the beloved daughter of Robert and Frances Lynn (Cooper) Owens of Columbia and formerly of Hebron.

Kathleen attended the Newington Children's Hospital School and went on to graduate from RHAM High School in Hebron. She loved being with people and had attended day programs at Baroco in South Windham for 15 years and most recently with the Community Experience with HARC in Hartford. Kathy will be remembered for her warm, joyful disposition, inviting smile and gentle way.

In addition to her loving parents, she is survived by her brother, Christopher Owens of Columbus, OH; her uncles and aunts, Richard and Carol Owens of Charlotte, MI, Michael and Linda Cooper of Chester, VA and Lewis Cooper of Richmond, VA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Monday, Aug. 24, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services were observed Tuesday, Aug. 25, directly at the Gilead Congregational Church, Route 85, Hebron with the Rev. Dr. Denise M. Esslinger, officiating. Burial and reception will follow.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the church or to HARC, 900 Asylum Ave., Hartford, CT 06105.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Colchester

Horst Wilhelm Slembek

Horst Wilhelm Slembek, 82, of Colchester, widower of the late Marianne (Hunzinger) Slembek, passed away suddenly Saturday evening, Aug. 22, at home with his son, Klaus, by his side.

Born Nov. 22, 1926 in Magdalenz, East Prussia, Germany, he was the son of the late Wilhelm and Olga Slembek. Mr. Slembek served in the army during World War II and spent four and a half years in Russian prisoner of war camps, where he served among other things as a medic for his unit.

Mr. Slembek followed his eldest sister to the United States in 1952 after he had learned the masonry trade in Germany, and he later helped another sister emigrate to Hartford. On July 13, 1957, he and Marianne were married in Kandern, Baden-Württemberg, Germany. In 1963, they would move to their present farm in Colchester and raise their family. Together they would share nearly 50 years of marriage before she predeceased him on June 26, 2007.

Mr. Slembek was a talented and respected mason in the area, still working until the day of his passing. He also enjoyed farming the land and raising his cattle, chickens and ducks.

He is survived by two children and their spouses, Klaus Slembek and Kathleen Goggin of Colchester and Ingrid Slembek and Dennis Hagerty of Meilen, Switzerland; his sister, Hildegard Slembek Montro of Mooresville, NC; his sister-in-law, Liesel Hunzinger Kaiser of Cernay, France; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Friends called Wednesday, Aug. 26, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. Funeral services were Thursday directly at Christ Lutheran Church, 330 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, with Pastor Jonathan Liebich officiating. Interment followed in the Linwood Cemetery, Colchester.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Backus Foundation, 326 Washington St., Norwich, CT 06360.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.



Hebron

Maeril H. Bennington

Maeril H. Bennington, 98, of Amston, widow of the late Charles S. Bennington Jr., passed away Monday, Aug. 24, at the Marlborough Health Care Center. Born April 30, 1911, in Reading, PA, she was the daughter of the late Percival and Geneva (Kline) Hill.

On Jan. 1, 1931, she and Charles were married in Maryland and shared 33 wonderful years together before he predeceased her in 1964. Mrs. Bennington was a clerical worker for various hospitals before her retirement. She was active in the Hebron community, serving on the Commission on Aging, was a member of the Historical Society, the Womens' Club and the Russell Mercier Senior Center, where she proudly delivered Meals-on-Wheels well past her 93rd birthday. Mrs. Bennington was also a member of Christ Lutheran Church in Hebron.

In her spare time, she enjoyed gardening and reading. She sought to live her life to its fullest. Most importantly, she was ever-devoted to her family and will be remembered as "a gift" by her grandchildren.

She is survived by her daughter, Marie Bennington Reid of Kensington; three grandchildren, Linda Reid and Mark Branse of Glastonbury, Michael and Winnie Reid of Hebron and Sandra Reid and numerous extended family members and friends.

A memorial service will be observed at her church, Christ Lutheran, 330 Church St. (Rte. 85) Hebron, CT 06248, at 11 a.m. today, Friday, Aug. 28, with Pastor Jonathan Liebich officiating. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations in her memory be made to her church.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Edward Francis O'Shea

Edward Francis O'Shea, 82, of Middle Haddam and formerly of Moodus, died Sunday afternoon, Aug. 23, at the Cobalt Lodge. Born May 30, 1927 in Hartford, he was the son of the late Michael and Grace (Watts) O'Shea.

An Army veteran of World War II, he proudly served with the 232nd Infantry Regiment. Mr. O'Shea had worked in construction as an independent truck driver for 47 years before his retirement. Over the years, he was a pilot and tailor and was a talented musician, playing with several bands as well as the Ancient Mariners.

He is survived by three children, Edward and Michael O'Shea, both of Westbrook, and Molly Tamer of East Haven; a grandson, Joshua Tamer; his sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Rody Rodenbach of Riverside, CA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

Graveside services with full military honors will be observed at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 29, at the State Veterans Cemetery, Bow Lane, Middletown. There are no calling hours.

Care of arrangements has been entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Hebron

Marie Rose Wilson

Marie Rose (Vallee) Wilson, 101, of Hebron, wife of the late Andrew Wilson, passed away peacefully into the hands of our Lord on Friday, Aug. 21. She was born on April 12, 1908, the daughter of Wilfred and Rose Alma (Duquette) Vallee.

Prior to moving to Connecticut at the age of 90, she had resided in Old Orchard Beach, ME, where she enjoyed many years of holding tag sales. She also enjoyed doing puzzles. Marie traveled to many places and took her first cruise at the age of 95. She loved and enjoyed her family, always having an open heart and hand.

She was predeceased by a son, Randall Wilson; a sister and four brothers.

She is survived by a son, Andrew Wilson Jr. and his wife Pat of Kentucky; two daughters, Rita Wilson Hosfelt and her husband Wayne with whom she resided in Hebron and Doris Wilson Lumpkin and her husband Guinn of California; seven grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; and many dear friends.

Her family received relatives and friends Monday, Aug. 24, at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St. (Rte. 195), Willimantic, followed by her funeral Mass at Church of the Holy Family, Route 85, Hebron. Interment will be private at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations in memory of Marie may be made to either Hebron Senior Center, 14 Stonecroft Dr., Hebron, CT 06248 or to Hospice of Eastern CT., 34 Ledgebrook Dr., Mansfield, CT 06250.

For online memorial guestbook and directions to the funeral home, visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.

Portland

Francis "Ray" Natale

Francis "Ray" Natale, 71, of Middletown, beloved husband of Sharon (Novak) Natale, passed away into God's loving arms Friday, Aug. 21, at Yale-New Haven Hospital after a brief illness. He was born Sept. 3, 1937, in Middletown, the son of the late Dominic and Lucy (Cordone) Natale.

Ray was raised in Portland and attended St. Mary School and Portland High School. He was the founder/owner of All-Star Athletic Floor. Prior to this, he worked as superintendent of athletic facilities at Wesleyan University. He was a sergeant with the Middletown Army National Guard in the 169th infantry. His interests included all sports but he especially loved football (Patriots) and baseball (Red Sox). He enjoyed spending time with the loves of his life, his grandchildren. Family gatherings and holidays were special to him. His home and heart were open to all.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his three children, Michael R. Natale and his wife Darcy of Middletown, Kimberly A. Mazzotta and her husband Robert of Rockfall, and William K. Natale and Liz Beaudry of Middletown; six grandchildren, Michael, Nicholas and Anthony Natale and Mikayla, Christian and Brandon Mazzotta; one brother, Thomas Natale and his wife JoMarie of East Hartford; three sisters, Isabel Downing of Portland, Lillian Kosicki and Anna McMahon of Middletown; and loving nieces, nephews and caring friends.

Besides his parents, Ray was predeceased by his three brothers, Vincent, James, and Dominic Natale Jr.

The family wishes to express their sincere thanks to the medical staffs at Yale-New Haven Hospital, Middlesex Hospital, Middlesex Healthcare and Gaylord Hospital.

The funeral liturgy was held Thursday, Aug. 27, at St. Mary's Church, 51 Freestone Ave., Portland. Burial will be at the convenience of the family. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, Wednesday, Aug. 26. Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia Society, PO Box 4072, Pittsfield, MA 01202.

Colchester

Samuel J. Cannarella

Samuel J. "Andre" Cannarella, 75, beloved husband of Genevieve Kristopik Cannarella passed away on Friday, Aug. 21, at his residence in Colchester. He was born Feb. 11, 1934, in New Britain, son of the late Santo and Lucy Mozzicato Cannarella.

Sam was a hair stylist and he owned and operated the Parisian Spa in Cromwell for many years before retiring. He was a Korean veteran serving in the U.S. Marines, member of American Legion Post 54 and the Marine Corps League.

Surviving besides his wife, Genevieve is his son, David and wife, Lynn Cannarella, of Wethersfield; a daughter, Sandra, and her husband, Dan DuBois of Salem; a sister, Connie Sobchuck of Plainville; his grandchildren, Laura, Simone, Dominique an Delaney; several nieces, nephews and numerous cousins.

He was predeceased by a sister, Angie Bianchi. Visitation will be held Saturday, Aug. 29, from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Belmont Funeral Home, 144 South Main St., Colchester, followed by an 11 a.m. memorial Mass of Christian Burial at St. Andrew's Catholic Church on Norwich Ave., Colchester. Full military honors will follow after his Mass.

The family request that you please omit flowers; donations may be made to your local Hospice fund in Sam's memory.

Marlborough

Robert A. Dakin

Robert A. Dakin, 72, of Marlborough, beloved husband of Gail B. (Ferrer) Dakin, died Monday, Aug. 24, at Hartford Hospital. Born Aug. 2, 1937, in Ithaca, NY, son of the late Herbert and Margaret (Armstrong) Dakin, he had lived in Glastonbury prior to moving to Marlborough.

He graduated from Ithaca High School, Class of 1955, the University of Pennsylvania, Class of 1959 with a BS in Electrical Engineering and from Cornell University, Class of 1964 with a MBA. He became a CPA in 1967 and was a CPA and Tax Accountant in Glastonbury prior to his retirement. He was a Navy Lieutenant, JG from 1959 to 1963 and had served on the USS J.C. Breckinridge. He was a member of the Buckingham Congregational Church. A lifelong musician he enjoyed singing in the church choir and playing the trumpet. He was an avid jogger, enjoyed bird watching, golfing and wood working.

Besides his wife he is survived by two sons and their wives: Gregory F. Dakin and Marita Teng of New York City, Matthew F. and Stephanie Dakin of Coventry; a sister, Ellen Dakin Gorham and her husband Charles of Bloomington, IN, and three grandchildren, Joshua A. Dakin, Zoe N. Dakin, and Cassidy S. Dakin.

Friends may call at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, today, Friday, Aug. 28. A memorial service will follow at 7 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research, P.O. Box 780, New York, NY 10008-0780 or to the National Audubon Society, 225 Varick St., 7th Floor, New York, NY 10014.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

It's hard to believe – and it really did seem to go faster this year than in previous years – but summer's just about done. School started this week for many towns in the state, and will start next week for most of the other towns. The NFL preseason is well underway. They're coming down to the semifinals on *America's Got Talent*. All signs that yes, Virginia, fall is just around the corner.

Here in New England, the approach of fall means it's time for fairs, and regular *Rivereast* readers have likely already spotted notices in the paper for various upcoming fairs in the area, such as the Hebron Harvest Fair. Several area churches are also planning autumn fairs.

The upcoming Haddam Neck Fair has perhaps the most interesting, fun-sounding contests. In addition to the multiple-births contest – at which sets of twins, triplets or quadruplets are judged in a variety of categories, including youngest, oldest, best-matched outfits and “funny look-alikes” – there's also a beard contest. Beards must be at least one inch long and will be judged on length, fullness and neatness, as well as the quality of the sideburns and mustache. Now, the Haddam Neck Fair is coming up fast – it's held over Labor Day weekend, which is next weekend – and the beard contest will take place the Sunday of the fair, Sept. 6, so chances are if you're planning to enter that contest, and are in it to win it, you've been growing your beard already. (Having once grown a rather large beard myself, I can tell you the process takes more than a week.) In which case, well, good luck. May the best beard win.

And there's also the annual “skillet-throwing contest,” which sounds like a slightly less-politically correct version of horseshoes. (Only women are allowed to throw the skillets, which of course are fixtures of the kitchen.) Don't get me wrong, I'm not knocking the contest. In fact, it sounds rather fun and whimsical. And it helps drive home the notion of the Haddam Neck Fair being an event that doesn't take itself too seriously. The whole four-day festival should be very enjoyable.

* * *

In my many years as a Mets fan, I thought I'd seen them lose in every way imaginable. I've seen pitchers give up soul-crushing walk-off home runs, and issue bases-loaded walks to force in game-winning runs. I've seen hitters take called third strikes with the tying and go-ahead runs on base. I've seen infielders drop pop flies with runners on base, allowing those runners to score game-winning runs. (Sorry, Luis Castillo.)

But I've never, *ever* seen what I saw this past Sunday, when the Mets played the hated Philadelphia Phillies.

It was the bottom of the ninth, the Mets were down 9-7, and there were runners on first (Daniel Murphy) and second (the aforementioned Castillo), with nobody out. Jeff Francoeur was at the plate, representing the winning run. The hit-and-run play was on, meaning both runners took off as soon as the pitch was thrown.

Francoeur hit a scorching line drive right up the middle, but Phillies second baseman Eric Bruntlett caught it on the fly. He happened to be right at second base when he caught the ball, so he was able to step on the base to double up Castillo, as he was already well on his way to third. He then ran over and tagged Murphy, who was almost at second base already and thus had no time to retreat to first.

An unassisted triple play.

I was watching the game live on TV when it happened, and my jaw quite literally dropped. So many things had gone wrong for the Mets this season, but I had never anticipated seeing a game end like that. How could I? I had never seen that happen before, be it to the Mets or to anybody else.

And, if history is any indication, I prob-

ably never will again.

According to the record book, Sunday was just the second time ever that a game ended with an unassisted triple play. The previous time it had happened was way back in 1927, in a game between Detroit and Cleveland.

But as terrible an ending as it was, the game itself did give me some hope. This was a game in which the Mets were down 6-0 before they even came to bat. The fact that they even *had* the winning run at the plate in the bottom of the ninth is rather amazing. The team never gave up, and chipped away at the Phillies' lead.

Look, I know this season's in the tank. Sunday's loss sent the team 15 games out of first place (and something like 12 or 13 games out of the wild card lead). Carlos Delgado and Jose Reyes have been out since May, Carlos Beltran since June and David Wright joined the DL club earlier this month. Those are the team's four strongest hitters, the core of their lineup. And of those four, I'm guessing only Wright returns before the end of the season. The loss of the core has just been too much for the team to overcome (and ace pitcher Johan Santana, it was announced this week, will have season-ending surgery), so it's time to write off 2009.

That being said, a lot of those guys who played on Sunday will probably be around, in one form or another, in 2010. (As will, probably, manager Jerry Manuel, as he should be. How can you fire the guy when his team has been increasingly ravaged by injury all season?) So it's nice to see that they didn't give up, even though they were down 6-0 in a late-August game in a season that I'm sure they feel isn't likely to end in postseason glory.

As the song says, you gotta have heart. And on Sunday, the Mets showed they have it. Unfortunately, though, even that couldn't overcome an unassisted triple play.

* * *

Some months ago in this space, I wrote about Colin McEnroe, who'd been unceremoniously given the boot by WTIC-AM 1080. Well, I'm happy to report he's coming back to the airwaves.

Starting Monday, Aug. 31, McEnroe will have a one-hour show airing weekdays at 1 p.m. on Connecticut Public Radio (which can be heard on 90.5 FM in the Hartford area and 89.1 FM in the Norwich/New London area). McEnroe said this week the show will “sound a lot different” than his WTIC program, though he promised, “it's going to be a fun show.” He said most days the show will center around a theme, while other days it will be a magazine-type show, featuring a variety of topics.

Perhaps the biggest difference (other than the lack of break-ins for traffic and weather updates every 10 minutes, which was the main drawback of his WTIC show; it'd seem like as soon as he'd get going on a topic, he'd have to go to a break) will be the lack of phone calls. McEnroe said he'd take some calls on the air, but not many. It could be fun to hear McEnroe and a caller get into a friendly (well, sometimes friendly) back-and-forth.

But McEnroe's wit and his viewpoints will still be there, and I'm glad they're coming back to the radio. The series will actually be a “pilot,” and is initially slated to run for 13 weeks. Hopefully the show proves to be a success, and Connecticut Public Radio will keep it on.

Good luck, Colin.

* * *

Finally, this week marks the first issue for new *Rivereast* reporter Katy Nally. Katy will be covering Colchester and Marlborough. Among her initial stories is a preview of the upcoming school year in Colchester, and it can be found on page 23. Welcome aboard, Katy.

* * *

See you next week.