

RIVEREAST

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The 'no's had it Tuesday in East Hampton, as voters overwhelmingly rejected proposed changes to the town charter, as well as a proposed ordinance change that would have eliminated the position of police chief. The latter move let Matt Reimondo return to his job after his controversial layoff earlier this year.

Reimondo Gets His Job Back

by Claire Michalewicz

Police Chief Matthew Reimondo is heading back to work, after residents voted overwhelmingly on Tuesday to keep his position in the town's ordinances.

A total of 5,317 voters cast their ballots in the referendum on the revision to Ordinance 109, with 3,701 – just under 70 percent – voting to overturn it.

The revision to Ordinance 109, which the Town Council approved in September, would have eliminated the chief's position and replaced it with a lieutenant. Reimondo has been on paid leave since June, when then-Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe eliminated his position.

Town meeting moderator Red McKinney announced the results just after 8 p.m., and was met with cheers from the crowd gathered in the high school cafeteria.

"Thank you, East Hampton!" Town Council member Sue Weintraub exclaimed after the results were announced. "There was justice served today."

Reimondo and several dozen family members, friends and supporters had gathered in a Portland restaurant to await the results.

"The day they walked the boss out, I went

and got him a bottle of champagne," said police Sergeant Tim Dowty. "I knew he'd be back." After popping the cork, Dowty handed the bottle to Reimondo, who took a celebratory swig.

Reimondo thanked the community for all the support he'd seen since June, from residents who sent him cards, spoke out at meetings, signed the petition, and voted "no" on Tuesday.

"I have seen the community stand up time and time again, but this really takes the cake," Reimondo said. "From the bottom of my heart, and my family's, thank you."

Reimondo singled out Town Council member Sue Weintraub, his attorney, Leon Rosenblatt, petition organizer Bill Marshall, and the three Town Hall employees who filed complaints against O'Keefe for extra thanks.

Lastly, Reimondo thanked his wife, Kathleen, and their four teenage children, explaining that the four months he spent out of work had been harder for them than for him.

"I have one thing to say to the chief," Marshall said. "Don't stay out too late – you have to go to work in the morning."

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1940s Postcard Makes its Way Back to Colchester

by Katy Nally

An 82-year-old man's plan for a "re-distribution of happiness" made its way to Colchester last month, all the way from Tucson, AZ.

Several weeks ago, First Selectman Gregg Schuster was pleasantly surprised when he opened a letter from Lowell Joerg, as it began with "I sure hope this letter brightens your day."

Schuster presented the letter at an Oct. 21 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, and joked that most of the letters addressed to him aren't quite as nice.

Joerg continued in the letter, "I was at an antique store here and found this old circa 1940's picture card from Colchester of a pretty place called the Broadway House."

Enclosed, Joerg included a small card that features a large white house with a wrap-around front porch and a long walkway lined with colorful flowers and leafy trees. The scene looks more like a shot from *Forrest Gump* than a New England home.

"It's a real old-time classic, for sure," Joerg wrote.

Schuster said he would donate the postcard to the Colchester Historical Society in Joerg's name.

"Your thoughtfulness in ensuring that this card is returned home after all these years is very much appreciated," Schuster wrote in re-

sponse to Joerg. "Colchester is a small town that is proud of our past and we are happy that so much of our beautiful history can be seen around the country."

For 15 years the Arizona man has been partaking in a hobby he calls "a re-distribution of happiness."

"Our world sure needs it," Joerg wrote.

When reached this week, Joerg said he finds postcards and other old mailings about twice a month in various antique stores across Tucson and sends them off to their hometowns.

"Our heritage is valuable to all of us," Joerg wrote in the letter to Schuster. "Lots of changes, too, [in Colchester] over the years I'm sure."

Joerg said he wasn't sure why he began his re-distribution plan, but said, "I thought it would be a good idea."

"People are happy when they get something from their town," he added.

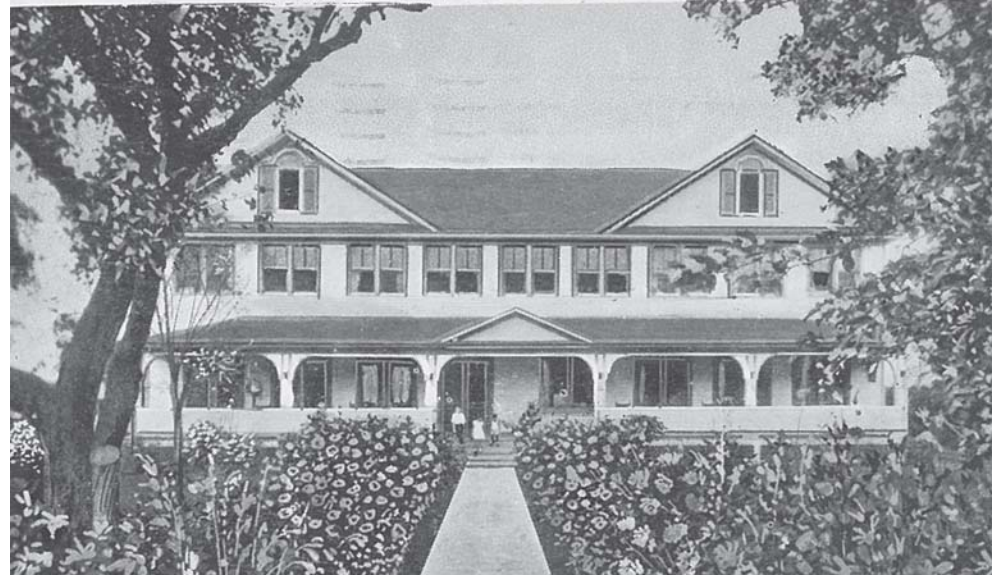
Joerg receives a response from the recipients only about half the time.

In his letter to Schuster, Joerg said "if I hear from you, I'll have to take [my wife] to lunch."

Four days after Joerg sent out the card, Schuster replied with another letter, adding the post script: "Please take your wife out someplace nice for lunch."

Joerg said he received the "nicest letter" from a church in Iowa. Joerg had sent the church a

Broadway House, Colchester, Conn.



This postcard featuring the Broadway House was mailed to First Selectman Gregg Schuster last month by an 82-year-old Arizona man who mails antique cards and letters back to their hometowns across the U.S.

postcard written from a woman, who turned out to be the church's secretary's mother, who had passed away when she was two, he said.

When Joerg does receive a reply, occasion-

ally the recipients also send along souvenirs or compensation as a thank you, and usually invite him to visit.

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Political Recaps Inside

Reimondo cont. from Front Page

Despite the vote to return Reimondo to work, the lawsuit he brought against the town is still pending.

"I'm gonna have to amend the complaint," Rosenblatt said. "It's not gonna go away."

Rosenblatt said he was upset with Interim Town Manager Bob Drewry for not reaching a decision in the hearing into Reimondo's dismissal, which was held on Oct. 4.

At the hearing, Rosenblatt said, the town's attorney in the case, Mark Sommaruga, had argued that since the council had changed the ordinance, Reimondo did not have a job to return to. But, Rosenblatt said, since the ordinance had not been in effect, Drewry should have let Reimondo return.

In addition, Reimondo said, Rosenblatt had filed a complaint with the state Freedom of Information Commission against the Town Council and the town. The complaint, Reimondo said, concerned the June 22 executive session in which the Town Council discussed Reimondo's layoff and decided to offer him a severance package. Reimondo said he had not been notified of the meeting, which happened shortly after he had been informed that his position was eliminated.

On Tuesday night, Reimondo said Drewry had not yet contacted him about his return to work. But first thing Wednesday morning, his children drove him in to the office, where he retrieved his badge and gun, he said.

Reimondo said Thursday his return was quiet and "anticlimactic," but said, "I'm looking forward to getting back to work."

He explained that he met with Drewry, who agreed that Monday would be his first official day back at work. In the meantime, Reimondo said, he would be bringing his belongings back into his office.

Now that he's back at work, Reimondo said he was still unsure what would happen to Michael Green, a sergeant whom O'Keefe promoted to acting lieutenant in Reimondo's absence. Reimondo said Drewry would be ad-

ressing Green's rank later this week.

Drewry could not be reached for comment this week.

Town Council member Thom Cordeiro explained that he was surprised by the margin by which the ordinance was defeated. "I had a level of confidence in the fact that it would be evenly contested."

Since Reimondo was laid off, Cordeiro and five other council members – everyone but Weintraub – have insisted the move was budgetary, and would save the town money in the years to come. Cordeiro was one of a group of voters who organized a political action committee, The East Hampton Silent Majority, which campaigned for voters to vote 'yes.'

"The democratic process has been clearly in effect today, and we will respond accordingly," he said.

Cordeiro said the months of controversy have divided the residents of East Hampton, and he said he hoped the town would be able to move on.

"Hopefully the healing will begin and we will move forward as a community," Cordeiro said.

Outside the polling place Tuesday afternoon, the majority of voters said they had voted to overturn the ordinance.

"I don't agree with how the council got rid of the chief without the putting it to the taxpayers," said Susan Lavigne.

Laying Reimondo off, said Michael Morin, had been "all political." "They had their minds made up already," Morin said.

A few, though, said they had voted yes because they thought the police department was too big and needed to be cut.

"We've been running fine without the chief," said one woman, explaining why she voted yes. She said she wanted to remain anonymous because she was afraid of any retaliation.

* * *

Most of those who said they voted 'no' on Ordinance 109 said they also voted down the charter referendum. That referendum, which was included on the regular ballot with the gen-



East Hampton Police Sergeant Tim Dowty hands Chief Matt Reimondo a bottle of champagne at a party held Tuesday night to celebrate the referendum that returned Reimondo to his job.

eral election, was defeated by a similar margin – 3,996 (about 74 percent) voted 'no' and 1,407 voted 'yes.'

The proposed charter, drafted by the Charter Revision Commission earlier this year, would have made several changes, the largest of which was a move to four-year terms for Town Council members.

The voter turnout in the general election and charter referendum had been 69.1 percent, Republican Registrar of Voters Alannah Coshow said.

"For East Hampton in a gubernatorial election, it's a low turnout," Coshow said. In the 2006

gubernatorial election, Coshow said, turnout had been about 81 percent. She noted that most voters seemed to have come Tuesday morning, but turnout dropped off later in the day.

In the referendum on Reimondo's position, Coshow said, more people had been eligible to vote since it was technically a town meeting. The 5,317 who cast their ballots in the referendum represented about 61 percent of regular voters and about 44 percent of the total number of people eligible.

"All in all, it was a good day," Coshow said. "A good day for democracy."

Postcard cont. from Front Page

"Sometimes they return money, and I graciously accept it," Joerg said, laughing.

In his letter to Schuster, Joerg said he purchased the card for \$4, and wouldn't be opposed to giving it up for \$5 or \$6.

"Throw in a little postage if you want, too," he added.

Unfortunately though, Shuster told Joerg, "Due to the limitations of our budget and town policies, the town cannot pay you for this item." But, Schuster enclosed a lapel pin with the official Colchester seal for Joerg.

The 82-year-old said he was happy to receive the call from the *Rivereast* this week.

"I have fun, they have fun, so that's what counts," Joerg said.

• Andover • Hebron • Marlborough • Andover • Hebron • Marlborough • Andover • Hebron • Marlborough • Andover • Hebron • Marlborough • Andover •

Sawyer Sails to 10th Term

by Lindsay Fetzner

With an approximately 71-29 percent split in votes, Republican Pam Sawyer defeated Democrat Jeanne Webb in the race for representative of the 55th Assembly District.

The district covers Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough.

In each of the four towns, Sawyer succeeded over Webb; Sawyer had a total of 7,540 votes and Webb, 3,125 votes.

More specifically, in Andover, there were 968 votes in Sawyer's favor and 449 in Webb's. In Bolton, 1,653 voters chose Sawyer, and 688 chose Webb. In Hebron, 2,957 residents cast their votes for Sawyer, and 1,127 for Webb. And, in Marlborough, 1,962 voted for Sawyer and for Webb, 861. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are



based on unofficial tallies.)

Sawyer, a Bolton resident, will now enter into her 10th term, as she was first elected to office in 1992.

When reached Wednesday morning, Sawyer said she was "unwinding" from election night and lightheartedly said she had signs and cleaning out her car on the mind.

Sawyer spent election night at the Blackledge Golf Course in Hebron, where she said she was accompanied by about 60 other people. But, that was only the tail end of the day that began at 6 a.m. and ended several hours later, at 8, when the polls closed.

"My family was with me," Sawyer said, adding that they worked very hard standing alongside her at the polls. "It's a long day, so it was really special to have everybody there."

For Webb, it was the Democratic headquarters in Hebron where she heard the election results, amongst the other party candidates.

"I think with the way the turnout was, we expected that it would be very, very tough," Webb said. "When you look at the other people running in our area, the people that I'm run-

ning with, if they won, they won by very slim margins."

Overall, Webb said she thought she ran a good campaign, and got the issues out.

However, she added, "I think there are a lot of people that are very frightened that basically tended to go away from the issues and to the emotions."

As for the future, Webb said she is not sure whether she will run for office again.

"Certainly I always think that there should be democracy and should be a choice on the ballot," Webb said. "I am hoping that if not me, then someone else will decide to run."

Webb said she supports a two-party system, as that is "what makes our country wonderful." Reflecting on Sawyer's race for the seat, Webb said she had "a good campaign for the economic time."

But, for Sawyer, it is back to Hartford to try to change the finances across the state.

"Looking forward, this is probably going to be the toughest term I've ever experienced because the financial situation is so bleak," Saw-

yer said. "And not everybody understands the economics of the barrel of red ink."

Sawyer said the message she resonated through her campaign was "how difficult the economy is," and that "tough decisions have to be made" in order to develop Connecticut's future.

Sawyer said one of the things that will have to happen with the new legislature is becoming "very well educated on the budget and deficit problems."

As for the immediate future, Sawyer said some of the next steps will include conducting freshman orientation for both the Democrats and the Republicans, as well as other house-keeping details.

Sawyer said Webb worked very hard throughout the election season covering the district, be it going door-to-door, sending out mailings, or making phone calls.

"She worked very hard on the race," Sawyer said. "I think it just came down to a difference in message."

Darby Tops Camposeo in Andover Probate Race

by Lindsay Fetzner



In a tight race for probate judge in the new Greater Manchester Probate District, Democrat Michael Darby succeeded over Republican Elaine Camposeo.

Darby received a total of 11,667 votes in the district's four towns, and beat Camposeo by a margin of 444 votes. Camposeo's votes totaled 11,223. There was a 51-49 percent split in the votes. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

"I just couldn't be really any happier," Darby said Wednesday morning. "I'm delighted and honored to have been elected."

The new court will serve Andover, Bolton, Columbia and Manchester, and combines the Andover and Manchester probate districts. The Andover Probate District is currently presided over by Camposeo. The current judge of the Manchester court, John Cooney, is retiring at

the end of this year.

Camposeo won in Andover, Bolton and Columbia, but Darby was the victor in the much-larger Manchester, and that's what led him to victory. Camposeo topped Darby 803-564 in Andover, 1,597-684 in Bolton and 1,324-1,025 in Columbia. In Manchester, though, Darby collected 9,394 votes to Camposeo's 7,499.

Darby said he was at the Democratic headquarters in Manchester on election night when the results were announced.

"It was a very tight, hard-fought race," he said. "It was a little tense for a while, but ultimately a very exciting and happy result."

Camposeo said she wishes Darby the best in his new pursuit, and was thankful for her supporters and those who have voted for her over the past 20 years. She also added that she was "especially" grateful for the voters in the Andover Probate District who "overwhelmingly voted" in her favor.

"They know the quality of my work," she said Wednesday. "I thank them for the confidence that they've placed in me over the last 20 years."

This is not the first time that Darby, a Manchester resident, and Camposeo, a Bolton resident, went head-to-head. Camposeo fell to

Darby in the August primary for the Democratic candidacy, but the Republicans unanimously nominated her at the May 6 Republican Judge of Probate Convention. Camposeo was then able to appear on the Republican ticket in the election.

Darby currently practices at the Phelon, FitzGerald and Wood law firm on Main Street in Manchester, and has been practicing law for over 28 years. Much of Darby's work at the firm has centered around servicing the legal needs of the elderly, and matters such as estate planning, wills, trusts, and helping people qualify for Medicaid. Many also know Darby for his 16 years as the town attorney in Manchester, from 1991 to 2007.

Camposeo served as the probate judge in the Andover Probate District for the past two decades, while balancing her law practice on Center Street in Manchester. She will continue to work there as she steps down as judge. The municipalities she covered, which Darby said she serviced well, will now be passed onto him.

"Elaine Camposeo was a very well-known judge in the Andover, Bolton and Columbia area and she's obviously done a good job for them," Darby said. "Conversely, people in Manches-

ter are very familiar with me and feel comfortable with me."

Camposeo said she "probably" would not run again in the future.

"It was a wonderful run for 20 years and I enjoyed it tremendously," she said. "I know that I made a difference in people's lives as they came before the probate court."

Camposeo described her campaign committee this year as the "most dedicated, hard-working, loving and supporting people" she had ever been involved with. She noted that they came from all different parties, as there were Democrats, Republicans and also those unaffiliated with a party.

"They were in this campaign for me, not the party," Camposeo said.

Looking ahead, Darby said he looks forward to getting to know the residents in Camposeo's former district and working with them as the newly-elected judge, a position he said is really "just an honor" to have won.

"It is my hope that over the next four years the folks in Andover, Columbia and Bolton will be comfortable with me," he said. "I will work very hard to win their confidence as their probate judge."

Colchester Resident Hopes 1970 Letter Grants Exception

by Katy Nally

New documents from 1970 may help one resident in his lawsuit against the town, which has been going on for almost three years.

Leonard "Butch" Przekopski, owner of a gravel pit in town, said he found a letter from former first selectman Loren Marvin, dated Oct. 22, 1970, which states, "We looked into the past history of your business and understand it has been here a very long time." Przekopski says the letter supports his claim that his recycling business should be considered pre-existing prior to current zoning regulations, and therefore a special exception should be granted for non-conforming use.

The letter continues, "I'm willing to grandfather your business in return for the land I need to reconstruct the road." Przekopski said he believes this means the business was grandfathered into the town's existing zoning regulations. Along with the letter, Przekopski also found a receipt dated Oct. 26, 1970, from the state that shows Colchester purchased land on the east and west side of Pine Brook Road from Przekopski's father for \$1.

"No one can help me out in saying we were grandfathered in, except for those two letters," he said.

Przekopski attempted to use the two documents in his latest appeal battle, he said, but the judge said the papers had to be notarized.

"Nobody can actually verify it because they're all deceased," Przekopski added.

A copy of the land deed is on file at Town Hall.

On Oct. 1, a judge ruled for a dismissal of Przekopski's case, denying his application for a special exception because Przekopski's business did not follow two zoning regulations: one dealing with traffic and the other a bond.

Przekopski said the judge did not look into whether Przekopski's recycling business had pre-existing non-conforming status, which is the basis of his suit.

Przekopski said his grandfather began his gravel business in the 1930s, and in 1959 Colchester created its zoning regulations. Przekopski took over the business from his father around 1992.

In 2006, Przekopski was issued a cease and desist order by the zoning enforcement officer, regarding his two parcels of land – one on Westchester Road, and the other on Pine Brook Road. (The lots have since been combined.)

He was asked to stop all excavation and recycling activities at the pit.

Because Przekopski's wife Karen was not named in the cease and desist order, she ran the gravel pit for about a month, which resulted in a \$56,000 fine from the town – \$1,000 per day, charged for two parcels of land. There is currently a \$56,000 lien on Przekopski's property, he said.

Since the cease and desist, Przekopski has been keeping track of all the missed business orders.

"You wouldn't believe the amount of money we lost," Karen Przekopski said.

At the time of the order, and as far back as December 2003, Przekopski and his wife were excavating gravel and recycling bituminous asphalt, concrete material and "other earth materials," his lawsuit dated Feb. 20, 2008 reads.

About a month later, in June 2006, another pit operator in town, Richard Baldi, submitted an application to the Zoning and Planning Commission (ZPC) to amend the regulations and permit the recycling and processing of earth materials, through a "Special Exception Use"

in all zones of Colchester, according to Dec. 20, 2006, ZPC minutes.

In August of that year, Przekopski fought the cease and desist order at a Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) meeting. According to ZBA minutes from Aug. 15, 2006, ZBA member Arthur Shilosky told Przekopski, "The issue is not are you allowed to do it, the issue is do they have to follow the regulations. We have established that they have been here a long time."

Former zoning enforcement officer Gary Goeschel added the "recycling and processing is non-conforming... If it were considered pre-existing, non-conforming use, the landowner would be entitled to continue under Special Exception," according to the minutes.

"In my opinion," Shilosky continued, "[Przekopski] has the right to continue as a pre-existing, non-conforming recycling but as regulations are formed they need to be enforced and everybody has to apply for those regulations."

After several public hearings regarding Baldi's case in 2006, the ZPC drafted regulations to address this type of recycling and approved section 11.22 "Earth Materials Processing and Recycling (EMPAR)" at its Dec. 20, 2006, meeting.

"There's one guy in town who can do this; the regulations are slighted for one person," Przekopski said.

Przekopski claims his recycling business was pre-existing and non-conforming to the regulations and cited section 8-2 of the Connecticut General Statutes, which states municipal zoning regulations "shall not prohibit the continuance of any nonconforming use, building or structure existing at the time of the adoption of such regulations."

"You can regulate it reasonably, and reason-

ably, I have done a lot of stuff," he said.

When the zoning regulations were amended to address EMPAR, Przekopski said he attempted to hand in the proper paperwork to receive his special exception, but he was routinely denied.

"Despite good faith efforts to obtain a Special Exception to continue to conduct the sand and gravel operations and the EMPAR operations, the [ZPC] had neglected and refused to approve the Plaintiffs application for the Special Exceptions," Przekopski's lawsuit says.

In addition to attempting to file the necessary application, Przekopski claims he tried to show town officials he was not in violation of state regulations, by getting storm water and air quality permits from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as well as an erosion control plan.

"The town says 'Well they're good, but they're not good enough for us,'" Przekopski said. "What's better, the DEP or the town?"

He also spent \$7,500 on two traffic studies, he said, and created many maps for the town.

Przekopski has fought the cease and desist order, as well as the fines, and is currently involved in four cases at the Hartford Appellate Court, he said.

"It's hard for somebody when you ain't got no income coming in," he said.

While his gravel business remains on hold, Przekopski works second shift at Pratt & Whitney.

Przekopski said he'd continue to fight the town because "I know I'm dead right."

"The town wants me to say, 'Okay, fine,' then I'll buckle under and do what they want me to do. But that ain't gonna happen," he said.

Colchester Democrat Orange Secures Eighth House Term

by Katy Nally

After losing Colchester by just four votes, Democrat incumbent state Representative Linda Orange still took the district, thanks to her 340-vote win in East Haddam, beating Republican challenger Joe Broder.

"I'm pleased to have won, and I'll continue to represent the constituents in my district," Orange said Wednesday.

Orange will once again represent the state's 48th House District, which covers East Haddam and Colchester.

The incumbent took in 2,973 votes in Colchester and 2,009 in East Haddam. Broder received 2,977 in Colchester and 1,669 in East Haddam. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

Orange said she wasn't surprised by her four-vote loss in her hometown of Colchester, be-



cause Broder has worked in Colchester as an attorney for many years and he campaigned "very hard."

Broder recognized he was "much better known in Colchester" as opposed to his hometown of East Haddam.

But the Republican said he was still surprised he lost East Haddam.

"I really thought I was going to win," he said. "I really don't know what went wrong in East Haddam. I probably did more door-to-door in Colchester. I can't explain it."

Broder said he got the impression 48th District voters were upset with the state's billion-dollar deficit and wanted a change, which he had pledged.

"Almost every door I went to, people were unhappy with the state's financial situation," he said. "I can only assume people in East Haddam are happy with Linda Orange."

Ultimately, Broder said Orange won possibly due to her name-recognition.

Orange said it probably had more to do with her record, and because of the "continued confidence in the work that I do."

Broder's own loss wasn't the only outcome that surprised him this election. He said he

thought more Republicans would have secured seats in the state legislature Tuesday.

Before Election Day, Republicans held 12 of the 36 seats in the state Senate and 37 of the 151 seats in the state House. With anti-incumbent and pro-Republican sentiments sweeping the nation, based on early numbers, the Connecticut Republicans have a total of 67 seats in the state legislature and have begun to break up the Democrat's supermajority in the House, claiming 14 more seats.

"That was a lot less than I thought we would do. I was very optimistic," Broder said. "I thought this was a good year for Republicans, but I guess it wasn't good enough. Connecticut is just a very blue state."

Indeed, the 48th District leaned blue this Tuesday.

Orange said she was "thrilled" Wednesday afternoon, but added Broder provided a spirited campaign.

Orange, who was elected in 1996, hadn't had a challenger in eight years. The 2002 race also had a considerably wider margin and put Orange ahead of Republican opponent Carl Bulgini by 1,156 votes. Orange won both East Haddam and Colchester that year.

"It was kind of fun to have a challenger [this year]," Orange said. "It brought back the campaign spirit and a different level of energy."

However, Broder was not quite as spirited Wednesday.

"I'm very disappointed, because I was pretty sure I was going to win," he said. "But that's politics, you never know until they take that final count. You move on; it's not the end of the world."

Broder, an attorney, said he would continue practicing law, but not full-time.

Now that Orange's position is once again secured, she said she'll immediately set to work for her constituents.

"My sleeves are rolled up as we speak," she said.

Top priority for the state representative is to write legislation with Colchester Probate Judge Jodi Thomas that seeks to improve workplace safety and ensure a disaster like February's Kleen Energy Plant explosion – which claimed the life of Thomas' husband, Ron Crabb – won't happen again.

"That's my major goal right now and my promise to Ron," she said.

Cruz Highlights CMT Successes in Hebron

by Lindsay Fetzner

Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz shared the results of the Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) with the community last Thursday evening, highlighting district successes, areas of need and goals for the future.

The CMTs are administered during the month of March to students in grades three through eight. The test measures skills in the area of math, reading, writing and, in grades five and eight, science.

There are five levels of classification that the test is scored on – level one, below basic; level two, basic; level three, proficient; level four, goal; and level five, advanced.

Cruz noted that the level four classification constitutes the state goal and that the level three classification constitutes the federal goal, and Adequate Yearly Process (AYP) under the No Child Left Behind Act.

"Because our students in Hebron are so exceptional, we feel that [goal] is just the threshold," Cruz said. "Our personal goal is to move as many students as possible from goal to advanced."

The district's goal, Cruz said, is to decrease the percentage of students at the basic and below basic level, as well as increase the percentage of students at or above the goal level. Cruz said each of the schools have an impact on the scores, and that the work completed at Gilead Hill School (GHS) is a foundation for the successes at Hebron Elementary School (HES) and later on at RHAM.

Cruz discussed state trends in each of the subject areas, and later compared the trends to those in Hebron. In grades three through eight, state results showed improvements in the areas of reading, writing and math, Cruz said. In grades three, four and seven, there was a slight decrease in writing scores at the goal level. Cruz said there was growth in all grade levels for reading at the goal level with the exception of fourth grade, which remained fairly consistent, and fifth grade, which decreased. And, there were some improvements at the goal level in each grade level for math, as well as the goal level in fifth and eighth grade in science.

In Hebron, in the area of reading, Cruz pointed out the "step activity" across the grades. Third-graders scored 79.7 percent at or above state goal, fourth-graders at 80 percent, fifth-graders at 85 percent and sixth-graders with the highest score, at 91.8 percent.

"Our reading scores are high," Cruz told the audience of board members, administrators and parents.

Particularly in the third grade, there was a "three-year high," Cruz said. In 2008, scores sat at 68.9 percent reaching goal, in 2009, 74.6 percent met goal and this year, 79.7 percent met the target. This accomplishment, Cruz said, is what the district is "really the most excited about."

As Cruz stated, there was a decrease in writing scores at the third, fourth and seventh-grade levels statewide. Hebron did see a decrease as

well at the goal level, but scores still remained "well above state averages," Cruz said. The largest dip was in third grade, where scores dropped a total of 10.9 percentage points. Fourth grade was the only increase, as both fifth- and sixth-graders saw a small decrease in scores as well. Cruz added that there has been "consistent performance" in fourth-graders' goal-level writing scores over the past three years – 81.4 percent in 2008, 79.6 percent in 2009 and 79.9 percent in 2010.

Math scores, as all of Hebron's scores, were well above state averages, Cruz said. Although there were small decreases in the third, fourth and sixth grade, the fifth-graders did "extraordinarily well," Cruz said. At the goal level, their scores increased 7.8 percentage points from 84.9 percent last year to 92.7 percent this year.

Although the fifth-graders dipped roughly two percentage points at the goal level in science, Cruz said overall, the students "are still strong performers." This year, 78.9 percent of students met goal, compared to 81.1 percent last year.

Cruz also shared a brief overview of how Hebron students in seventh and eighth grade at RHAM fared on the CMTs (scores do not reflect Andover and Marlborough students). At the goal level, the seventh-graders scored 86.2 percent in math, 90.4 percent in reading and 81.4 percent in writing. At the goal level, the eighth-graders scored 80.8 percent in math, 84.5 percent in reading and 78.1 percent in writing.

"I am really happy to report that seventh- and eighth-graders are continuing to do really well, who were with us one to two years ago," Cruz pointed out. "I think we have a lot to be proud of."

Cruz also noted that the district met AYP this year. Particularly in the sub-group of students with disabilities, the scores saw a big jump over last year's marks. In 2009, 58 percent of students met proficiency in reading, and this year, that number rose to 79 percent. In math, proficiency figures jumped from 76 percent to 84 percent this year, Cruz said.

The increase in proficiency scores, Cruz said, was in part due to the targeted instruction from the special education teachers in areas of need and students with disabilities spending more time in the classroom for core instruction. Cruz said changes were made in the district's practices, materials used and in the amount of contact with the regular classroom teachers, "and it worked."

A copy of the presentation that Cruz presented is available at www.hebron.k12.ct.us, under the 'news' section. More detailed information on scores for each grade level and subject area is available at www.ctreports.com.

The next meeting of the Board of Education is slated for Thursday, Nov. 18, at 7 p.m. at GHS. In celebration of HES' National Blue Ribbon, there will also be an awards ceremony the next day, on Friday, Nov. 19, at 7 p.m. at RHAM High School.

Democrat Cassano's Narrow Win Grounds for a Recount in Marlborough

by Katy Nally

By early counts, it looks like Democrat Steve Cassano beat Republican Stewart "Chip" Beckett by a very narrow margin – about 69 votes, or 0.18 percent – and an automatic recount is underway.

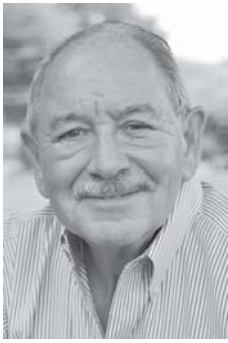
The final vote should be determined next week, Cassano and Beckett said.

When reached Wednesday, Cassano said he was not that surprised by the narrow lead.

"We had two great candidates running for an open seat and a lot of support from our communities," he said.

If declared the winner, Cassano will represent the Fourth Senatorial District, which covers Marlborough, Glastonbury, Manchester and Bolton. After representing the district for the past 14 years (and Marlborough since 2002 after the district was redrawn) Mary Ann Handley plans to retire.

On Wednesday afternoon, Beckett said he was still optimistic the vote could turn in his



Cassano

favor after the recount. Specifically, the approximately 2,000 absentee ballots alone might swing the vote, he said.

"It's certainly possible that there could be that kind of a shift," Beckett said. "We'll just have to wait and see how that plays out."

But Cassano took a different stance.

"I can't imagine there'll be much of a change in the recount," he said, adding that he was "more comfortable" being ahead by a small margin than behind.

Nonetheless, Wednesday morning was still too early for the Democrat to celebrate.

"I won't celebrate until it's official," he said.

Beckett will have to secure about 40 more votes through the recount to take the lead from Cassano.

Based on unofficial numbers, Beckett took Bolton, Marlborough and his hometown, Glastonbury, but lost to Cassano by about 3,700 votes in Cassano's hometown of Manchester, which tipped the scale in his favor.



Beckett

Cassano is the former mayor of Manchester – a title he held for 14 years.

Beckett owns his own veterinary practice in Glastonbury, and is the current majority leader on the Glastonbury Town Council.

Beckett said he wasn't surprised by his leads in Marlborough, Bolton or Glastonbury, but then, "the Manchester votes came in, and it was a little disappointing," he said.

He added he thought he would have done "just a shade bit better" in Manchester.

"I've been the second-highest vote getter in Glastonbury two years in a row," he noted. (Beckett ran for re-election to the Glastonbury Town Council last year and was behind chairwoman Susan Karp by about 200 votes. This year Beckett was behind unopposed Democrat Peter Alter for judge of probate, who secured 10,291 votes, about 1,200 more than Beckett.)

"The people of Marlborough have been very, very warm and welcoming," Beckett added.

According to the secretary of state's website, Beckett secured 1,547 votes in Marlborough and Cassano, 1,231.

The two candidates had an amicable campaign for the most part, until about a week before the election, when Cassano sent out flyers criticizing Beckett.

Cassano said the mailers were in response to something Beckett said in the *Journal Inquirer* about having all Connecticut citizens pitch in to help balance the budget. Cassano said Wednesday he felt "seniors nor children should pay the price [of fixing the \$3.26 billion deficit]."

Cassano's flyers said children and seniors in the Fourth District "can't afford Beckett's plan." They also said Cassano would "balance our budget..." but "not on the backs of our seniors" and "not at the expense of our schools."

Beckett said he was unsure if Cassano's ads hurt had his chances.

"I don't know how much people paid attention to any mail pieces; there was so much people just threw out," he said.

But, Beckett added, the claims in Cassano's flyers were untrue and wouldn't help either candidate govern, when elected.

"It's not about winning the seat, it's about governing," he said. "It's not helpful when people are calling each other names."

Despite who is elected, Cassano said it's time to focus on the Fourth District.

"Regardless of who's the victor... we'll work to bring the Fourth District back together," he said.

EH

Hamm Defeats Roberts to Win Seventh Term

by Claire Michalewicz

Incumbent Democrat Gail Hamm narrowly defeated Republican opponent Earle Roberts in the race for the 34th House District, which includes East Hampton and southern Middletown.

Hamm, an attorney and East Hampton resident, has held the seat since 1998. On Tuesday, she and Roberts, a tool-and-die maker from Middletown, both won each others' hometowns but lost in their own. In East Hampton, Roberts beat Hamm 2,802 votes to 2,690, while in Middletown, Hamm won by 1,533 to 1,127.

Between the two towns, Hamm won about 51.8 percent of the total votes. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

Speaking Wednesday morning, Hamm said she was happy with the results, but said she was still processing the news of her victory. Hamm said that at first, she thought the elec-



tion results were very close, but noted that they were similar to her margins of victory in previous elections.

"It's clear that the Republican tide was coming for the incumbent Democrats," she said. "As an incumbent Democrat, it's nice to survive that tide."

Hamm said her campaign went "as well as it could" in a district that was focused on other issues. Most East Hampton residents, she said, had been occupied with the ongoing controversy concerning Police Chief Matthew Reimondo's layoff in June. And in East Hampton and Middletown, she said, residents were focused on the national issue of the economy, rather than on more local state issues.

Hamm said East Hampton's police chief woes had influenced some of her plans for the next term. One of the things she most wants to focus on, she said, was the state statute concerning firing a police chief for cause. She said the statute is ambiguous as to whether financial difficulties fall under the definition of "cause," and she wants to clarify the statute to avoid another situation like the one Reimondo was in.

Another focus for the next term, she said, was the economy throughout the state, and her

plans to create more jobs. Hamm pointed out that the governor sets the budget and agenda, and said she was hoping for a governor who would be able to cooperate with the legislature. (When Hamm spoke with the *Rivereast*, the results of the governor's race were still unknown. Secretary of State Susan Bysiewicz has since unofficially declared Democrat Dan Malloy the victor, though as of Thursday morning, Republican Tom Foley was refusing to concede.)

Roberts ran on a platform of cutting government spending and regionalizing programs between towns. He said the state was unfriendly to businesses, and should reduce fees and taxes on businesses so they are able to hire more people.

Roberts said he thought the voter turnout in both towns was discouraging, explaining that he would have felt more comfortable with the decision if more people had voted. Still, he noted, he had come closer to defeating Hamm than Republican candidate David Bauer had in 2008.

"Apparently, the people in Middletown want more taxes and bigger government," Roberts said. The main difference between him and

Hamm, he said, was that he would have lowered taxes, and he said he thought he made that clear in the debates he had with his opponent.

Roberts said he was proud of how little money he spent on his campaign – less than \$500 – but said he could have used more help from supporters throughout the campaign season.

Roberts said that, despite the setback, he planned to remain involved in local politics. A former Middletown Common Council member, he said, he still attended meetings to raise concerns he had about local government.

Despite the fact that most incumbents in the legislature held onto their seats on Tuesday, Roberts said, he hoped they would start making some changes in their economic policy.

"This legislature is gonna have to start doing something," Roberts said, explaining that the state would have to cut spending in order to weather the bad economy.

Hamm said she was getting ready to "roll up her sleeves and get to work" in the next term, on issues like the economy, the police chief statute and education.

"Of course I'm delighted to be able to go back and represent my district in a tough time."

East Hampton Reaches Settlement in Bridge Lawsuit

by Claire Michalewicz

The town has reached a settlement agreement in a lawsuit brought against it by a construction company, regarding the way the town handled a contract concerning the reconstruction of a Main Street bridge.

Under the terms of the settlement, the town will pay \$39,376.43 to Standard Demolition Services (SDS). The Town Council voted to accept the settlement after an executive session last Tuesday.

SDS, a Trumbull-based contractor, sued the town in July, alleging that the town violated the contract agreement for the construction of the bridge, located in front of the community center between Skinner and Niles streets.

The town awarded the contract to SDS in July 2008, but the town redesigned its plans for the bridge and did not provide final plans until November, the lawsuit says. According to

the document, construction was mostly completed in December of that year, but because the surface could not be paved in cold weather, the bridge was not reopened until April 2009.

After work was completed, the lawsuit says, the town refused to pay SDS the outstanding contract balance, explaining that it was holding the sum as "liquidated damages."

The Town Council voted to approve the \$1 million project in June 2008; of that cost, \$785,734 was for the bridge itself and the remainder was for engineering expenses and the cost of the bond itself.

SDS installed the bridge footings, and then laid a bridge constructed by another company over the concrete structure. The metal railings were contracted out to a third company.

In the lawsuit, SDS alleges the town breached its contract with the company, as well as its

"covenant of good faith and fair dealing." By holding onto some of the money, the lawsuit says, the town was "unjustly enriched to SDS's detriment."

"As a result of the Town's violation of its duty of good faith and fair dealing, SDS has suffered and continues to suffer damages," the lawsuit says.

Antonino Leone, SDS' attorney, explained that the settlement amount was smaller than the damages SDS had sought in the lawsuit (although he would not specify the amount the company had sought), and also smaller than the contract balance he said the town kept.

Leone said he could not go into more detail about the case, since the settlement had not officially been accepted. Leone said he was unsure when the case would be complete.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel

explained that the plaintiff had sought about \$42,000 – the amount left in the contract that the town held as damages. Since that amount was already budgeted, she said, the settlement was a workable solution for the town.

"They thought it was our fault, we thought it was their fault, and so we settled," she said, explaining that reaching a settlement would be less costly than taking the case to court.

Other Town Council members agreed, after voting to accept the agreement on Tuesday.

"I'm disappointed," Sue Weintraub said. "I'm sure the community will be, too – we had to wait so long."

But, she added, "The best we can do is to accept this."

The town's attorney in the case, Kenneth Antin, could not be reached for comment.

Prague Wins Ninth Term in State Senate

by Lindsay Fetzner

In a rather close vote, state Sen. Edith Prague defeated her Republican challenger Sean Sullivan to win her ninth term in the 19th District.

The 19th District encompasses Andover, Bozrah, Columbia, Hebron, Franklin, Lebanon, Ledyard, Lisbon, Montville, Norwich and Sprague. Across the 11 municipalities in the district, Prague collected 15,737 votes to Sullivan's 14,831, according to the Associated Press. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

In Hebron, Sullivan was the favored candidate, receiving 2,214 votes while Prague received 1,847. Andover was the opposite of Hebron, with Prague beating Sullivan; Prague received 778 votes and Sullivan garnered 617. Columbia resident Prague has held the seat



since 1994.

"I am very pleased that I kept my seat," Prague said Wednesday afternoon, adding that she felt she ran a "very nice, clean, respectable race" that was based on the facts.

Sullivan, a Ledyard resident, said he was disappointed with the result of the race.

"It wasn't what I had hoped for," he said. "But, it was the judgment of the people."

Sullivan said he spent the evening at home with his family as the results came in, while Prague spent part of the evening at Hebron Democratic headquarters, and was at home when she received the news she had won.

Sullivan seemed particularly disappointed to have lost Norwich, as he spent a lot of time in that town.

"With 11 towns and 100,000 people, with probably 25,000 households at least, maybe more, you can't get to all of them," Sullivan pointed out. "I had hoped to maximize my ability to get votes in Ledyard and Hebron, but I also knew that I needed to offset the advantages that Senator Prague had in Norwich based on voter registration."

Sullivan said he had hoped to neutralize that

factor by basically getting close, if not winning, in Norwich.

However, Sullivan wound up losing to Prague in Norwich by 1,169 votes, collecting 3,748 to her 4,917.

He did, however, prevail in Ledyard, garnering 2,879 votes while Prague received 2,021.

Looking ahead, Sullivan said he will continue to practice law at Brown Jacobson P.C. in Norwich, serve his term on the Ledyard Town Council and spend time with his family.

"I still have my job, I have a granddaughter," he said. "I have plenty of things to fall back on."

And, not representing the district in Hartford, Sullivan said, means that he doesn't "actually have to be the person that has to solve the budget problem. It's a mess."

Prague agreed that this term will be a trying one, due to the financial issues the state is faced with. Anybody who said it isn't going to be difficult, Prague said, "doesn't know what's going on."

"We need experienced people to be able to deal with a multitude of issues that we are going to deal with," Prague added.

When asked if he would run again, Sullivan said he is not making any decisions until there is time to reflect. (Sullivan ran unsuccessfully for Congress against Joe Courtney in 2008.)

"There's a myriad of things that come together, including how you stack up with your opponent and the factors beyond your control, that affected the race," Sullivan said.

The state of the economy, local issues dominating municipalities, and national events influencing voter turnout, are all things to consider, Sullivan said.

"As much as you try to make your [race] about you and your opponent, it's never just that," Sullivan said. "Voters always have a lot of different things on their mind when they go to the polls."

Overall, Sullivan said Prague was a "tough opponent" and congratulated her for winning her ninth term in office.

Prague said she was happy that her constituents are sending her back to Hartford.

"I must be doing something right," she said. "People trust me and they know I am always there for them when they need help."

Democrat Courtney Takes Second Congressional District

by Katy Nally

Democrat incumbent Joe Courtney swept the Second Congressional District Tuesday, picking up about 59.9 percent of the total votes.

"I'm very pleased we have such strong support from one end of the district to the other," Courtney said this week.

In the 65-town district, Republican challenger Janet Peckinpaugh secured about 95,000 votes, or 38.7 percent, and Green Party candidate Scott Deshefy, about 3,200 votes, or 1.3 percent. Courtney tallied about 146,500 votes in total. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's officer were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

Deshefy said he was somewhat disappointed with the results, but added he was happy to secure at least 1 percent of the votes, to provide ballot access for the Green Party in 2012.

Of the five *Rivereast* towns the district covers – Andover, Colchester, East Hampton, Hebron and Marlborough – Andover was Courtney's biggest supporter, as he secured 60.2



percent of the total votes.

Courtney did the worst in East Hampton, but he still took in 53.3 percent of the total votes, and Peckinpaugh received about 45.2 percent of East Hampton's votes.

Marlborough voters were the biggest supporter of Peckinpaugh, with 45.75 percent of ballots in her favor. Marlborough voters also supported Deshefy the least, with less than 1 percent of votes for him. Deshefy did best in Colchester, where he won 1.55 percent of the votes.

All 19,913 votes from the *Rivereast* area were for either Courtney, Peckinpaugh or Deshefy, except for one vote cast in East Hampton for write-in candidate Daniel Reale. The two other write-in candidates were Matthew Coleman and Muriel Bianchi.

Like the other Connecticut Democratic incumbents in Congress, Courtney won this year's election, despite nationwide anti-incumbent and anti-Democrat sentiments. Connecticut ended up very blue, with a Democratic U.S. Senator, Richard Blumenthal, and the five Democratic U.S. Congressmen, John Larson, Courtney, Rosa DeLauro, Jim Himes and Chris Murphy.

Courtney said he was "a little surprised" at this year's election results because "there was strong Republican support."

Republican hopeful for governor, Tom Foley, "carried the Second District" and Blumenthal's

challenger, Republican Linda McMahon "ran strong and carried a slew of towns," Courtney noted.

"The context was an obvious challenge for us," as was Peckinpaugh, he said.

"Janet was an extremely well-known, well-liked and energetic opponent," Courtney said.

Peckinpaugh got her start as a television news anchor. She said this week via e-mail she was grateful for the opportunity to run.

"I am honored to live in a country where people of opposing views can vie for a job to represent their friends and neighbors," Peckinpaugh said. "My greatest thanks to the thousands of people in Eastern Connecticut who gave me their trust through their vote."

This election marks Courtney's third term in Congress. He is currently a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, the Congressional Dairy Caucus and the House Armed Services Committee.

With Election Day over, Courtney said now "it's all about the economy and jobs."

"That was the message that came through loud and clear," he said.

Courtney added that he would also focus on supporting Connecticut's shipbuilding industry when he returns to Washington.

For Deshefy, his time off from campaigning will give him the opportunity to focus on a book

he's writing.

Deshefy said he was unsure if he would run for the Green Party again, having also campaigned against Courtney in 2008.

"I never say 'never,'" Deshefy said, but added, if he were to run again, "I would like to see more people pushing me to run, and not just the Green Party." Although 2012 is still two years away, in the meantime, Deshefy said he would continue to advocate for his party.

"I truly believe it's the answer to political woes we have in this country."

Even though this year's results didn't swing in his favor, Deshefy said he hoped Courtney would contact him "anytime he needs some progressive support."

"I hope Joe won't strictly adhere to Democratic stealth conservatism, and number two, try to oppose the requisite two-party commitment," he said.

Deshefy said he considered the Democrat and Republican agendas to be very closely aligned, and with the recent election, although new officials have taken office, Deshefy theorized, not much will change.

"Congress isn't doing it; it's too slow," Deshefy said. "It's just flip-flopping back and forth between those two parties. We're not going to see anything in the way of progressive change."

Carpino Tops O'Rourke in Portland to Win State Rep Seat

by Claire Michalewicz

Republican Christie Carpino beat Democratic incumbent Jim O'Rourke in the election for state representative of the 32nd District on Tuesday, dislodging O'Rourke from the seat he's held for 20 years.

O'Rourke bested Carpino in Portland by a slim margin of 12 votes – 1,929 to Carpino's 1,917. In the small sliver of Middletown that's included in the district, O'Rourke took 186 votes and Carpino took 93.

But in Cromwell, where both candidates live, Carpino received 3,430 votes – 61.69 percent – and O'Rourke collected 2,130. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in



this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

Between all three towns, Carpino took 56.17 percent of the vote. She said she was at Cromwell Town Hall when the results were announced and she was "jubilant, excited and thrilled" about the news.

"Months and months of hard work paid off," Carpino said Wednesday, explaining how she had spent the past six months campaigning in all three towns and trying to meet as many people in the district as possible. Carpino beat Portland selectman Carl Chudzik in the Republican primary in August.

"I had a multitude of supporters in all three towns," Carpino said. "I'm honored to be able to serve them."

"I'm very excited for the opportunity and I'm honored to be able to serve them," Carpino said.

Carpino, an attorney who represents customers in their insurance claims with MetLife, ran on a platform she called her "Common-Sense Commitment." Some of the tenets of her plat-

form included spending no more than the government could afford, and not borrowing more than the state could pay back.

One of her priorities in her campaign is to make the state friendlier to business, which she says will help create jobs and increase state revenue, thus reducing taxes on individuals.

Taking office, she said, was "going to be a lot of hard work," but she said she was looking forward to going to Hartford.

Carpino's first priority once she takes office, she said, was to look at the budget to see which areas could be streamlined and where spending could be cut. "It is our most pressing concern," she said.

O'Rourke, deputy speaker of the house, focused on his experience during his campaign. He stressed that he had been able to bring grant money and improvements to Portland and Cromwell. Speaking before the election, he said that if he was elected for an 11th term, he wanted to focus on bringing green jobs to the

state, which he said would improve the economy and help the environment.

But O'Rourke had been plagued by a scandal in his most recent term. In January 2009, O'Rourke was implicated in the death of Carol Sinisgalli, who froze to death in Rocky Hill. O'Rourke explained that Sinisgalli, an acquaintance, had entered his car at a bar, and he agreed to drive her home. However, Sinisgalli exited O'Rourke's car in Rocky Hill, and was found dead the next day.

O'Rourke was cleared of any criminal wrongdoing, but a civil lawsuit filed against him by Sinisgalli's family is still pending.

In October, O'Rourke drew more negative attention when he allegedly called police to have a fellow Cromwell Democrat removed from his campaign headquarters.

Neither O'Rourke nor his campaign treasurer, Victor Harpley, returned calls left for them this week.

Daily Wins 10th Term in State Senate

by Claire Michalewicz

Democratic state Senator Eileen Daily bested two opponents Tuesday to win a 10th term serving the 33rd District.

Daily beat out two opponents, Republican Neil Nichols and Green Party candidate Colin Bennett, to win the seat, which serves Colchester, East Hampton, Portland and nine other towns in south-central Connecticut.

In East Hampton, Daily took 2,759, while Nichols took 2,541. Colchester voters also chose Daily, giving her 3,008 votes compared



to Nichols's 2,656. In Portland, Daily won 2,040 votes, and Nichols won 1,598.

Bennett came in third in the overall race, taking 155 votes in Colchester, 159 in East Hampton and 85 in Portland.

Between all 12 towns Daily won 21,063 votes, compared to Nichols's 17,832. As of press time, Green party votes from all 12 towns had not yet been released, but Bennett earned at least 971 votes. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not complete as of press time. The figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

Daily, from Westbrook, has held the seat since 1992. Speaking the week before the election, she said her experience would help her tackle policies in the upcoming term. Even after 18 years, she said, she still had a lot of en-

ergy and was passionate about helping people in her district.

Daily is chair of the Finance, Revenue, and Bonding Committee and vice-chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee. She also serves on the internship and legislative management committees, and is deputy president pro tempore of the Senate.

Nichols said that while he was disappointed to have come in second, he was pleased with how his campaign ran.

"We had a very spirited campaign; we stayed on the issues," said Nichols, a financial consultant and former airline pilot who lives in Essex.

When asked if he'd seek election in the future, Nichols replied, "I'd do it again in a heart-

beat," but added that it depended on several factors, including how senate handled the economy in their upcoming term.

"Eileen Daily has promised in this cycle that she was gonna be pro-business," Nichols said. He said that if Daily and the other senators manage to make the state more business-friendly and create jobs, he may not need to run.

"I might even endorse her," Nichols added. Nichols pointed out that Connecticut is "a very blue state," and that he was pleased that he, as a Republican, had done as well as he had. Coming in second, he said, was "not terribly surprising."

Daily and Bennett could not be reached for comment for this story.

Berkenstock Tops Kinsella for Probate Seat

by Claire Michalewicz

Republican Jennifer Berkenstock has been elected probate judge for the newly-created Probate District 14, beating incumbent Portland judge Stephen Kinsella.

Kinsella won in Portland, where he earned 2,137 votes, compared to Berkenstock's 1,607. In Marlborough, though, where Kinsella has been serving as acting judge since earlier this year, Berkenstock beat Kinsella, as she also did in East Hampton and East Haddam.

In Marlborough, Berkenstock won 1,584 votes and Kinsella won 1,180. In East Hampton, where Berkenstock lives, she won 3,481 votes and Kinsella 2,039. And in East Haddam,



Berkenstock took 1,895 votes, compared to Kinsella's 1,663.

On the whole, Berkenstock won nearly 55 percent of the vote. (Voting totals compiled by the secretary of state's office were not official as of press time; the figures in this story are based on unofficial tallies.)

Speaking on Wednesday, Berkenstock said she was thrilled with the results.

Though the campaign is over, Berkenstock still has plenty of work to do. She explained that she would be starting judge training this week, continuing for six Fridays in November and December. The new probate court officially opens Jan. 5, housed at the current probate court location in Marlborough.

"They get us up and running already," she said.

Berkenstock said she's also busy shutting down her law practice in East Hampton, trying

to get her clients' cases resolved before the new year. By closing her law firm, she said, she'll be able to focus completely on the judge position.

Berkenstock said she's looking forward to being a judge, and said she's up to the challenge of helping people with their probate cases. She said she also hoped to serve on some of the statewide probate committees, to work on policies to make the probate system easier for people to navigate. Eventually, she said, she'd like to serve on the ethics committee, though she said she was unsure if she could do that in her first term.

She said that while she knew she was getting positive feedback from residents during her campaign, she hadn't been sure which way the election results would go. "It's so hard to tell," she said.

Berkenstock said she owed everything to her

campaign manager, David Balthazar. She also thanked her supporters, noting that running a campaign is "not something you can do by yourself."

In an e-mail, Kinsella congratulated Berkenstock on her victory, and said he would be willing to help her out in her judge duties if she needed it. For the next two months, he said, he would continue as judge in the Portland and Marlborough courts, helping clients and trying to ease the transition to a new system.

"I congratulate her on her victory and hope she will serve these four towns as I have in Portland and Marlborough," Kinsella said.

"Even though we are disappointed with the outcome," Kinsella said, "I have met so many wonderful people that I can truly call 'friends' – and that in and above anything else, win or lose, that is important to me."

Woman Killed After Falling from Truck in Portland

by Claire Michalewicz

A Portland woman was killed last Wednesday night, after she fell from a pick-up truck on Route 66.

Katie Rau, 31, of 18 Susan Cir., fell from the passenger window of a Ford F-350 truck as it was traveling east just past the intersection with Main Street around 11:45 p.m. Oct. 27. She was presumed dead at the scene, police said.

The driver, Christopher Fowler, 21, of 7 Red Oak Ridge, was arrested for driving un-

der the influence. Fowler was released on bond and is due to be arraigned at Middletown Superior Court on Nov. 10.

Fowler did not say why Rau was leaning out of the truck before she fell, Lieutenant Ron Milardo said. Milardo said police were still waiting for the results of Rau's autopsy to determine what types of injuries she sustained, and that police are also investigating what may have led to Rau falling out of the window.

East Hampton Police News

10/21: A 16-year-old from Moodus was issued a summons for possession of marijuana, East Hampton Police said.

10/28: Michael Bernard, 25, of 29 North Main St., was arrested for third-degree burglary and fourth-degree larceny, police said.

10/28: Scott Cole, 47, of 913-15 Wethersfield Ave., Hartford, was arrested for violating a restraining order, police said.

10/29: Christopher Scaplen, 25, of 18 Wells Ave., was arrested for disorderly conduct, third-degree assault and third-degree strangulation, police said.

Portland Police News

10/27: Donald Carriere, 53, of 7 Chaffee Ln., Southington, was charged with fifth-degree larceny and third-degree criminal mischief, Portland Police said.

10/27: Joseph Rooney, 24, of 188 Main St., was charged with third-degree assault, interfering with an emergency and third-degree criminal mischief, police said.

10/27: Shawn Statkiewicz, 39, of 18 Edgewood Rd., was charged with third-degree assault and disorderly conduct, police said.

10/28: A 15-year-old male was arrested for third-degree assault and referred to juvenile court, police said.

Colchester Police News

10/25: Brittany Kent, 20, of 5 Edwards Ave., Griswold, was charged with third-degree larceny, Colchester Police said.

10/26: A 17-year-old male was charged with possession of drug paraphernalia, Colchester Police said.

10/27: Troop K is investigating a reported larceny at M&J Auto, located on New London Road. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Trooper Catherine Billian at Troop K at 860-537-7500.

10/28: David Bickford, 22, of 1792 Manchester Rd., Glastonbury, was charged with operating a motor vehicle under suspension, breach of peace and interfering with a police officer, State Police said.

10/29: Gail Saltus, 46, of 20 Middletown Ave., East Hampton, was charged with third-degree burglary from a motor vehicle, sixth-degree larceny from a motor vehicle and illegal use of credit cards, Colchester Police said. Her charges were the result of an investigation into a burglary/larceny that occurred on July 16 th

Marlborough Police News

10/25: Troop K is investigating an incident where jewelry was stolen from a patient at the Marlborough Health Center, located on Stage Harbor Road.

10/29: Edward Elmore, 46, formerly of 150 Earle St., Hartford, was charged with sixth-degree larceny and illegal use of credit cards, State Police said. He was arrested in connection with a wallet that was stolen in Marlborough on March 19 this year.

10/29: Keegan Lynch, 19, of 23 Isleib Rd., was charged with first-degree criminal trespass and disorderly conduct, State Police said.

10/31: John Smith, 51, of 29 Cloverdale Dr., East Hartford, was charged with fourth-degree larceny, misuse of plates, operating under suspension and operating without insurance, State Police said. Smith was located on Jones Hollow Road attempting to steal a leaf blower, State Police said.

11/2: Richard Zacher, 40, of 1782 Papermill Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

Car Strikes School Bus

A car struck a school bus last Tuesday, Oct. 26, at the intersection of School Road and Gillette Lane, but no one was injured, Colchester Police said.

At around 3 p.m., Ronald Roberson, 40, of Hamden, traveled through a stop sign and struck the bus, damaging its right side and rear bumper, police said.

Roberson's 2002 Chevrolet G2500 sustained damage to the entire right side, police said.

According to a police news release, Roberson approached the intersection and was "unable to stop because his brakes did not work." He was issued a written warning for failure to obey a stop sign, police said.

Hebron Police News

10/30: Brian Gardner, 18, of 376 West Rd., Colchester, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

10/30: Jacob Baing, 20, of 125 Prospect Hill Rd., Colchester, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

10/30: Michael Small, 19, of 435 Old Hebron Rd., Colchester, was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, State Police said.

Andover Woman Charged With Letting Teens Drink, Smoke Pot

by Lindsay Fetzner

An Andover resident turned herself in on Oct. 15 for eight counts of risk of injury to a minor and 13 counts of permitting minors to illegally possess liquor in a dwelling unit after allegedly allowing her daughter to have a party at her house after a high school homecoming dance, police said.

According to an affidavit on file at Rockville Superior Court, Lauren Carrara, 50, of 21 Lakeside Dr., is reported to have allowed the drinking of alcoholic beverages, as well as the smoking of marijuana, by high school-aged youths after the homecoming dance on Oct. 17, 2009. Carrara was also reportedly intoxicated herself, the affidavit states.

State Police interviewed several teenagers after the dance and alleged party that took place, which revealed details on what occurred that evening.

A 16-year-old witness, at the time of the interview on Oct. 23, 2009, stated that she was at a party at the accused's household after the dance. She also stated that Carrara "took peoples keys so that they would not drive drunk." The witness gave 21 names of high school-aged people that she could remember that attended the party, the affidavit states.

On Oct. 26, 2009, police interviewed a then-15-year-old female who stated that she also attended the Oct. 17 party at Carrara's house. The witness said she had been to parties at Carrara's house in the past, and added that there is "usually alcohol at the parties," according to the affidavit. The 15-year-old female said people were also smoking pot at the home, and added that "she knows that the accused smokes pot" and that Carrara had offered her pot in the past, the affidavit said. The witness added that she had seen Carrara smoke pot with the aforementioned 16-year-old witness before as well, the affidavit states.

The next day, on Oct. 27, police met with Carrara at her residence, where she stated that she allowed her then-16-year-old daughter to have a party at her house after the homecoming dance, which she believed to be on Oct. 17. Carrara said she had "a few beers at a neighbor's house during the dance" and that when she came back from the neighbor's house, "there were already people at the house," according to the affidavit. Carrara said that approximately 20 of her daughter's friends were at the party, the affidavit states.

Carrara said a friend had given her the idea of taking the car keys of those who came to

the party "to make sure that no one would drive drunk." The same friend, Carrara said, called it a "safe house," and a "place where the kids could go and you would not have to worry about anyone leaving the party and driving drunk," the affidavit states.

For roughly an hour or two, Carrara said she walked around the party and talked with the "kids," but did not see anyone drinking alcohol, "because everyone was drinking out of paper cups," according to the affidavit. Carrara also said that she did not smell any alcohol at the party, "because she had a few beers earlier in the night and was feeling pretty good," the affidavit states.

Carrara said she did not confront anyone about smoking marijuana either, which she said she could smell at one point, because she "felt that it was not her place to confront someone else's kid about it."

Between midnight and 1 a.m., Carrara said she took something to help her sleep, and was asleep shortly after that time, according to the affidavit.

A then 15-year-old female, interviewed by police on Oct. 30, 2009, stated that she believed Carrara had been drunk at the party because she saw her "slurring her speech and stumbling around the party."

Another witness, 17 years old at the time of the interview on Nov. 2, 2009, stated that he had seen the accused "having trouble talking and stated that he had seen her fall several times." He also told police that "you could tell that [Carrara] was drunk," even though "he did not know what she was drinking," according to the affidavit.

Interviews with the teenagers continued through November 2009, before starting again in July of this year, according to the affidavit.

Police interviewed another male, who was 16 years old at the time of the Aug. 4, 2010, interview, the last interview listed on the affidavit. The witness stated that "everyone that was drinking was drinking in the open" at the October 2009 party, according to the affidavit, and told police he left the party and returned later with "some marijuana." He added that he smoked marijuana with "several people at the party," the affidavit states.

Carrara was released on a \$5,000 non-surety bond and was scheduled to appear in Rockville Superior Court on Oct. 27. Carrara is due back in the same court on Nov. 24. According to the state judicial website, the court is currently "awaiting plea."

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I voted. Did you?

As I've written here several times over the years, I'm a registered Democrat, so I wasn't too thrilled – though also not surprised – to see the Republicans take over Congress like they did. But at least in Connecticut some of my guys did well, with Dan Malloy (eventually) topping Tom Foley, the Democratic Congressmen gaining re-election and, thankfully, Dick Blumenthal beating Linda McMahon.

Now, while I am a registered Democrat, I never vote strictly down the party line (in fact, up until 2008 I was an Independent, so it would have been a little difficult to strictly vote down the party line anyway). I don't agree with every Democrat, nor do I disagree with every Republican. Moreover, there are plenty of good people, of all political parties, in races every election year. This year was no different.

Because elections are contests, there have to be winners and losers, but I hope all who ran at least enjoyed themselves. But more importantly, I hope that, at the end of the day, the voters in Connecticut made the right call. That's something we don't always know right away; sometimes, not until people take office and we see just how true to their word they really are – or how realistic their "plan to fix things" really was.

* * *

It will be of no shock to anyone that I voted for Blumenthal. I never once even considered voting for McMahon (and in fact was kind of surprised she made it this far). But I will say this: I'm going to kinda miss the woman's commercials. Were they rather ridiculous? Sure. Were they ubiquitous with a capital 'u'? You bet. But from a production standpoint, they were pretty impressive. She had millions and millions of dollars at her disposal, not to mention TV producers with likely years of experience (she is the former head of what commonly touts itself as the "leading force in sports entertainment"), and it showed in her commercials. They were slick, you gotta give her that.

I thought about this last weekend as I watched one of her attack ads on Blumenthal, the one that opened with outlines of soldiers fighting in Vietnam, against a plain white background, and then showed Blumie's famous "misspeak," when he said, "We have learned something very important since the days I served in Vietnam." And then the words "I served in Vietnam" were repeated over and over again.

This last part – the incredibly-cliched, overly-dramatic repeating of "I served in Vietnam" over and over again – also underscored the overall theme of cheesiness with McMahon's ads. But at least in her case it was well-produced cheese. From a cheeseball factor, I don't know what was better, the one with Linda's best friend Judy, equating being a good friend with being a good Senator, or the one with that beat-up, looks-like-it-came-from-the-1950s lunchbox.

In my opinion, not taking the political commercials too seriously is sometimes the only way to make it through this time of year. Was there a lot of negativity in the ads this year? There always is. But you just need to sit back, relax, laugh at what you can, and be hopeful that at the end of the day, the voters will do the right thing.

In this case, the "right thing" ended with McMahon giving a concession speech.

* * *

Congratulations to Colchester native Ron Wotus and his family, as the San Francisco Giants – on which he is the bench coach – closed out the Texas Rangers Monday to win the World Series. It was the franchise's first world championship since 1954, and the first one ever since it moved from New York in 1958.

As I wrote last week, this was Texas' first World Series appearance ever, and for many, that was reason enough to root for them. But my father had an interesting, added reason. My dad's a native New Yorker, and was 12 years old when the then-New York Giants and then-Brooklyn Dodgers headed west to California. The Giants didn't deserve to win, he said, after doing what they did to the people of New York. They abandoned us, he said. (I guess the Mets' birth in 1962 was of little consolation to him.) It was an interesting reason not to pull for the Giants, and one I hadn't thought of before.

I was still rooting for them, though, and not just because of the Colchester connection. I'm a National League guy, they seemed like a likeable bunch of guys, they didn't have Barry Bonds and, let's face it, it had been 56 years since they last won a World Series. Even my Mets last won one in 1986.

And one final thought on the Giants: even though I watched him on the mound several times in the postseason, I still can't watch Tim Lincecum pitch without thinking of Wiley Wiggins from *Dazed and Confused*.

* * *

See you next week.

Obituaries

Colchester

Harold M. King

Harold M. King, 93, of Moodus passed away Wednesday, Oct. 20, at Harrington Court in Colchester. He was born Aug. 25, 1917, in New York City to Thomas and Catherine (Biglin) King.

Harold is preceded in death by his parents and wife, Evelyn (Lambert) King.

He is survived by two daughters, Lorraine Burch and her husband Pete of East Hampton, and Miriam Lochren of Riverhead, NY, and six grandchildren: Peter Burch and his wife Karen Rosenthal, Scott Burch and Allison Wilcox, Bonnie and her husband Adam Lowney, Robert Lochren and his wife Samantha, Michael Lochren and his wife Gina, William Lochren and Kristen Guido. Harold is also survived by eight great-grandchildren: A.J. Lowney, Ashley Lowney, Robert Lochren III, Sabrina Lochren, Michael Lochren Jr., Haley Lochren Tessa and Milo Burch.

Harold was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II, receiving the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Distinguished Unit Citation. A devoted family man, he was also an avid boater, fisherman and enjoyed raising King Pigeons. He is a retired butcher (manager) and served on the board of directors for senior housing in Moodus and a loyal member with the American Legion.

Swan Funeral Home, Old Saybrook handled the services. Private funeral Mass was held at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Old Saybrook, with committal at Middletown Veteran Cemetery with military honors.

Marlborough

Memorial Ceremony for Stanley Robbins

There will be a memorial ceremony/reception for Stanley R. Robbins Sunday, Nov. 14, at 2 p.m., at the American Legion Post 197, 128 East Hampton Rd., Route 66.

Robbins, formerly of Marlborough, passed away at his home in Citrus Springs, FL, in September. He was a longtime charter member of the post, and a past commander.

All friends and relatives are welcome to attend.

Marlborough

Rocco M. Tommasini

Rocco M. Tommasini of Marlborough, formerly of Staten Island, NY, a retired professional engineer, died at his home Thursday, Oct. 28, after a battle with cancer.

Mr. Tommasini was born and raised in Mariners Harbor and graduated Port Richmond High School. He proudly served in the United States Navy from 1948-53. He graduated from Steven Institute of Technology in New Jersey (1957) with a mechanical engineering degree. He went on to study at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Graduate Center in East Windsor. He worked at Pratt & Whitney Aircraft (1957-62 and 1967-94), Wright Aeronautical (1962-67), H&B Tool & Engineer (1994-99), Belcan Engineering (Division of Advanced Engineering at Pratt & Whitney) 1999-2009 and retired in 2009.

During his career, Mr. Tommasini received four patent awards for engine instrumentation that is still used today in Pratt & Whitney engines. He received several leadership awards and supervised on-the-job instrumentation training for new engineers, as well as provided extensive instrumentation design for engine hardware.

Mr. Tommasini was an avid New York Giants football fan. Gardening and building boat models were his favorite pastimes. He also enjoyed playing practical jokes on his friends and family. "My uncle was a treasure and a loving man. He was always willing to offer a helping hand. He had a great love of family and friends."

He is survived by his sister, Elizabeth Jennette, and niece, Sharon Jennette, of New York.

He was predeceased by a brother, Peter, in 1922, a sister, Aurelia Russo, in 2004 and a sister, Madeline Pagliaro, in 1994.

Family and friends called at Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Sunday, Oct. 31. A Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, Nov. 3, in St. Roch's Church, 602 Port Richmond Ave., Staten Island, NY 10302. Burial followed in Moravian Cemetery, 2205 Richmond Ave., Staten Island, NY 10304.

For online tributes, visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Hebron

Judith A. Sokola

Judith A. (Knox) Sokola, 65, of Hebron, loving wife of Joseph Sokola, died peacefully Monday, Nov. 1, at her home, with her family at her side. Judith was born Jan. 14, 1945, in Hartford, beloved daughter of the late Leslie and Catherine (Coughlin) Knox and had been a resident of Hebron since 1975. She was a communicant of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron and was a certified drug and alcohol counselor with Perception Programs Inc. in Willimantic.

In addition to her loving and devoted husband, she is survived by three sons and daughters-in-law, Joseph and Maria Sokola of West Hartford, James and Tammy Sokola of Hebron, Michael and Deana Sokola of Manchester; her daughter and son-in-law, Leslie and James Steffman of Portland; two brothers, Donald Knox and his wife Kathy of Wethersfield, George Knox and his wife Judy of Andover; eight grandchildren, Gerald, Joseph, Amy, Brian, Matthew, Justin, Samantha and Michael; and several nieces and nephews.

Judith was predeceased by a sister, Shirley Turner.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Nov. 4, at 11 a.m., at the Church of the Holy Family, Route 85, in Hebron. Burial was in Holy Cross Cemetery in Glastonbury. Calling hours were held Wednesday, Nov. 3, at the Holmes Funeral Home, 400 Main St., Manchester.

Memorial donations may be made to Perception Programs Inc., P.O. Box 407, Willimantic, CT. 06226.

To sign the online register book, go to www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Marlborough

Carol Walter Slivinsky

Carol Walter Slivinsky, 78, of Glastonbury, formerly of Coventry, beloved husband of Bette Jean (Burnett) Slivinsky for 56 years, entered into eternal life on Saturday, Oct. 23. He passed away peacefully with his family at his side.

He was born in Hartford on May 6, 1932, son of the late Joseph and Helen Slivinsky and had lived in Connecticut his entire life. Carol spent four years in the U.S. Marine Corps and served during the Korean War as a staff sergeant.

Upon returning, he married his wife and raised their five children in Marlborough. He worked in Vibration Central for Pratt & Whitney for 33 years. After retirement he worked with his wife at Hebron Travel Agency, during which time he and his wife traveled extensively and took many cruises.

Carol's greatest pleasure was his family. He is survived by his five children and their spouses, Stephen and Jerene Slivinsky of Tolland, Lauren and Scott Person of Columbia, Lisa and Mark Hall of Andover, David Slivinsky of Willimantic, Daniel and Michele Slivinsky of Plainville; 15 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his three brothers and their wives, Joseph Slivinsky of Tolland, Daniel and Janice Slivinsky of East Hartford and Thomas and Carol Slivinsky of Enfield.

He was predeceased by a sister, Ruth.

Friends called at the Mulryan Funeral Home, 725 Hebron Ave., Glastonbury, on Tuesday, Oct. 26, followed by a short service.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to the Connecticut Audubon Center, 1361 Main St., Glastonbury, CT 06033.

To share a memory, visit www.mulryanfh.com.

Marlborough

Virginia Rice

Virginia "Jean" (Borello) Rice, 99, of Manchester, widow of William E. Rice, died Friday, Oct. 22, at an area convalescent home. Jean was born in Manchester Aug. 23, 1911, daughter of Francisco and Francesca Borello, and was a lifelong resident. She attended St. James Church and St. Bridget Church in Manchester, and enjoyed playing setback, doing crossword puzzles and visiting the Manchester Senior Center in her later years.

Jean is survived by her loving daughter and son-in-law, Doreen (Rice) and Donald LaPlante of Manchester, her sister-in-law, Harriet Bischoff of Rocky Hill, and several nieces and nephews.

Besides her husband, she was predeceased by two brothers and two sisters-in-law, Vincent Borello and his wife Rose, and Joseph Martino and his wife Peggy.

A special thanks to Bert and Boo Reaviel for the care and kindness given to Mom, and also a thank you to all the wonderful caregivers at Marlborough Health Care Center to whom we will be forever grateful.

Funeral services and burial in St. James Cemetery in Manchester were private. Memorial contributions may be made to a charity of the donor's choice.

To sign the online guestbook, visit www.holmes-watkinsfuneralhomes.com.

Portland

Charles David Anderson

Charles (Bud) David Anderson, 85, of Portland, passed away Sunday, Oct. 31, at Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center. He was born on July 11, 1925, to Hilda (Hanson) and Arvid Anderson.

He lived his entire life in Portland, graduated from Portland High School in 1943, and was a faithful and active member of Zion Lutheran Church, serving on numerous boards and counsels. He joined his father's business, Blaque Dairy Farm, as a dairy and tobacco farmer. Bud was a member of the Farm Bureau, the Hemlock Grange, CMPA and was a progressive farmer working with the Agricultural Extension Program. He was Middlesex County's Corn King several years.

He served many years as justice of the peace. A passionate horse lover, he bred, trained, and cared for many horses over the years. He loved his family and was always ready to help, support, and listen. A role model for his children and grandchildren, his passion and care for the land and nature will continue on for generations. Quiet but strong; he was ready to voice his concern and advice but never judgments. In his role as husband, father and grandfather, he traveled to many places, including Vermont, New York, Costa Rica and England.

He is survived by his beloved wife of 62 years, Lucille Goodrich Anderson and his seven children, John Anderson and wife Heidi of Madison, WI, Catherine Mullen of Portland, Nancy Anderson and husband Radford Rigsby of Rehoboth, MA, Jeffrey Anderson and wife Lettie of Durham, NC, Daniel Anderson and wife Debra of North Franklin, Charles Anderson Jr. of Providence, RI, and Carol Castelli and husband Steven of Portland. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, one great-grandson, and his loving sister and brother-in-law Margaret (Peggy) and Richard (Dick) Kirsche.

The family extends their thanks and appreciation to the caregivers of the Portland Care and Rehabilitation Center.

Friends of the family may call from 10-11 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church 183 William St., Portland, today, Nov. 5, with the funeral service to follow at 11 a.m. Burial service will follow immediately after the service at the Swedish Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund, 183 William St., P.O. Box 202, Portland, CT 06480.

Portland

William Supinski

William Supinski, 59, loving husband and best friend of Barbara (Sadlowski) Supinski, of High Street, Portland, passed away Wednesday, Oct. 27, at Middlesex Hospital, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. William was born in Ragland, OH, on Oct. 21, 1951, the son of the late John and Irene (Kowalski) Supinski.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son, Kevin Supinski and his wife Nicole of East Hampton; his daughter, Laura Levasque and her husband Kevin of East Hampton; a sister, Virginia Almondovar and her husband Efraim of Stratford; three grandchildren, Dylan, Kyle and Logan; also several nieces and nephews.

He enjoyed spending as much time as he could with his three boys. He had a passion for cooking for his family and enjoyed camping, sitting out by his fish pond and his weekend get-togethers with his wife, sister and her husband, playing cards.

Bill's family is grateful for the care and compassion from Dr. Longo, Dr. Levy and the staff at Middlesex Hospital and Connecticut Oncology.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, Nov. 3, from Biega Funeral Home, 3 Silver St., Middletown, followed by a funeral liturgy at St. Mary's Church, Freestone Avenue, Portland. Friends called at Biega Funeral Home on Tuesday, Nov. 2. Burial was at St. Mary's Cemetery, Portland.

Donations may be made in Bill's memory to the Weiss Hospice Unit, Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To share memories or express condolences online, visit www.biegafuneralhome.com.

East Hampton

Ernest Golnik

Ernest Rinehart Golnik, 89, of East Hampton, beloved husband of the late Stella (Koss) Golnik, died Thursday, Oct. 28, at his home, surrounded by his loving family. Born June 15, 1921 in Bristol, he was the son of the late Emil and Albertina (Orlowsky) Golnik.

Ernest had lived in East Hampton for more than 40 years. He had proudly served his country in the U.S. Army during World War II. He was a past grand knight and life member of the Knights of Columbus Father James. J. Gannon Council, life member of the East Hampton V.F.W. and a member of the American Legion Fowler-Dix-Park Post in East Hampton.

Ernest had retired from Pratt & Whitney Aircraft and the U.S. Postal Service.

He is survived by his two sons, Ernest Golnik Jr. and his wife Coleen of Rockville, and Frank Sweeney-Golnik of Florida; his two daughters, Joann Thomas and her husband Steven of East Haddam, and Karen Golnik of Manchester; two grandchildren, Stephanie and Zachary Thomas; and all of his four-legged friends.

He was predeceased by his brother, Edward Golnik; three sisters, Lydia Golnik, Martha LaVista and Eleanor Dosrocher.

Friends gathered at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton on Wednesday, Nov. 3. The funeral procession left the Spencer Funeral Home and was followed by the Funeral Liturgy in St. Patrick Church in East Hampton. Burial followed in Rose Hill Cemetery in Rocky Hill.

Friends called at the Spencer Funeral Home on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care Unit, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

Dolores Pollack

Dolores C. Pollack, 78, of East Hampton, widow of the late Robert J. Pollack, died Saturday, Oct. 30 after a long illness. Born June 18, 1932 in Stamford, she was the daughter of the late Joseph and Rose Altomara.

She had lived in Higganum prior to moving to East Hampton five years ago. Dolores was a communicant of St. Patrick Church in East Hampton where she had been a CCD teacher. She was a singer in the Middletoners and played chimes for the Belltones and Hand Chimes. Dolores was very active in the East Hampton Senior Center and enjoyed Wii bowling, playing setback and day trips with the seniors.

Dolores is survived by her daughter and son-in-law, Rosanne and Mark Lovely of East Hampton, and her two granddaughter who were the light of her life, Marissa and Laura Lovely.

She was predeceased by her son, Michael Robert Pollack.

A Funeral Liturgy will be celebrated on Saturday, Nov. 6 at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church.

Burial will be private at the convenience of the family on St. Patrick Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care Unit, c/o Office of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457 or at www.middlesexhospital.org/memorialgifts.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

East Hampton

George L. Sorvillo

George L. Sorvillo, 81, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Dorothy (Bradley) Sorvillo, died Monday, Nov. 1, at Middlesex Hospital. Born April 22, 1929, in Southington, he was the son of the late Joseph A. and Blanche (Perigal) Sorvillo.

He was a retired truck driver, having worked for P&G and having retired from Valerie Trucking. George was a communicant of St. Patrick Church, a past member of the Moose Club in Marlborough and had proudly served his country in the U.S. Airforce.

Besides his loving wife Dorothy, he is survived by his three sons, John Sorvillo of Middletown, George and Beverly Sorvillo of Tallahassee, FL, William and Elaine Sorvillo of Middletown; a daughter, Angelle and Robert Morton of Middletown; a brother, Donald Sorvillo of East Hampton; two sisters, Rose and Frank Carlson of Florida, Beverly Moore of Florida; four grandchildren, William, John and Mark Sorvillo and Thomas Boyce; and two great-granddaughters, Kylie and Hadley.

A funeral liturgy will be celebrated today, Nov. 5, at 11 a.m. in St. Patrick Church, East Hampton. Burial will follow in Lakeview Cemetery. Friends may call today from 9-10:30 a.m. at the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the Middlesex Hospital Hospice and Palliative Care Unit, c/o Department of Philanthropy, 28 Crescent St., Middletown, CT 06457.

To leave online condolences, visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com

Hebron

Pearl Eveleen Nickels

Pearl Eveleen Nickels, 68, of Hebron, beloved wife of Robert M. Nickels, passed away peacefully Wednesday, Nov. 3, at home, surrounded by her loving family. Born April 15, 1942, in Marshall, MN, she was a daughter of the late Harvey and Hope (Matthews) Peltier.

She grew up in Marshall, MN, and earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, MN. On April 27, 1942, she and Robert were married in Marshall and they settled in Hartford for a short time before moving to Hebron in 1971. Early on, Mrs. Nickels worked as a Social Worker in Minnesota and then in Manchester for a time. She went on to study at Manchester Comm. College and became a Paralegal for the Law Firm of George Athanson in Hartford for many years. Following her retirement, Pearl was an assistant librarian for the Douglas Library in Hebron and also volunteered for the Holy Family Home and Shelter in Willimantic for more than 15 years.

In her spare time, she was an avid reader, loved to travel and entertain, enjoyed occasionally hiking with her husband but most importantly, she was ever devoted to her family and found great joy in them. She enjoyed the camaraderie while participating at Curves. She and her husband provided supportive foster care for two young children and they also mentored a young boy from Willimantic for several years. Mrs. Nickels was an active communicant of the Church of the Holy Family in Hebron.

In addition to her loving husband of 42 years, she is survived by two children, Matthew and his wife Deanna of Tolland and Barbara of Haddon Heights, NJ; two grandsons, Tyler and Austin; two sisters, Marlene Moore of Biddeford, ME and Barbara Richnafsky of St. Louis Park, MN; two brothers, Robert of Minneapolis, MN and Joseph of Brandon, MN; and numerous extended family members and friends.

She was predeceased by a brother, Merlyn. Friends may call from 4-7 p.m. today, Nov. 5, at the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home, 167 Old Hartford Rd., Colchester. The memorial liturgy will be celebrated at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 6, directly at the Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St. (Route 85), Hebron, with Fr. Michael S. Smith officiating. Graveside services in the family plot in the Green Valley Cemetery, Marshall, MN, will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, donations in her memory may be made to Sister Parish Immaculate Conception in Haiti, c/o Church of the Holy Family, 185 Church St., Hebron, CT 06248.

For online condolences, visit www.auroramccarthyfuneralhome.com.

Andover

Edward Francis Sheehan

Edward Francis Sheehan, 88, passed away Tuesday, Nov. 2, at Woodlake at Tolland, surrounded by his loving family.

Ed proudly served his country and was a decorated World War II veteran, having distinguished himself during military battle on many continents. Ed and Carolyn Jane (Smith), his beloved wife of 63 years, resided in the family homestead on Wheeling Road in Andover for most of his adult life.

Ed was born in Lindhurst, NJ, to Dennis Patrick Sheehan and Anna Frances Ryan on Jan. 21, 1922. His mother, a widow, married Frank Schatz of Andover in 1938. Ed and Carolyn, also known as Jackie, met in Andover, and married Aug. 27, 1947.

During the Great Depression, Ed worked cutting and delivering cord wood, filling state sanding trucks by hand and doing any work available to help support his family. His strong work ethic was passed on to his family.

Along with his spouse, Ed is survived by his five children and their families: Carolyn Sheehan and her life partner Pat Myers of Weare, NH, Joan Sheehan and son Ryan Sheehan of Manchester; Michael and Joan Sheehan and children Matt and Katelyn of Glastonbury, Nancy Sheehan of Northumberland, NH, and John and Janet Sheehan and daughters Elizabeth and Rebecca of Coventry.

Ed has numerous nieces and nephews, and the Sheehan house was always known as “Uncle Eddie and Aunt Jackie’s.” The loving couple had many close friends, neighbors and honorary children. Holiday dinners were huge events and open to the extended family.

He was predeceased by his sister Dorothea Anderson (Colorado), John Sheehan (New York) and Lawrence Sheehan (Andover). He is also survived by his sister-in-law Eleanore (Covell) Sheehan, widow of Lawrence.

Edward enlisted in the 169th Infantry, U.S. Army, in March 1943 during WWII. He served in New Caledonia, Guadalcanal, New Georgia, New Zealand and the Philippines. Ed rose to the rank of platoon sergeant (TSgt) and served with great distinction. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific Theater Campaign Medal, Distinguished Unit Badge, Philippine Liberation Ribbon w/Bronze Service Star (1) and the Combat Infantryman Badge. TSgt Sheehan served as an anti-tank gun crewman and infantryman. His official military record notes campaign service in New Guinea, Northern Solomons and Luzon.

While in Guadalcanal, TSgt Sheehan contracted jaundice and was med-evacuated to a hospital ship and then flown to Manila. Upon recovering, he rejoined his men.

When WWII ended, Ed returned to Andover. In September 1950, shortly after the beginning of the Korean War, he re-enlisted in the U.S. Army and attended Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA. Commissioned in February 1951, First Lieutenant Sheehan shipped out to rejoin the 169th Division in Germany. While F Company’s Infantry Unit Commander, Lt. Sheehan was awarded the Germany Occupation Medal. As a result of the severe weather conditions in Germany, Lt. Sheehan developed a severe arthritic condition in his lower back which rendered him bedridden for months stateside.

Before and after WWII and the Korean War, Ed was employed from 1940-81 at Pratt and Whitney Aircraft. He studied engineering at Hilliard College in Hartford while working in the engineering department at Pratt, where he was a foreman of research and development. He took pride in the honor of receiving an exceptional no lost time award. His family cannot recall him ever taking a sick day in his 41 years of service with P&W. Aside from his regular work hours, Ed worked most evenings and weekends as a jack-of-all-trades throughout the community in carpentry, wallpapering, roofing, and house painting. These skills he passed on to his children.



Ed loved our New England sports teams, especially UConn men’s and women’s basketball, the New York Yankees, Boston Celtics and the New England Patriots. An avid outdoorsman, Ed loved walking out in the woods, watching deer, bird feeding at the house and was active with the 4H, raising 13 heifers and sheep. Ed was an avid reader, especially of world and American history.

We will always remember Edward for his wisdom, encouragement, kindness, and love for his family, especially his beloved wife Jackie. His family extends their heartfelt appreciation to the wonderful staff at Manchester Memorial Hospital and Woodlake at Tolland Health Care Center for their love and kindness.

Friends and family called at Glastonbury Funeral Home, 450 New London Tpke., Glastonbury, on Thursday, Nov. 4. The funeral service will be held today, Nov. 5, at 10 a.m., at the funeral home, with Rev. Dick Allen officiating. Burial with military honors will be in Townsend Cemetery, Andover, following the service.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department, 11 School Rd., Andover, CT 06232.

Visit www.glastonburyfuneral.com for more information or to leave online condolences.

From the Editor’s Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

I voted. Did you?

As I’ve written here several times over the years, I’m a registered Democrat, so I wasn’t too thrilled – though also not surprised – to see the Republicans take over Congress like they did. But at least in Connecticut some of my guys did well, with Dan Malloy (eventually) topping Tom Foley, the Democratic Congressman gaining re-election and, thankfully, Dick Blumenthal beating Linda McMahon.

Now, while I am a registered Democrat, I never vote strictly down the party line (in fact, up until 2008 I was an Independent, so it would have been a little difficult to strictly vote down the party line anyway). I don’t agree with every Democrat, nor do I disagree with every Republican. Moreover, there are plenty of good people, of all political parties, in races every election year. This year was no different.

Because elections are contests, there have to be winners and losers, but I hope all who ran at least enjoyed themselves. But more importantly, I hope that, at the end of the day, the voters in Connecticut made the right call. That’s something we don’t always know right away; sometimes, not until people take office and we see just how true to their word they really are – or how realistic their “plan to fix things” really was.

* * *

It will be of no shock to anyone that I voted for Blumenthal. I never once even considered voting for McMahon (and in fact was kind of surprised she made it this far). But I will say this: I’m going to kinda miss the woman’s commercials. Were they rather ridiculous? Sure. Were they ubiquitous with a capital ‘u’? You bet. But from a production standpoint, they were pretty impressive. She had millions and millions of dollars at her disposal, not to mention TV producers with likely years of experience (she is the former head of what commonly touts itself as the “leading force in sports entertainment”), and it showed in her commercials. They were slick, you gotta give her that.

I thought about this last weekend as I watched one of her attack ads on Blumenthal, the one that opened with outlines of soldiers fighting in Vietnam, against a plain white background, and then showed Blumie’s famous “misspeak,” when he said, “We have learned something very important since the days I served in Vietnam.” And then the words “I served in Vietnam” were repeated over and over again.

This last part – the incredibly-cliched, overly-dramatic repeating of “I served in Vietnam” over and over again – also underscored the overall theme of cheesiness with McMahon’s ads. But at least in her case it was well-produced cheese. From a cheeseball factor, I don’t know what was better, the one with Linda’s best friend Judy, equating being a good friend with being a good Senator, or the one with that beat-up, looks-like-it-came-from-the-1950s lunchbox.

In my opinion, not taking the political commercials too seriously is sometimes the only way to make it through this time of year. Was there a lot of negativity in the ads this year? There always is. But you just need to sit back, relax, laugh at what you can, and be hopeful that at the end of the day, the voters will do the right thing.

In this case, the “right thing” ended with McMahon giving a concession speech.

* * *

Congratulations to Colchester native Ron Wotus and his family, as the San Francisco Giants – on which he is the bench coach – closed out the Texas Rangers Monday to win the World Series. It was the franchise’s first world championship since 1954, and the first one ever since it moved from New York in 1958.

As I wrote last week, this was Texas’ first World Series appearance ever, and for many, that was reason enough to root for them. But my father had an interesting, added reason. My dad’s a native New Yorker, and was 12 years old when the then-New York Giants and then-Brooklyn Dodgers headed west to California. The Giants didn’t deserve to win, he said, after doing what they did to the people of New York. They abandoned us, he said. (I guess the Mets’ birth in 1962 was of little consolation to him.) It was an interesting reason not to pull for the Giants, and one I hadn’t thought of before.

I was still rooting for them, though, and not just because of the Colchester connection. I’m a National League guy, they seemed like a likeable bunch of guys, they didn’t have Barry Bonds and, let’s face it, it had been 56 years since they last won a World Series. Even my Mets last won one in 1986.

And one final thought on the Giants: even though I watched him on the mound several times in the postseason, I still can’t watch Tim Lincecum pitch without thinking of Wiley Wiggins from *Dazed and Confused*.

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See you next week.