

RIVEREAST

News Bulletin

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Volume 35, Number 18

Published by The Glastonbury Citizen

July 30, 2010



Even with the threat of litigation looming, Bear's Produce Stand in Colchester plans to remain on South Main Street at least for the summer. A boundary dispute arose after the neighboring gas station claimed the farm stand was encroaching on its property.

Colchester Farm Stand Staying Put?

by Katy Nally

A boundary dispute between Bear's Produce Stand and Philips 66 gas station, both on South Main Street in Colchester, might rage on for the entire growing season, as the farm stand owner now has legal representation and says he plans to stay put.

Two weeks after Bill Loughery re-opened his 18-year-old farm stand for the season on June 16, he was told to vacate the lot because he was on the gas station's property, he said.

The station, which is owned by Lynnfield, MA-based Gibbs Oil, later sent out a surveyor to determine how much Loughery's stand encroached on its lot. Loughery said this week, however, the surveyor's map states "the sole purpose" of the survey was to locate the produce stand and his shed, and not to find the property line.

Based on a map on file at the town assessor's office, there is a vacant lot in between Plum Tomato restaurant and Philips Gas station. Plum Tomato's lot, and the vacant one beside it, are both owned by Cheriton, VA-based Fenn-Tor LLC. Loughery, who pays \$150 each week in rent to the Plum Tomato restaurant, said he

thought he was operating the farm stand on the vacant lot.

On July 10, Loughery said he received a letter from an attorney for Gibbs Oil saying he had to vacate by July 23, otherwise Gibbs Oil would sue him to collect back rent from 2008 through now, and sue Plum Tomato for collecting rent from Loughery.

As the July 23 deadline came and went, Loughery said he was surprised to not immediately hear from the gas station or its attorney. But Loughery said he received a call from the attorney this week, who said he was unhappy to find Loughery had claimed in local newspapers that he was not on the gas station's property.

The attorney for Gibbs Oil, Steven Greenspan, was reached Wednesday, but said it would be inappropriate to comment. However, Greenspan added he and Loughery's attorney, Tim Kearney, have been in contact with each other.

Kearney, whose law office is based in Colchester, is working with Loughery pro bono.

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East Hampton Officer Lodges Complaint Against O'Keefe

by Claire Michalewicz

The East Hampton Town Council is investigating a complaint a police sergeant has filed against Town Manager Jeffery O'Keefe, which alleges O'Keefe has created a hostile work environment.

In a two-page statement, dated July 1, Sergeant Garritt Kelly said O'Keefe tried to provoke him during a police department meeting held over breakfast at Angelico's Lake House Restaurant on June 24, two days after Chief Matthew Reimondo was abruptly laid off.

In a special meeting last Thursday, July 22, the Town Council voted to hire an attorney to investigate the incident. Though the council reviewed the complaint in executive session, Kelly's complaint was publicly available.

In his statement, Kelly said O'Keefe "said something to the effect of 'It is a tough day for everyone. It's especially tough for Kelly! He's lost his best friend!'" After briefly explaining why he had called the meeting, Kelly said, O'Keefe again singled him out, saying he was upset about losing his best friend.

"His comments were absolutely inflammatory and certainly came off as an attempt to incite or provoke me," Kelly said in his statement. "His tone was hostile, derogatory and demeaning toward me."

Kelly said he tried to divert O'Keefe by explaining that Reimondo was not his best friend, and that he was offended by what O'Keefe had said. Kelly said O'Keefe then "went on a rant" about officers that work private-duty overtime assignments, which

O'Keefe said had become "entitlements" for officers.

In his statement, Kelly said many officers work private-duty assignments, which the police officers' contracts allow. In addition, he said, it was irrelevant to the meeting's purpose, which Kelly said was for O'Keefe to counsel and offer assistance to the police in the wake of the department's downsizing. Kelly said he was glad O'Keefe left the meeting after about 15 minutes, so the police officers could talk amongst themselves.

"It is troubling that we have such an arrogant, and acerbic person leading town government," Kelly said in his complaint. "His personality and inflammatory behavior is certainly a costly detriment toward progress of our agency and the town of East Hampton."

To investigate Kelly's complaint, the council voted to hire attorney Glenn Coe, from the Hartford firm Rome McGuigan. Coe will be the fourth lawyer involved in the controversy over the police department downsizing.

"He has no tie to East Hampton that any of us are aware of," said Town Council member Thom Cordeiro. (Residents have raised concerns about whether Attorney Mark Sommaruga, representing the town in the dispute with Reimondo, has a conflict of interest. Sommaruga had previously worked to fire O'Keefe's predecessor, Jim Thomas, before Thomas started work.)

"We want this to be resolved right away," Cordeiro said.

Town Council Chairwoman Melissa Engel

said the council had settled on Coe because town attorney Jean D'Aquila recommended him, and said he should be available to investigate the matter promptly.

Neither Kelly nor O'Keefe attended last week's meeting. O'Keefe, currently on vacation, said in an e-mail that there were tensions between his office and "a very select few members of the EHPD." O'Keefe said he called the meeting to ease these tensions, but Kelly exacerbated them by protesting. Kelly, O'Keefe said, asked the other officers not to eat breakfast at the restaurant, had the officers relax their dress codes and marched the officers into the restaurant just as the meeting was set to begin.

O'Keefe said he hoped tensions would decrease as Acting Lieutenant Michael Green more fully took control of the department. He added that he would have welcomed Kelly to speak with him about his concerns.

"I would have embraced a healthy dialogue on them with him," O'Keefe said. "However, he chose this course of action and we will just have to deal with it."

Kelly declined to comment on the matter, explaining that it was currently under investigation.

Also at the meeting, the Town Council voted against offering an extension of medical benefits to police officer Charles Harmon, who was considering leaving the department. Engel explained that the council did not want to set a precedent of extending benefits to employees who voluntarily resigned.

O'Keefe's plans for downsizing the police department included the elimination of two officer positions, in addition to Reimondo. One of these positions is currently vacant, so Harmon would complete the proposed cuts to officer positions if he chooses to resign.

Engel said she was unsure what Harmon's plans were, and whether he would leave without his health insurance. If he decided to stay, she explained, the police department would probably eliminate the most junior officer.

Council member Sue Weintraub did not attend the meeting, though she sent a statement explaining that she thought the meeting was called on too-short notice, and that she didn't understand why the Town Council was just now discussing the complaint, three weeks after Kelly filed it.

On Friday night, Weintraub issued another statement to the media, which briefly touched upon Kelly's complaint, but mainly dealt with the ongoing debate over O'Keefe's decision to eliminate Reimondo's position. Weintraub's statement was a response to an earlier statement from the other six Town Council members, which stressed the council had not been directly involved in Reimondo's layoff, though they did support O'Keefe in doing so. (Weintraub refuted this in her statement, explaining the Town Council was responsible for directing the town manager, and they should have more input in such a major restructuring.)

In their letter, the six council members

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Farm Stand cont. from Front Page

“He’s doing me an awfully big favor,” Loughery said.

When reached Wednesday, Kearney said he and Loughery would no longer be able to comment on the situation.

Since the dispute was first publicized, Loughery said other citizens have, like Kearney, been very supportive.

“I was amazed at how many people came up and asked me what they could possibly do to help,” Loughery said. “I was really touched.”

Now that attorneys are involved, Loughery said it might be easier for him to communicate with Philips 66 and Gibbs Oil.

“The frustrating thing is I have no answer from them,” Loughery said. “Nobody can understand why they’re doing what they’re doing.”

However, Loughery received a letter from Greenspan that said the gas station had “repeatedly asked” him to vacate and he refused.

Ultimately, Loughery said, the property line

needs to be defined. “I’m hoping it turns out it’s Plum Tomato’s property, which I think it is,” he said. “Until that’s found out we’re at a standstill.”

After reviewing the surveyor’s results, Loughery said “it had us questioning where they were getting their information.”

Loughery said if it’s found he is encroaching on Philips’ lot, and the gas station has no plans for the vacant land, “I don’t see why they wouldn’t want to work something out with me.”

Until it is decided, Loughery said he would most likely keep Bear’s Produce Stand in the same spot for the rest of the summer. If the dispute does end up in court, Loughery speculated it probably wouldn’t make the docket until the end of the summer.

Although the outcome might be far off, Loughery said he just wants to put the dispute behind him.

“One way or another, I want this to be over with and to be able to move on,” he said.

Complaint cont. from Front Page

stressed that Attorney Leon Rosenblatt, who represented the three women who brought sexual harassment allegations against O’Keefe (and who is now also representing Reimondo), told the town that the complaints were actually “concerns.” The concerns, Rosenblatt said in a letter in May, did not require a full-on investigation, but rather a revised policy that would prevent future sexual harassment.

But, Weintraub said, the three women changed their complaints to concerns “due to the Town’s lack of procedure, due process and the ‘management-side law firm’ that was contracted to investigate their complaints.” In the same letter in which Rosenblatt said the complaints were actually concerns, Weintraub explained, he said there seemed to be a lack of policies to address harassment concerns. Weintraub said this lack of procedure and due process was the reason the town had taken three weeks to start investigating Kelly’s complaint.

* * *

The Board of Finance (BOF) held its first meeting since Reimondo’s layoff on Monday, July 19, and discussed the cuts to the police department. BOF member Judith Isele said the BOF had previously mentioned the predicted \$1.5 million budget shortfall in the 2011-12 fiscal year, but had never discussed it in detail until now.

Isele said she calculated the tax increase

necessary to make up for the shortfall, and it would come to a 1.65 mill increase next year.

“That’s huge,” she said. “My position is we have to make some drastic changes.” Isele said taxpayers would not be able to handle that increase, and the town should start looking for other places to make cuts and changes. For example, she said, East Hampton should look at more regionalization, especially for services like the transfer station and animal control.

“I don’t believe in big government, personally,” she added.

Isele said she thought many of the residents protesting O’Keefe’s decision to downsize the police department were concerned his move might have been retaliatory. Whether or not it was, she said, was a separate issue from the financial reasons for the downsizing.

However, Isele stressed, she was not speaking on behalf of the entire BOF. Fellow BOF member George Pfaffenbach had similar thoughts, though, explaining that while he thought Reimondo’s layoff came abruptly, the town had a responsibility to save money where it could.

* * *

As for the hearing Reimondo and his attorney are seeking in connection to the June layoff, O’Keefe said last week that, if Reimondo is granted a hearing, it would likely happen in the second or third week of August.

Progress Made on CMTs, CAPTs in Colchester

by Katy Nally

Results of the Connecticut Mastery Test and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test show Colchester students scored above state averages in almost every area with exceptions in the third grade, where the averages were missed by fractions of points.

Students at Jack Jackter Intermediate School and William J. Johnston Middle School in third through seventh grade took the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) in March, and the results were released this month.

Sophomores at Bacon Academy also took the Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPTs) in March, and results show students beat state averages in all areas.

“It’s an important data source for us in terms of measuring how the staff is teaching,” Superintendent of Schools Karen Loiselle said.

Overall Colchester kids surpassed the state average in the CMTs except in two areas for the third grade – writing and math. In both cases, the students missed the state average scale score by less than one point.

The average scale score for Colchester third-graders in writing came to 249.8 and the state average scale score was 250.7. The percentage of third-graders across the state that scored goal or above in writing was 58.3, while Colchester came to 0.1 point less. In math, the third-graders missed the state average scale score by 0.4 points, coming in at 258.2.

CMT scores are broken down into five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

In reading, the third subject for of the CMTs (except the science portion fifth- and eighth-

graders take), the third-graders scored almost 10 points higher than the state average scale score, coming in at 250, or 9.8 points over the state.

“That was a good improvement for us in grade three,” Loiselle said.

There are seven instances where Colchester students scored at least 10 points above the state scale average, including math for fourth grade, math and reading for sixth and seventh grade and reading and science for eighth grade.

The eighth-graders showed the greatest increase from the state average scale score, netting a 17.4-point difference in science. These students notched increases across the board when compared to the state and the 2009 scores of Colchester eighth-graders.

The 2010 eighth-graders scored above the 2009 scores in all four subjects, reading, writing, math and science. The greatest improvement was made in reading, when compared with last year’s scores. The average scale score for Colchester from 2009 was 253, and this year that number jumped 23.6 points, totaling 276.6. The percentage of eighth-graders who scored goal or above this year in reading was 88.6 and the 2009 percentage was 73.4.

Like the eighth grade, the fifth grade also showed some improvement in science. The percentage of students who scored proficient or above increased by 3.1 percent over the 2009 numbers, at 94.5 percent. However, the percentage of students who scored at goal or above in science, when compared to 2009, decreased by 6.2 points, coming in at 67.9 percent.

The fifth grade also showed some decrease

in math, reading and writing, when compared to the 2009 data. The largest decrease was the percentage of students who scored at or above goal in reading. This year 71.4 percent of fifth-graders reached at or above goal, which is 8.6 percentage points lower than the 2009 numbers. The smallest gap was only 0.1 percentage point in math, at 94.9 percent for 2010.

The fourth grade showed similar numbers, plus an increase in math. This year, 80.6 percent of fourth-graders scored goal or above in math, which was 5.5 percentage points higher than 2009.

The largest decrease for the fourth grade was in reading. The percentage of fourth-graders who scored proficient or above was 74.8 percent in 2010 and 86.1 percent in 2009.

Loiselle said this decrease might be caused by the new reading program that was implemented this school year, adding students and staff could still be adjusting to it.

Like the fourth grade, seventh-graders showed a decrease in the percentage of students who scored goal or above in reading, but the decrease was a fraction of a percent – 0.6 – when compared to 2009, which was 87.5 percent.

Seventh-graders showed improvements in math, with 78.2 percent of students reaching goal or better this year, when last year, that percentage was 75.8.

Sixth-graders, on the other hand, showed improvement across the board when compared to the 2009 scores. The greatest increase came in writing. This year, 75.2 percent of sixth-graders scored at goal or above, while last year, 59.2

percent reached goal or better in writing.

The smallest change was in math. This year, 95.5 percent of sixth-graders scored proficient or better, while last year 94.8 percent hit the same mark.

Speaking about grades six through eight, Loiselle said she was “particularly pleased with the performance of our middle school students.”

But Loiselle noted students’ growth is better measured by following the progress of a class over time. This comparison allows staff to “make sure every student is making progress,” she added.

She said students who were in third grade in 2006, showed vast improvements in reading and math this year as seventh-graders. In 2006, 15 percent of third-graders scored advanced in reading, while this year, 53 percent of the same students scored advanced.

“The longer students stay in our school system, the more they demonstrate improvement,” Loiselle said.

Like the middle-schoolers, Loiselle said she was pleased with the sophomores’ scores on the CAPT. The 10th-graders beat the state average in every subject – reading, writing, math and science – and showed the greatest improvement in math. This year, 64.1 percent of sophomores reached goal or better in math, and last year 59.6 percent reached the same mark.

“Overall, we saw gains in the CAPTs as well,” Loiselle said.

Both the CMTs and the CAPTs will be discussed in further detail at a Board of Education meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 14, 7 p.m., at the Bacon Academy media center.

From the Editor's Desk

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Before I start my usual rambling, I think I need to issue a gentle reminder to people:

The deadline for copy is Tuesdays at noon.

As I wrote back in April, the switch was necessitated by new requirements from the Post Office. The new Tuesday deadline is permanent, and applies to all news and editorial submissions for the paper. All event announcements, all church, library and senior center listings, all pictures and – last but certainly not least – all letters to the editor must be submitted by Tuesday at noon.

No exceptions can be made.

Like I said, this policy has been in effect since April, and the majority of you have abided by it. But, perhaps due to political season starting to heat up, I'm getting letter writers and news submitters who haven't written in a while and don't seem to be aware of the change. So now seems as good a time as any to remind people.

And while we're on the subject of gentle reminders: the word limit for letters to the editor is 300 words. This change has been in effect since last fall, but I still get letters each week that are substantially over the limit. This limit is strictly enforced; as anyone who's read the letters pages can tell you, we receive a bunch of them each week. I think 300 words still gives people ample space to get their point across. Remember, you're writing a letter, not a novella.

Speaking of letters, the majority of the letters this week are politically-themed, most dealing with judge of probate races, others with races for state representative. With the primaries not until Aug. 10, there will probably be substantially more political letters in next week's *Rivereast*, and there will likely continue to be many until Election Day in November.

So, how's about a simple suggestion. If you're writing a letter dealing with one of the regional or state elections, and you're, say, the chairman of the Republican Town Committee or on a town board like the Board of Selectmen, how about identifying yourself as such? In the interest of full disclosure, it just seems like the thing to do. And if you're just speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the board you're on, you can indicate that. I would just put it as a note after your name at the end of your letter. Oh, and in case you're worried about the word count, those little identifier notes at the end of letters (and there are a few of them in this week) never count towards your word count. The word count simply applies to the body of the letter.

* * *

Okay, now that the lesson is out of the way, onto a lighter subject. Specifically: clowns. Did you know next week is International Clown Week? It's true. And you'll never guess who made the declaration. Nope, not an executive with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. None other than the President of the United States.

In 1971, Richard M. Nixon signed into law a bill proclaiming the first week of August to be International Clown Week, and credited clowns with "generally helping to lift the spirits and boost the morale of our people."

There are many different ways International Clown Week is celebrated across the country. Locally, in Hebron there will be a special "clown blessing" at the 5 p.m. Mass next Saturday, Aug. 7, at Church of the Holy Family. The event will feature clowns from all over New England, who will serve as greeters, musicians and lecturers, and who will lead children in a special Liturgy of the Word.

Church of the Holy Family's involvement with clowns is nothing new. Some of you may recall a story Lindsay Fetzner wrote in January about the Clown Ministry at the church. A group of clowns led by "Nic-Nac," – a.k.a. Nicole Bernier – go around to area hospitals and nursing homes just to put smiles on the faces of those who could really use a lift. It's a good cause.

While they've never bothered me, I know clowns aren't for everyone; some people are downright scared of them. In fact, according to the website www.internationalclownweek.org, there's even a name for such a fear: coulrophobia, or, quite simply, the fear of clowns. According to the site, coulrophobes seem to agree "that the most fear-inducing aspect of clowns is the heavy makeup which, accompanied by the bulbous nose and weird color of hair, that completely conceal the wearer's identity."

Well, if you happen to *not* be a coulrophobe, a drive out to Hebron next Saturday may be in order. That special "clown blessing" sounds kinda neat.

* * *

But that's next weekend, which will also be the first full weekend in August. It's hard to believe it's July 30 already. (This summer, like most summers, has just gone by too darn fast.) I recently learned of July 30's place in this nation's history, and it's a rather important one. It seems some pretty interesting things have happened on this date over the years.

It was on this date in 1619 the first legislative assembly in (English-speaking) North America was held, in Jamestown, VA. The phrase "In God We Trust" was adopted as the U.S. national motto on this date in 1956 (though it has been used on coins since 1864). And it was on this date in 1965 President Lyndon Johnson signed the Medicare bill into law.

But perhaps most important (and yes, folks, I'm being sarcastic): It was on this date in 1948 that professional wrestling appeared on prime-time network television for the very first time.

* * *

See you next week.

Portland Residents Fighting Construction at Kleen Energy Plant

by Claire Michalewicz

Some Portland residents are fighting to restrict construction on the Kleen Energy Plant in Middletown, which was the site of a deadly explosion in February.

The Connecticut Siting Council (CSC) is holding a hearing in New Britain next week about imposing additional restrictions on the construction of the plant.

An explosion at the plant occurred Feb. 7, while workers were purging natural gas lines. Five people were killed in the blast.

On Monday, several residents met with First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield, State Representative Jim O'Rourke and State Senator Eileen Daily to voice their concerns about the gas-powered electric plant.

Bransfield said she was seeking intervenor status for the town, which would allow the town to present testimony and interview witnesses at the hearing. In addition, she said, as an intervenor, the town could appeal the CSC's decision. She cautioned that it was highly unlikely that the CSC would deny the application and construction on the plant would most likely continue.

Most of the residents who attended the meeting live on Payne Boulevard and Wellwyn Drive, the neighborhood across the Connecticut River from the plant. When the plant exploded, many houses in the neighborhood sustained damage, ranging from broken windows to cracked walls and foundations.

Next week's hearing will focus on the plant's Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need, which allows the plant construction to continue. Kleen Energy is seeking to extend its certificate to complete construction from this November until next June, due to delays from the explosion. Bransfield said that while it would be difficult to deny the application, the hearing would allow people to push for tighter regulations on the plant, including stricter safety procedures that could help prevent another accident.

"It's a pretty horrible situation," Bransfield said, explaining that the worst part of the situation was that six people had been killed in the explosion. In addition, she said, the incident had put considerable strain on Portland residents near the river, who were worried about the damage to their homes and any future safety problems.

Bransfield said she had not yet heard of any of the residents in the area receiving settlements for damage, though she knew insurance representatives had visited them.

"We've gotta make these people whole,"

she said, "and make sure their properties are being properly protected."

Bransfield said she would push for stricter safety regulations, and also look into building some sort of buffer between the plant and the Portland residents across the river. The buffer, she said, might not be feasible, though she pointed out that even planting trees could help muffle noise and block the view of the plant from the neighborhood.

Beth Sylvestro, who lives on Payne Boulevard, said she hoped more residents would come out to speak against the power plant. Sylvestro encouraged people to write to the state Department of Public Utility Control in New Britain before or after the hearing to let their opinions be heard.

"It's in my backyard; it's affecting me personally, my neighbors personally," Sylvestro said. Sylvestro said she had "a whole laundry list" of worries – in addition to concerns about safety, she said she had also noticed cracks and separations in her house, and worried that the neighborhood might be stigmatized and lose property. Sylvestro said the plant could also pose environmental threats to the river and to migrating birds.

Sylvestro said she was concerned that another disaster could happen, and that she didn't understand why more residents in the area weren't coming forward to protest the plant.

But, she conceded, "it's a little after the fact. They've already built it."

"I would hope that they would just pick up and put the plant somewhere else," said Dan Dziob, who lives right on the river and whose house was damaged in the explosion.

Dziob said he plans to attend the public hearing next week, and said he'd been tracking the plant's construction for years. Among other violations, he said, the builders destroyed more of the trees on the hillside than they originally said they would. He said he also worried whether the safety violations that caused the explosion were properly investigated, noting that no arrests had been made as of yet in connection with the blast.

"It's been horrible," he said of his experiences with the plant. "I wouldn't wish this on anybody."

The hearing will be held at 2 p.m. next Tuesday, at the CSC's office in New Britain. According to the hearing notice on the CSC's website, the public may make brief oral statements.

Colchester Police News

7/15: Angel Molina, 21, of 272A Bellevue St., Hartford, was charged with DUI and making and improper turn, State Police said.

7/18: Sometime during the early morning hours a mailbox was stolen, and the post damaged, at a property on Linwood Cemetery Road, Colchester Police said.

7/19: Clark Marilyn, 44, of 283 Norwich Ave., Apt. 2, was charged with DUI, operating with a suspended license and drinking while driving, Colchester Police said.

7/21: Colchester Police said they are investigating a burglary/larceny of an unlocked vehicle on Shadbush Drive. Miscellaneous electronics were stolen, and the case is still under investigation.

7/21: A residence on Park Road was burglarized and several items were stolen, Colchester

Police said.

7/21: Megan Christina, 25, of 10 Adelaide St., New London, was charged with DWI, driving with a suspended license and making a restrictive turn, State Police said.

7/22: Nicholas Malley, 19, of 47 Windham Ave., was charged with failure to wear a safety belt, operating a motor vehicle when license is suspended, possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of less than four ounces of marijuana, Colchester Police said.

7/23: Jean Trotochaud, 29, of 235 East Mt. Parnassus Rd., East Haddam, turned herself in on charges of issuing a false statement and delivering alcohol to a minor, State Police said.

7/25: Nicholas Romano, 20, of 71 Briarwood Dr., was charged with risk of injury to a minor and disorderly conduct, Colchester Police said.

Marlborough Police News

7/24: Thomas Coffey, 40, and his wife Cheryl Coffey, 48, both of 264 North Main St., were each charged with disorderly conduct and third-degree assault, State Police said.

7/24: Maria Perez, 35, of 28 Penrose St., Springfield, MA, was charged with DUI and failure to drive in proper lane, State Police said.

7/25: Jovanny Cartagena, 19, of 24 Wilcox St., Springfield, MA, was charged with failure to carry a license and reckless driving, State Police said.

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Portland Police News

7/22: Carissa Thisdale, 22, of 7 Strickland St., was charged with possession of less than four ounces of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia, Portland Police said.

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East Hampton Police News

7/17: Christie Kaliszewski, 36, of 397 Davis St., Oakville, was arrested for failure to drive right, DUI and drinking while driving, East Hampton Police said.

7/18: Richard Schadtler, 32, of 278 West Rd., Marlborough, was arrested for failure to drive right and DUI, police said.

7/21: Matthew Lavado, 23, of 65 Slater Rd., Glastonbury, was arrested for larceny and conspiracy to commit larceny, police said.

7/21: Richard Larry LaFountain, 28, of 8 Haywardville Rd., East Haddam, was arrested for escape from custody, burglary, criminal mischief and interfering with police, police said.

LifeStar Transports Andover Teen to Hospital

by Lindsay Fetzner

A 17-year-old was transported to Hartford Hospital via LifeStar helicopter last week after a one-car accident on Cone Road.

The accident occurred at approximately 6:25 a.m. on Tuesday, July 20. The teen, who was not identified due to their age, was traveling northbound on Cone Road when they went off the road to the left and struck a tree, State Police said. Transportation to the hospital was a "precautionary measure" for a knee and leg injury, according to State Police.

Assistant Chief Mindy Hegener of the

Andover Volunteer Fire Department said the driver "was trapped" inside the pick-up truck and "had to be extricated with the Jaws of Life." The process to remove the teen from the vehicle took about 20 minutes, she said.

The teen's vehicle, a 1988 GMC 2500 pickup truck, was totaled and the front bumper and hood were smashed, State Police said.

The stretch of Cone Road the 17-year-old was traveling along is unpaved, with portions of it gravel and dirt, Hegener said.

The case is under investigation, State Police said.

Andover Students Achieve High Marks on CMTs

by Lindsay Fetzner

The scores are in and the news is good. Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores for Andover Elementary School (AES) showed growth in most areas, and even earned a perfect '100' for proficiency in grade five math.

"The students did a fine job on the CMTs this year," Superintendent of Schools Andrew Maneggia said. "As you look across the board at our scores, the scores are good. There is still room for improvement, obviously, but we are pleased with the results."

In all subject areas and grade levels, students in Andover performed above the goal and proficiency state percentages.

"This shows we're going in the right direction," said Board of Education (BOE) Chairman Jay Linddy. "We're really superior."

CMTs are administered to students in grades three through eight, testing the areas of math, reading, writing and, in fifth and eighth grade, science. (For more information on how grades seven and eight fared, see the RHAM CMT story on page 14.) Scores are broken down into five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

In the third grade, 97.1 percent of students met proficiency in math, 94.1 percent in reading and 97.1 percent in writing. The percentage of students that met goal were 88.2 percent for math, 91.2 percent for reading and 71.4 for writing. Each of these scores increased over last year's figures, some as many as 28.7 percentage points, such as in goal-level reading.

State averages for third-graders at proficiency in math are 83.6 percent and at state goal, 62.6

percent. For reading, 72.3 percent met proficiency and 57.1 percent met goal. Just over 80 percent met proficiency in writing and 58.3 percent of students met goal in the state.

Fourth grade results showed some increase in math and writing, but fell slightly in reading. Students at proficiency are 92.7 percent, and at goal, 70.7 percent for math. In reading, 82.9 percent met proficiency and 73.2 percent met goal. Last year in this subject area, 90.7 percent met proficiency and 76.7 percent met goal. And in writing, 95.1 percent of students were at or above proficiency and at goal, 82.9 percent. Both of these figures are an increase over last year's scores of 86 percent and 65.1 percent, respectively.

In math, state averages were 85.2 percent for proficiency, and 67.2 percent for goal. Reading scores were 72.9 percent at proficiency and 60 percent at goal. In writing, 86.5 percent of students met proficiency and 63.6 percent met goal.

Fifth grade scores showed increases in all subject areas of math, reading, writing and science. The biggest jump was in science, which increased 19.7 percentage points at the goal level.

Math scores revealed that 100 percent of students in Andover met proficiency and 83 percent met goal. Across the state, 87.8 percent of students met proficiency and 72.6 met goal.

"When you get 100 percent of the kids functioning at the proficient level or above, can't do much better than that," said Maneggia. "The results reflect the teaching and the learning that goes on at Andover Elementary School."

The percentage of students at proficiency in reading were 91.5 percent and at goal, 78.7 percent. These figures were greater than state averages, which were 75.4 percent for proficiency and 61.8 percent for goal.

In writing, 95.7 percent met proficiency and 78.7 percent met goal. State averages, like Andover's, increased with 87.3 percent of students at proficiency and 68.2 percent at goal.

Science figures, which showed the biggest increase at the goal level, were 97.9 percent at proficiency and 80.9 percent at goal. Last year, 89.8 percent of students were proficient and 61.2 percent met goal. In terms of state averages, proficiency sat at 82.5 percent and 59.7 percent for those who met goal.

Grade six scores increased in just as many areas as they decreased; Math scores went down slightly, reading scores increased and writing was a mix of both. Just under 96 percent of students met proficiency, and 83.7 percent met goal for math. Last year, 100 percent of students met proficiency and 88.9 percent met goal. State averages for the subject area were 88.2 percent for proficiency and 71 percent for goal this year.

Reading scores increased by a few percentage points over last year. Ninety-eight percent of students were proficient and 87.8 percent at goal. Last year, scores were 95.6 percent and 86.7 percent, respectively. Andover's scores were much higher than state averages, which were 85.5 percent for proficiency and 74.9 percent at goal.

Writing at the sixth grade level saw a slight increase, and an even larger decrease at the goal

level. Scores for this year revealed that 98 percent of students were proficient in writing, and 75.5 percent were at the goal level. Last year, 97.8 percent were proficient and 84.4 percent were at goal. Across the state, averages for proficiency in writing were 85.5 percent and 65.9 percent for those who met goal.

"Each school has its own unique situation," Maneggia said. "For us here in Andover, scoring the way we did this year is an expectation. We've done a number of things to address some of the areas that our students had difficulty with and it seems to be paying off."

Last year, the district decided to implement additional reading help for students in kindergarten and first grade, as well as to extend the kindergarten program to a full day. Although results from these moves won't have an impact on the CMT scores for a few years, Maneggia said, "Those initiatives should help."

"We could be seeing significant changes already for the students going into first grade," he said, adding that he is "constantly looking at the areas" where improvements can be made.

Linddy credited staff, administration, parents and students for the positive testing scores. He added that the BOE also got support from the taxpayers that "understood the costs" related to the education budget.

"The teachers have done a great job, the parents have done a great job, as [have] the students," said Linddy. "We have great staff and administration and they're on top of everything."

The BOE is expected to discuss the CMT scores in more detail in the fall.

RHAM Students Continue to Best State Averages

by Lindsay Fetzner

Connecticut Mastery Test and Connecticut Academic Performance Test scores revealed that students at RHAM Middle and High schools have continued to maintain strong test scores, well above state averages.

"We're very, very proud of what we do," Superintendent of Schools Bob Siminski said. "All in all, we are continuing to improve."

The Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) are administered each March to students in grades three to eight and cover the areas of math, reading, writing and, in fifth and eighth grade, science. The test is scored in five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

In the seventh grade, 95.1 percent of students met proficiency in math and 84 percent met goal. Last year, 96.1 percent met proficiency and 83.1 met goal.

In reading, 92.2 percent of students met proficiency and 89.5 percent met goal. Both of these scores increased this year, as in 2009, 91.5 met proficiency and 86.1 met goal.

And, in writing, both percentages in proficiency and goal increased as well. The percentage of those who are at or above proficiency is 91.3 percent and at goal, 79.6 percent. Last year, 90.7 met proficiency and 79 percent met goal.

"It was nice to see the scores on the way up," Board of Education (BOE) member Sandra Sudduth said. "The students are doing something right and the teachers are working hard."

RHAM's scores showed that overall, they are well above the state averages in both grade levels. At the state level for seventh-graders, 87.4 percent met proficiency and 68.8 met goal in math. Just over 85 percent met proficiency in reading, and 77.5 percent met goal. And in writing, 79.7 percent met proficiency and 61.3 percent made goal.

At the eighth grade level, 96.1 met proficiency and 88.3 percent met goal in math at RHAM. Scores at the goal level were the highest above the state average, at a total of 20.8 percentage points; the state average was 67.5 percent.

Reading scores in the eighth grade increased as well. At the goal level, scores accounted for the biggest jump at 8.9 percentage points. This year, 92.5 met proficiency and 88.6 met goal, whereas last year, scores were 89.6 and 79.7, respectively.

In writing, 93.8 percent of eighth-graders met proficiency, and 78.3 met goal. Proficiency scores are up slightly from last year, as 91.6 met proficiency. In 2009, 81.6 percent met goal, which is the largest decrease in this year's scores.

Science scores decreased over the last year, with 88.5 percent making proficiency and 76.9 meeting goal. Last year, the figures were 90.6 and 77.2 percent, respectively.

At the state level for eighth-graders, 86.6 percent of students met proficiency and 67.5 met goal in math. In reading, 82.6 percent met proficiency and 73.4 percent met goal. In writing statewide, 80.6 percent met proficiency and 62.7 percent met goal. And, in science, 76 percent met proficiency and 63.1 met goal.

"I've always looked at it this way," Siminski said while reviewing the scores. "You can give a child many things, but the only thing that is enduring is education. It becomes up to the child to use the education."

Siminski used the analogy of a car and education to stress its importance. If a child gets a new car for graduation, he said, in a few years it becomes "a piece of rusting metal." How-

ever, with education, it stays with the child, and its importance becomes far greater than that of the car.

Moving forward, BOE Chairman Mike Turner said the goal is to try to get students in the "proficient and above" categories to "move up."

The CAPT test follows the same scoring categories as the CMTs. It is administered to 10th-graders across the state, focusing on the areas of math, science, reading and writing. It is administered during the month of March.

RHAM's scores were at least 15.6 percentage points higher than the state average at the goal level and 6.7 percentage points over the proficiency level state average.

Math scores overall increased over last year's scores. Proficiency scores jumped from 90.4 to 92.4 percent; those who met goal increased from 66.5 to 72.4 percent. The state average for proficiency is 78.8 percent and, for goal, 48.9 percent.

In the area of science, scores also increased, and goal-level scores saw the biggest gain overall. Marks went from 92.8 to 93.4 percent at the proficiency level. Those who met goal went from 57.6 percent last year to 65.4 this year, a difference of 7.8 percentage points. These scores are much higher than the state average, with 81.5 percent and 45.5 percent meeting proficiency and goal, respectively.

Despite increases in math, writing and science, scores in reading dropped at both proficient and goal levels. Last year, 93.4 percent met proficiency, but those numbers dropped to 89.6 this year, and was the biggest decrease overall in the test scores. The state average in this area is 82.9 percent. Likewise, the percent

reaching goal at RHAM was 62.2, while this year that number dropped to 61.5. However, that figure is still higher than 45.9 percent state average that met goal.

Lastly, in the area of writing, the 10th-graders increased their scores at the goal level, but decreased slightly at the proficient level. Those who met proficiency went from 95.8 percent last year to 93.9 this year. And, at the goal level, the scores went from 75 percent to 79.7 percent. State averages for writing are 86.2 percent for proficiency and 59.6 for goal levels this year.

Starting with this year's incoming sophomores, the percentage of students who meet goal on the CAPTs will take on an added level of importance. Last November, the BOE voted 5-4 to raise the CAPT score requirement for graduation from proficient to goal, beginning with the Class of 2013.

Siminski said the move by the BOE was a measure to "ration up the notion of what we expect."

"We looked at it last year as a way of improving student improvement on the test," he said. "We felt that some kids were doing just enough to get by," he said. Turner agreed with Siminski and said some students "needed a nudge" in the right direction.

Students are given other alternatives if they do not pass the CAPT tests, Turner and Siminski said.

In September, the BOE will receive a presentation on the CMT and CAPT scores. Siminski said the board will start looking at the scores very soon and consider the possibility of adjusting instruction, looking at the curriculum and "trying to move forward."

State Averages Exceeded on CMTs, CAPTs in Hebron

by Claire Michalewicz

Scores on the Connecticut Mastery Tests and Connecticut Academic Performance Tests were recently released, and Portland students of all levels performed well on the test, exceeding state averages of students meeting the goal at every grade level and test subject.

Connecticut students in grades three through eight take the Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) each March. The Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPTs) are also administered in March, but only to 10th-graders. Published score reports include average scores for each test subject and grade level, along with the percentage of students who attained the goal score and proficiency score.

A chart compiled by Portland High School Principal Andrea Lavery said Portland had scored well on the CAPTs in comparison to the other schools in Portland's District Reference Group (DRG), which includes 10 other school districts, grouped together by size and socio-economic factors. Compared with the other high schools in its DRG, Portland High School (PHS) had the best math scores, tied for first in reading, came in third in science and tied for fourth in writing.

PHS' CAPT performance showed dramatic increases from 2009, with the largest improvements in science, where the percentage of students meeting goal increased from 43.5 percent in 2009 to 62.5 percent this year, and reading, which went from 53.4 percent to 71.8 percent.

"We're pleased with the results we're see-

ing," said middle and high school assistant principal Scott Giegerich.

Giegerich said the increased scores were the result of a coordinated effort between schools at different levels. At the high school, teachers in all subject areas were required to give students reading and writing assignments, which were scored using the same rubric. And at the middle school, all classes were using a book of reading strategies to help students with their reading comprehension.

"It's exciting," he said. "We've seen continuous progress."

Also at the middle school, struggling students were each adopted by a teacher who provided them with extra test preparation. The majority of those students, Giegerich said, saw an improvement in their CMT performances. Giegerich credited the teachers for preparing the students for the tests. "I do think the teachers have embraced the fact that we have a challenge in front of us each year."

"We did just extremely well this year, across the board," said Superintendent of Schools Dr. Sally Doyen.

Doyen said the school district had been working on updating curriculum for the past few years, which she said helped prepare students for the tests. One of the changes, she said, was a greater emphasis on reading nonfiction, rather than literature, which improved students' reading and writing skills. In addition, she said, schools were assessing students earlier and

more frequently, and offering extra help to those who needed it.

At the elementary school level, Portland students performed well on the CMT. Gildersleeve School Principal Eileen Katz said she was pleased with her students' scores. She said she always looked at the change in scores as students moved from third to fourth grades, and noted that the current fourth-graders showed improvements over their scores last year. The percentage of students meeting the goal on the math test increased from 70.1 of last year's third-graders to 72.2 of this year's fourth-graders, while in reading, the percentage increased by nearly 10 percentage points, from 62.0 to 71.9. On the writing test, the number of students meeting goal decreased slightly, from 80.9 to 77.1 percent.

Brownstone students also fared well – the number of current sixth-graders meeting goal increased by over 15 percentage points in reading, writing and math. In the DRG, the sixth-graders had the second-highest percentages of students meeting goal in math and reading, and placed fourth in writing. Fifth-graders also showed increased scores over both last year's fifth-graders, and their own performances in fourth grade.

Middle school students did well in math, coming in seventh place in the DRG for seventh-graders and second place for eighth-graders. Longitudinal data about the middle-schoolers show that the number of seventh-grad-

ers achieving the goal score has increased steadily in all categories over the past four years, while the eighth-graders have improved since sixth grade, the earliest year Doyen provided data about them.

"Generally the scores are good," said Board of Education Chairman Chris Phelps. "And in some grade levels this year, Portland clearly shined."

The general trend in Portland over the past few years, Phelps said, was for scores to consistently increase, and this proved true this year. Portland teachers, he said, were doing a good job of preparing students for standardized tests without sacrificing other academic areas.

"I'm one of those people who doesn't believe test scores are the end all and be all of measuring performances," Phelps said. He pointed out that Portland's success on these tests was just one of the important facets in judging how successful the towns' schools are. For example, he said, recent classes graduating from PHS had some of the highest rates of college attendance in the town's history.

However, one thing test scores are used for is figuring out school funding. Doyen said standardized test scores were formerly used to determine schools' performances for the No Child Left Behind act. Statistics on Adequate Yearly Progress have not been released yet; however, Doyen said test results have not negatively affected Portland in the past.

HES Students Continue to Top State Averages on CMTs

by Lindsay Fetzner

The results of this year's Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) were released this week, and Hebron Elementary School students once again ranked above the state averages in all subject areas.

In fact, in every grade level for each subject tested, with the exception of third grade reading, proficiency scores are above 90 percent. Students showed the biggest increase in math at the fifth-grade level.

"I think there are some high points and some points that certainly will need our attention," Superintendent of Schools Ellie Cruz said. "We continue to have strong, strong performance well above state averages."

Cruz said she is "especially proud" of the 90th-percentile proficiency achievement.

Each spring, the CMTs are administered to students in grade three through eight, testing math, reading and writing. Science is also tested, but only at the fifth- and eighth-grade level. (For more information on how grades seven and eight fared, see the RHAM CMT story on page 14.) Scores are broken down into five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced.

In comparison to state figures, Hebron scored at least 3.8 percentage points above in each subject area, with the most in the category of fifth-grade reading. Students scored 23.2 percentage points over the state average; Hebron scored 85 percent at the goal level, whereas the state average is 61.8 percent.

This year, students overall showed increases in third grade (goal level) and fifth grade (proficiency level) reading, as well as fourth grade

(both levels) writing and fifth grade (both levels) math. The largest increase was 7.8 percentage points in goal-level math. Scores also decreased in several areas, many only slightly, with the largest decrease in third grade writing at a total of 10.9 percentage points.

Cruz said that in the past, the district's writing scores have "been fairly strong," and this year's figures were "a surprise." Moving forward, she said this is "certainly something we need to take a look at."

In third grade, 95.8 percent of students scored at the proficient level in math, 87.4 percent in reading and 90.4 percent in writing. At the goal level, 81.3 percent made the mark in math, 79.7 percent in reading and 71.2 percent in writing.

"I would like to see even greater gains in reading and also our writing scores across the grades," Cruz said.

Past initiatives including more guided reading in primary grades have helped to strengthen some of the literary practices of the students, Cruz said, making the students "a little more solid before they go to the third grade."

Hebron Elementary School (HES) Principal Kevin Hanlon drew attention to the "three-year high" for third-grade goal-level reading scores, which improved from 68.9 percent in 2008 to 74.6 percent in 2009 to 79.7 percent this year.

State averages in math in third grade at the proficient level were 83.6 percent in math, 72.3 percent in reading and 80.3 in writing. At the goal level, 62.6 percent of students in the state met the mark in math, 57.1 percent in reading and 58.3 percent in writing.

Fourth-graders increased scores over last year in two areas: writing at the proficient and

goal levels. In this subject area, 97.3 percent of students scored proficiency, an increase of 5.1 percentage points over last year. Just under 80 percent of students scored at the goal level, an increase of .3 percentage points over last year.

In the area of reading, 91.4 percent were at or above proficiency and 80 percent at the goal level. And in math, 91.9 percent met the proficiency mark, while 74.1 percent met goal.

Across the state, 86.5 percent of students were proficient in writing, 63.6 percent met goal. Just under 73 percent were proficient in reading and 60 percent met goal. In math, 85.2 percent of students were at or above proficiency whereas 67.2 percent were at or above goal.

Fifth-graders increased scores in three areas, which were math at both the proficient and goal levels and reading at the proficient level. The increases were 5.1, 7.8 and 1.9 percentage points, respectively. The 7.8 percentage point increase in goal-level math was the largest overall for the CMTs.

In fifth grade math, 98.8 percent of students were proficient, 92.7 percent scored at the goal level. Statewide, 87.8 percent were proficient and 72.6 met the goal mark.

Scores in reading at the proficiency level at HES increased 1.9 percentage points, with a score of 94.4 percent. At the goal level, 85 percent made the mark. In terms of proficiency at the state level, 75.4 percent of students scored at this level and 61.8 percent met goal.

Writing scores in the fifth grade went down slightly, with the largest decrease of 7.2 percentage points at the goal level. Those who scored at or above proficiency were 91.1 percent and at goal, 76.8 percent. Students who

were proficient in writing statewide were 87.3 percent and 68.2 percent at the goal level.

Fifth grade science scores remained at least 10 percentage points over the state average. At the proficient level, 93 percent of students met the mark and 78.9 percent met goal. In the state, 82.5 percent of students were at the proficient level and 59.7 at the goal level.

For the most part, sixth-graders maintained close to last year's scores. The largest decrease was 8.5 percentage points in the area of goal level writing, which dropped from 88.1 percent last year to 79.6 percent this year.

In the area of math, 98.7 percent were proficient and 89.9 percent reached the goal level. Statewide averages were 88.2 percent for proficient and 71 percent at the goal level.

Reading scores were 97.5 percent for proficient and 91.8 percent for students who scored at or above goal. Comparing to state averages, Hebron scored between 12 and 16.9 percentage points higher. State scores were 85.5 percent for proficiency and 74.9 percent for the goal level.

Lastly, in writing at the sixth grade level, 95.7 percent of students were proficient and 79.6 percent met goal. Last year, the figures for this subject were 96.4 percent for proficiency and 88.1 percent for those at the goal level. Across the state, 85.5 percent of students were at or above proficiency and 65.9 percent were at or above the goal level. Hebron's scores were at least 10.2 percentage points above state averages in writing in the sixth grade.

There will be a full presentation of the CMT scores to school board members and the community at the Oct. 28 BOE meeting.

Improvement Shown on CMTs, CAPTs in East Hampton

by Claire Michalewicz

The results of the Connecticut Mastery Tests and Connecticut Academic Performance Tests were released recently, and East Hampton students showed improvements over last year in most subject areas and grade levels.

The Connecticut Mastery Tests (CMTs) are administered each March to students in grades three through eight. The Connecticut Academic Performance Tests (CAPTs) are given to 10th-graders, also every March. The tests are scored on a five-point scale: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and advanced. Published score reports show the percentage of students in each district who achieve goal and proficiency in each subject and grade level.

East Hampton students scored well above the state averages in the number of students achieving goal and proficiency in all subject areas and at all levels.

East Hampton High School (EHHS) saw improvements in the percentage of students reaching goal on the CAPT in three out of four categories, while the reading scores dropped from 65.6 percent at goal in 2009 to 59.5 percent at goal in 2010. The percentage of students reaching proficiency increased in math and science, with over 90 percent of students proficient in all subject areas.

Connecticut school districts are grouped into

nine District Reference Groups (DRGs) according to their size and demographics. Compared to the other 23 districts in its DRG, EHHS students fared well on the CAPT, tying for fourth place with Branford for the percentage of students achieving goal on the science portion of the test. East Hampton students also came in eighth in reading, 10th in writing and 12th in math.

EHHS students also topped the state average on each of the four test portions. Statewide, the percentages of students meeting the goal in math, science, reading and writing were 48.9, 45.5, 45.9 and 59.6, respectively. For EHHS students, these percentages were 59.9, 58.3, 59.5 and 74.2.

Eighth-grade students weren't as successful on the CMTs as the high school students were on the CAPTs. Scores showed slight drops in all subject areas in the number of students achieving the goal scores when compared to last year's eighth-graders, who led the DRG in reading and math. Compared with students from the other districts in the DRG, eighth-graders this year placed seventh in math, 11th in reading, eighth in writing, and fourth in science. Among these same eighth-graders, fewer reached goal this year than they had as seventh-graders, though a higher percentage reached

proficiency in math and writing.

Still, with 81.2 percent meeting goal in math, 83.7 meeting goal in reading, 90.8 meeting goal in writing, and 81.7 meeting goal in science, these students scored well above the state averages, where the percentages were 67.5, 73.4, 62.7 and 63.1, respectively.

This year's seventh-graders, though, showed a substantial increase in writing scores, with the percentage of students reaching goal increasing from 72.5 to 81.0 from last year's seventh-graders. These students also showed improvements in reading from when they were sixth-graders, with 90.2 percent reaching goal this year, compared to 79.2 percent last year. In math, 79.5 percent met the goal, down slightly from last year's seventh-graders.

But in all three subjects, East Hampton students performed better than the state average. Statewide, 68.8 percent of students met the math goal, 77.5 percent met the reading goal and 61.3 percent met the goal in writing. A higher percentage of sixth-graders reached goal in each category than these same students did last year in fifth grade.

At the elementary school level (grades three through six), the only area in which East Hampton students declined from their 2009 counterparts was the percentage of third-grade students

meeting the writing goal. That figure went from 74.8 percent last year to 68.7 percent this year.

However, this year's third-graders made substantial gains over last year's third-graders in terms of reading, going from 56.1 percent meeting goal in 2009 to 65.5 percent in 2010.

Interestingly, this year's fourth-graders also showed a dramatic improvement in terms of reading from when they were third-graders. This year, 69.3 percent of the fourth-graders met goal, compared with that 56.1 percent figure from last year, when they were third-graders.

In terms of the percentage of students achieving the goal score, the third-graders, the youngest students taking the tests, were ranked fifth in the 24 districts in the DRG in math, 11th in reading and 11th in writing, while fourth-graders were ranked 19th in math, 13th in reading and 13th in writing.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Judith Golden was out of her office this week, and Assistant Superintendent Kevin Reich could not comment on the test scores. In an e-mail, Golden said administrators were currently reviewing the scores and would have more detailed information and analysis in the coming weeks.

The full score reports for East Hampton and other towns are available online at www.cmtreports.com and www.captreports.com.

Portland Polling Place On the Move

by Claire Michalewicz

The primary elections are coming up on Aug. 10, but instead of the usual polling place at the library, Portland voters will go cast ballots at the senior center.

The town clerk and registrars of voters recently decided to move voting to the senior center because of limited space at the library.

The problem with the library, First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield said, is that the building doesn't have room for many poll workers to verify voters' information. Town officials started talking about moving the polling place after the 2008 presidential election, when lines of voters reached out the door of the library.

Along with the town clerk, Bernadette Dillon, and the registrars of voters, Sandy Boisselle and Pauline Neumann, Bransfield visited several sites in town, including Brownstone Intermediate School, the town garage and Firehouse No. 2 on Main Street.

Bransfield said Dillon, Boisselle and Neumann decided on the senior center because it was the most easily accessible of the sites

they considered. Plus, she added if anyone forgot about the location change and went to the library, they wouldn't have far to go to the proper polling place. (The two facilities are adjacent to each other.)

Bransfield said the parking situation should be easier at the senior center than at the library. She said Waverly Avenue would be only open to one-way traffic that day, so people can enter the parking lot from Waverly and exit past the library onto Freestone Avenue. In addition, the senior center is closer to the parking lot next to the police station, accessible from Main Street.

Since state laws require the primary and general election to be held in the same place, Bransfield said, November's election will also be the senior center. Barring any unforeseen problems at either election, the senior center will remain the town's polling place indefinitely.

Because of voting, the senior center will be closed Tuesday, Aug. 10.

WPCA Proposes Marlborough Sewer Referendum Question

by Katy Nally

At its meeting last Tuesday, July 20, the Water Pollution Control Authority voted 4-0 – Chairman Jack Murray was absent – to send a request for a referendum question to the Board of Selectmen.

The question will ask residents to vote on whether to spend \$1.95 million to finish the sewer project along Lake Terramuggus. This includes finishing the sewer extension on North Main Street, Lake Road, Coleman Lane and Old Cider Mill Lane.

The referendum vote would coincide with this year's November elections, which will be held Tuesday, Nov. 2.

The WPCA held a meeting Thursday night, after press time, to present the request for a referendum to selectmen.

Murray said he was confident residents

would pass the referendum for the \$1.95 million project if given the chance. "I fully expect it to be received," he said, adding, there might be "a few exceptions" of people who oppose the proposal.

WPCA member Bill LaPoint said he was "a little pessimistic" when it came to a potential sewer referendum vote, because of how the library expansion was voted down several years ago.

However, Murray said, since the sewers around the lake were part of the original proposal from 2002, the new referendum question would actually address "finishing a project that has already started."

LaPoint agreed, adding, "Most people in sewer district were disappointed they weren't paying for the complete project around the

lake."

Marlborough voters first approved \$12.02 million for the sewer project in 2002 by a referendum vote. But construction was stalled from 2002-07 because the Clean Water Grant, which partially funded the project, was canceled.

By 2007, the size of the project decreased by about half and the price of sewers for residents inside the district went up, because there were fewer people to share the cost. LaPoint added that cost estimates from 2002 need to be updated to address inflation, which the new referendum would include. The \$1.95 million is a 2011-12 estimate, with two years worth of inflation taken into account.

Although the proposed referendum question would include finishing sewers around the lake,

WPCA members decided at the July 20 meeting to exclude other extensions of the project in this year's proposed question.

Town Planner Peter Hughes said the WPCA decided to hold off constructing sewers that would go across Route 2 and the Jones Hollow bridge, as well as creating a force main to North Main Street from the Marlborough Commons.

"We thought that would be a little too much for this year," LaPoint said.

If this year's referendum question is approved by selectmen and the Board of Finance, Hughes said, in one or two years, the WPCA could ask for another referendum to address sewers to Route 2 and the force main.

The next regularly scheduled WPCA meeting will be Thursday, Aug. 12, 7 p.m. at Town Hall.

Marlborough Students Beat State Marks in CMTs

by Katy Nally

Students at Elmer Thienes-Mary Hall Elementary have reason to celebrate, because Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) scores show Marlborough students shattered the state average scale score in all grade levels and subjects.

The widest gap was in third-grade math, where students scored 37.1 points higher than the state average scale score, coming to 295.7 in total. The smallest margin was in fifth-grade reading, but even that score, a 261.1, was still higher than the state average scale score by 18 points.

Scale scores range from 100 to 400 points.

Besides the state, Marlborough students are also measured against their 2009 marks. While the third grade had the greatest margin over the state scale average, it also had the most instances of being below the school's 2009 numbers for average scale score and percentage of students at goal and proficiency.

The CMTs are administered every March to students in grades three through eight. (For information on how the seventh- and eighth-graders fared, see the RHAM CMT story on page 14.) CMT scores are broken down into five categories: below basic, basic, proficient, goal and

advanced.

The 37.1-point margin was actually greater in 2009 for third-graders in math. The state had 256.7 for an average scale score and Marlborough notched 299.4 points, netting a 42.7-point difference.

But, the percentage of third-graders who made goal and proficient in math actually went up from 2009, 0.4 percentage points for goal or better, totaling 87.8 percent, and 2.2 for proficient or higher, at 99 percent.

Third-graders also showed a small decrease in the percentage of students who made goal or above in writing, at 78 percent, versus 83.2 percent in 2009. In reading, however, the percentage of students who made goal or above went up 3.4 percentage points from 2009, coming in at 82.3 percent this year.

Like the third grade, the fourth grade also showed 99 percent of students at proficient or above in math. Across the board, fourth-graders made gains over the 2009 percentages of students who made proficient or goal.

The greatest change came in reading, where 85.3 percent of fourth-graders made goal or above, while last year that percentage was 75.6.

The smallest change was in writing; in 2009, 94.4 percent of fourth-graders were already at proficient or above, and that number changed by an additional 0.4 percent for 2010.

Fifth grade was the anomaly for the percentage of students who made proficient in math this year – but only by a fraction of a percent. Unlike the third, fourth and sixth grades, 94.5 percent of fifth-graders scored proficient or better in math in 2010, while in 2009, that number was 95 percent.

But, this was the only instance where fifth-graders were below their 2009 marks for the percentage at or above proficient and goal.

The greatest change for grade five came in science – a portion of the CMTs only fifth- and eighth-graders take. This year, 81.3 percent of fifth-graders scored goal or better in science and last year, 72.4 percent reached the same mark.

The smallest change, beside the 0.4 decrease in math, came in reading for fifth grade. This year 92.2 percent of fifth-graders scored proficient or above in reading, while last year, that number was 90.6 percent.

The highest percentage for fifth-graders notching proficient came in writing, at 98.9

percent. This was up 4.7 percentage points from 2009.

Like grades three and four, the sixth grade had almost 99 percent of its students – 98.8 percent – testing at proficient or above in math, which was up 2 percentage points from last year. This was also the smallest change for the sixth grade when comparing proficient and goal numbers over 2009.

The greatest difference for the sixth grade was in writing. This year, 88.5 percent of sixth-graders scored goal or better in writing, while in 2009, 80.9 percent reached the same mark.

Sixth-graders also beat their 2009 counterparts in reading. This year 97.6 percent of sixth-graders scored proficient or better and 93.9 percent scored goal or better. These numbers are up from 2009 by 4.2 and 4.9 percent respectively.

The CMT scores were released this month and are still being reviewed by the superintendent of schools, principal and assistant principal. The results will be further discussed at the Board of Education's Aug. 26 meeting, at 7 p.m. at the elementary school library.

East Hampton Cyclist Goes Missing on Air Line Trail

by Claire Michalewicz

East Hampton Police and several local fire departments spent three hours looking for a missing cyclist last Thursday, after the man got lost on the Air Line Trail.

The East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department received a call around 8:45 p.m. to help the police find the missing man. According to Deputy Fire Chief Greg Voelker, the man had been riding his bike off the main trail with his wife when he became separated from her. When he realized it was getting dark and he was having trouble finding his way back to the main trail, the man called 911 on his cell phone, Voelker said. The dispatcher stayed on the phone with the man through the entire incident, while he sat down to wait for rescuers, Voelker said.

East Hampton Police conducted the initial search but were unable to find the man, Voelker said. Police called in the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department, who called in mutual aid from the Marlborough, Colchester and Haddam Neck fire departments, which all have ATVs, as well as the East Hampton ambulance and a state police K-9 team. Voelker also had the fire trucks park in locations around the trail and blow their sirens, to see if the biker could determine which one was closest to him.

Around 11:40 p.m., fire personnel located

the man in the woods off Peach Farm Road, around the Marlborough town line, and removed him from the woods on an ATV. The man refused medical treatment and was reunited with his wife, Voelker said.

Voelker said it was important for hikers and bikers to have adequate supplies with them when they were in the woods, in case they became lost. The most important things to carry, he said, were water, a flashlight, a compass or GPS device, as well as a whistle that can be heard for long distances.

"We have a lot of calls on the Air Line Trail," Voelker said, explaining that emergency services receive multiple calls each year about people who were lost or injured in the woods. This past Sunday, he added, firefighters responded to a call about another biker, after she fell and broke her wrist.

Thursday's incident came after the East Hampton Volunteer Fire Department had another busy day, when a heavy thunderstorm swept through the town late Wednesday afternoon. That afternoon and evening, said fire captain Martin Swan, the department responded to 35 emergency incidents, which included 30 cases of fallen wires and trees, one car accident, and four structure fires, which Swan said were mostly minor.

Hebron Police News

7/14: A 74-year-old Manchester man was transported to Hartford Hospital for head trauma after a two-car accident at the intersection on Gilead Street and East Street, State Police said.

Floyd Totten was traveling southbound on East Street when he drove through the intersection and struck another car head-on. Melissa Bergam, 30, of Hebron, was traveling northbound on Gilead Street in her 1996 Ford Explorer, which sustained heavy front end damage. She was transported to Windham Hospital for complaints of neck and back pain, State Police said.

The entire left side of Totten's 1997 Chevy truck had heavy damage, and he was issued an infraction ticket for a stop sign violation, State Police said. Totten was discharged from the hospital on Sunday, July 25, Hartford Hospital staff said.

7/15: Peter Hawley, 54, of Jefferson, MA, was transported to Windham Hospital for treatment of "minor cuts" he sustained when he fell off his 2003 Harley Davidson motorcycle, State Police said.

Hawley was traveling eastbound on Route 66 and was unable to avoid an object in the roadway that was left from another accident. He lost control of the vehicle, fell off the bike and made contact with the road, State Police

said. His motorcycle sustained damage to the undercarriage.

7/16: Michelle Cusano, 19, of 70 Loveland Rd., was charged with disorderly conduct and three counts of third-degree assault, State Police said.

7/18: At approximately 6:45 p.m. an "assumed-to-be black" vehicle was traveling southbound on Gilead Street, went off the roadway and struck a resident's mailbox, and a Department of Transportation sign, State Police said. The vehicle is assumed to have front passenger side damage, according to State Police. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Resident State Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

7/21: Sometime between July 15 and 16, a residence on Hickory Drive was entered via a stolen key and several items were stolen, State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Resident State Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

7/22: On July 21, sometime between 8 a.m.-8:30 p.m. a residence on Yorkshire Drive was entered through an unlocked rear door and numerous items were stolen, State Police said. Anyone with more information is asked to contact Resident State Trooper James Nolting at 860-537-7500.

Obituaries

East Hampton

Richard Dickerson

Richard Dickerson, 67, of East Hampton, beloved husband of Patricia (McQuaid) Dickerson, died June 22 at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born July 30, 1942 in Manchester, he was the son of the late George and Helen (Ripley) Dickerson.

Richard had lived in Glastonbury before moving to East Hampton 14 years ago. He was retired from Pratt & Whitney where he had worked as a manager for 44 years.

Besides his wife he is survived by a son, Mark Dickerson of Meriden; a daughter, Tiffany Dickerson Stramel of Rockville; a stepson, Joseph Burns of Los Angeles; a stepdaughter, Judith Miller of Greenwich; a brother, George Dickerson of Indiana; six grandchildren, Aleasha, Samantha, Brittany, Gregory, Claire, Kevin and one great-grandson, Ethan. He was predeceased by a brother, Robert Dickerson. Richard will be greatly missed by all of his loving family.

A memorial service will be held today, Friday, July 30 at 11 a.m. in the Congregational Church of Marlborough with the Rev. Fred M. Dole. Burial will be private.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the national Stroke Association at www.stroke.org. The Spencer Funeral Home has care of arrangements.

To leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Colchester

William J. Schultz Jr.

William J. Schultz Jr., 62, of Ellington and formerly of Westchester, husband of Jean (Crogan) Schultz, passed away Thursday, July 22, at the Johnson Memorial Hospital in Stafford Springs.

Born Nov. 17, 1947, in Kinderhook, NY, he was the son of Margaret (Keyser) Schultz of East Hampton and the late William J. Schultz Sr. Mr. Schultz had worked in administration for Heublein for a number of years before his retirement.

In addition to his mother and wife, he is survived by four children, William III, Donald, Stacie and Steven; several grandchildren; a great-grandson; two sisters, Carol Galvin of East Hampton and Janet Malouin of Westminster, MA; and numerous extended family members and friends.

The memorial liturgy was celebrated Tuesday, July 27, at St. Andrew Church, 128 Norwich Ave., Colchester. Interment will follow in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton.

In lieu of flowers, donations to help defray costs may be sent in care of Carol Galvin, 2 Smith St., East Hampton, CT 06424.

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

Portland

John ‘Mac’ McCormick

John “Mac” McCormick, born July 11, 1933 in Hartford, died Saturday, July 24, after a two-year battle with cancer. He is predeceased by his parents, James and Catherine, and his two brothers James and Bernard.

He is survived by his wife Janice, of 56 years, who was his high school sweetheart; daughters, Allyson and Laurie; son-in-law Michael; step-grandchildren Carly and Kellen; and great-grandson Dylan.

Mac was raised in Hartford, graduated from Hartford High School, UConn, CCSU and the University of Hartford. He served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. He was a teacher and administrator for 30 years at the Portland Junior High School. He was also an adult basic education instructor for 15 years at Middletown Adult Education.

Mac was a longtime member of the First Congregational Church of Portland and had served on the Board of Deacons and was a president of the congregation. He enjoyed reading mysteries and was a frequent patron of the Portland Public Library. He closely followed UConn basketball teams, loved vacationing in Venice, FL and spent as much time as possible at their beach house in Charlestown, RI. He and Janice traveled to many different states, including Alaska, Hawaii and California and to many different European countries, including England, Ireland, Spain and Portugal.

He enjoyed action movies and watching *NCIS*, *JAG* and *The Closer*. He had a good sense of humor, a willingness to help others without judging their circumstances and respect for all people he met. In earlier years, he enjoyed golfing, fishing, camping, playing tennis, teaching Pepsi the family dog tricks and was always up for a good bargain at flea markets.

The funeral service was held at the First Congregational Church of Portland Wednesday, July 28, with Mac’s son-in-law, Rev. Michael Malone, presiding.

Memorial donations may be made to the First Congregational Church of Portland or the First Congregational Church of Haddam.

Portland

Bruce I. May

Bruce I. May, 76, of Portland and Sebastian, FL, passed away Monday, July 19, at the Sebastian River Medical Center after a long illness. The son of Phyllis (Helbig) Dickson and Irving F. May, he moved to Sebastian, FL, from Portland in 1996.

He served our country in the Navy, and was employed by Sears for 42 years. A wonderful, loving husband and father, he will be greatly missed. He enjoyed spending time with his family in Nova Scotia, Pennsylvania, Florida and Vermont.

He is survived by his wife Winifred of 52 years, daughter Linda (Keith) DeLisle of Florida, son Bruce Douglas (Dawn) May of Connecticut, grandson Kevin (Alexa) DeLisle of Florida, granddaughters Nicolle DeLisle of Florida and Avery May of Connecticut; a sister, Lois Anderson of Connecticut; step-sister Jayne (Wilton) Phillips of Louisiana; and several nieces and nephews.

Services were held Friday, July 23, at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Sebastian FL. A memorial service will be held at a future date at Christ Lutheran Church for friends and family in Connecticut.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ Lutheran Church, 300 Washington St., Middletown, CT 06457.

Hebron

John J. Melia Jr.

After a courageous battle with cancer over the last five years, John J. Melia Jr., 60, of Irmo, SC, formerly of Hebron, passed away Saturday, July 24. Born February 11, 1950, in Worcester, MA, he was the oldest son of the late John J. and Denise Ann Crimmins Melia.

He was the devoted and caring father of Marissa Melia MacDonald and her husband, Matthew MacDonald, of Hyde Park, MA; father of Christopher J. Melia of Washington, D.C.; and proud grandfather of Owen MacDonald. He is also survived by his sister, Dianne Melia Maher and her husband, Brian Maher, of Granby; brothers, Stephen Melia of Port St. Lucie, FL, and Mark Melia of Windsor; brother, Christopher P. Melia and his wife, Connie Weatherford Melia, of Irmo, SC; and nephews and niece, Casey, Cameron, Kyle and Catie.

John resided in Hebron for 30 years prior to moving to Irmo. After serving in the Connecticut Air National Guard Security Police Squadron, he received his master’s degree in public administration and had a lifelong career in the risk enterprise/cyber security fields before retiring from the Home Loan Investment Bank in Warwick, RI.

He will be remembered for his sense of humor, manicured lawn and extensive BC and GW wardrobes (where his children attended college). John took great delight in participating in his children’s activities, spending many hours in hockey rinks and dance studios. Before cancer, John enjoyed running throughout Hebron and working out in his home gym.

The family asks that, in lieu of sending flowers, memorial contributions be made in John’s name to the Multiple Myeloma Research Foundation, www.themmrff.org, or South Carolina Oncology Associates Cares Foundation, www.scoacares.org. The family extends their deepest gratitude to Dr. William Butler and the staff at South Carolina Oncology Associates, as well as the nurses and technicians of the Medical Oncology unit at Richland Memorial Hospital.

Services will be held for Mr. Melia at 3:30 p.m. on August 7, with visitation beginning at 2 p.m., at Dunbar Funeral Home, 7600 Woodrow St., Irmo, SC. Interment will follow the service in St. Peter’s Cemetery. A memorial mass will be held in Mr. Melia’s honor at 11 a.m. on August 14, at Holy Name Church, 1689 Centre St., West Roxbury, MA, with reception immediately following.

To sign the online guestbook visit www.dunbarfunerals.com.

East Hampton

Olive E. Barnes

Olive E. (Collins) Barnes, 86, of East Hampton, widow of the late Charles R. Barnes, died Wednesday, July 21 at Middlesex Hospital. Born Aug. 6, 1923 in Morristown, NJ, she was the daughter of the late John L. and Emma E. (Gilby) Collins.

Olive and her husband Charles were inn keepers for over 20 years before their retirement. They were the owners of the Colburn House in Manchester Center, VT, the Avalanche Motor Lodge in Manchester, VT, and the Iron Kettle in Shaftsbury, VT.

Olive is survived by her daughter, Deborah Mooza of Marlborough; two sisters, Betty Danik and Helen Rafferty, and two grandchildren, Melissa R. Mooza and William R. Mooza.

Funeral services will be held Monday, Aug. 2 at 11 a.m. in the Buckingham Congregational Church in Glastonbury. Burial will follow in Old Buckingham Cemetery. There will be no calling hours.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 538 Preston Ave., P.O. Box 1004, Meriden, CT 06450. The Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton, has care of arrangements.

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

East Hampton

June Park

June (Yeomans) Park, 88, of East Hampton, beloved wife of William A. Park, died Tuesday, July 27 at St. Mary’s Home in West Hartford. Born June 15, 1922 in Manchester, she was the daughter of the late Frank and Sylvia (Sankey) Yeomans.

She had lived in both Guilford and South Windsor before moving to East Hampton in 1982. She was a past member of the East Hampton Congregational Church. June graduated from Manchester High School in 1940 and majored in voice and opera at the Hartt College, where she later taught voice. For many years June assumed the position of soprano soloist at various Hartford area churches, including Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Old South Church, Emanuel Lutheran Church, Temple Beth Israel in West Hartford and South Methodist Church in Manchester. June also performed the lead roles in many operas at Hartt College and the Manchester Gilbert and Sullivan Group. June was active in the Guilford League of Women Voters where she was a member of the State Legislative Observation Committee and Chairman of the Guilford Land Use Committee. June was also a member of the Wapping Fair Association and an officer in the Wapping Grange and the Wapping XY Club.

Besides her husband William, she is survived by a son, David Park and his wife Iwona of Florida; a daughter, Marilyn Krentzman and her husband Ronald of West Hartford; four grandchildren, Laura Krentzman, Julie Park, David Park and Daria Park. She was predeceased by four brothers, Frank Yeomans, Robert Yeomans, Kenneth Yeomans and Donald Yeomans.

Funeral services were held Thursday, July 29 in the Spencer Funeral Home, 112 Main St., East Hampton. Burial followed in the family plot in Lakeview Cemetery, East Hampton. Friends called Thursday morning.

In lieu of flowers memorial contributions may be made to Hartt School of Music, 200 Bloomfield Ave., West Hartford, CT 06117 or the Alzheimer’s Association, 279 New Britain Rd., Suite 5, Kensington, CT 06037.

To leave online condolences visit www.spencerfuneralhomeinc.com.

Andover

Timothy John O’Brien

Timothy John O’Brien, 66, of Andover, died unexpectedly Tuesday, July 20, at Manchester Memorial Hospital. Tim was the husband of 45 years and best friend to Georgia S. (Bruce) O’Brien. He was born in Bronx, NY, the son of the late Timothy and Ethel (Cronin) O’Brien.

Tim was a 1965 graduate of Iona College and had a 45-year career in retail shoe sales working for Miles, Thom McCann and Prague’s. He was an avid fisherman and a huge fan of the Yankees, NY Giants and UConn basketball.

Besides Georgia, he is survived by his daughter, Denise M. O’Brien of Columbia; his son and daughter-in-law, Christopher J. and Louise O’Brien of Andover; and his grandchildren, the light of his life, Timothy and Leah. He is also survived by his siblings, Lorraine, Linda, Noreen and Stephen and their families and the Bruce families, Bob, Joy and John and his many friends, all by whom he will be greatly missed.

He was also predeceased by his sister, Kathy. Tim’s family would like to offer a special note of thanks to the Andover Volunteer Fire Department for their special efforts and assistance.

A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Saturday, July 24, at St. Columba Church, Route 66, Columbia, followed by burial in Townsend Cemetery, Andover. There were no calling hours.

Memorial donations may be made to the scholarship fund for Tim’s grandchildren, Timothy and Leah, c/o New Alliance Bank, 164 Route 66, Columbia, CT 06237.

The John F. Tierney Funeral Home, Manchester, has care of arrangements.

Colchester

Michael Pater

Michael Pater, a widely-known and accomplished artist and painter, died Sunday, July 25, at home in Colchester surrounded by his family. He was 79. A son of the late Pachomej and Catherine (Riba) Pater, he was born on April 8, 1931, in L’viv, Ukraine.

Mr. Pater began his art training in Hanover, Germany, from 1945 to 1949. After immigrating to the United States in 1949, he continued his studies at the American Academy of Art in Chicago and the Rhode Island School of Design in Providence. An elected member of the Lyme Art Association, Mr. Pater exhibited his works in many museums and galleries, receiving numerous awards and recognitions. His paintings are represented by private and corporate art collections across the United States.

He is survived by three children and spouses, Christopher and Julie Pater of Tolland, Cynthia and Kührt Bidorini of Tolland and Christina and Richard Fairbanks of Enfield; seven grandchildren, Matthew, William, Nicholas, Jacob, Erin, Paige and Ryan; a sister, Nadine Pikas of Olney, MD; his former wife, Renita Pater of Tolland; numerous extended family members and friends.

He was predeceased by three brothers, Joseph, Leo and Roman.

The Divine Liturgy was celebrated at St. Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church in Colchester by Father Ihor Papka and Deacon Michael Puscas.

In lieu of flowers, donations in his memory may be made to the Lyme Art Association, 90 Lyme St., Old Lyme, CT 06371 or Hospice South-eastern Connecticut, 227 Dunham St., Norwich, CT 06360.

Care of private arrangements was entrusted to the Aurora-McCarthy Funeral Home of Colchester.

Observations & Ruminations

by Mike Thompson

Before I start my usual rambling, I think I need to issue a gentle reminder to people:

The deadline for copy is Tuesdays at noon.

As I wrote back in April, the switch was necessitated by new requirements from the Post Office. The new Tuesday deadline is permanent, and applies to all news and editorial submissions for the paper. All event announcements, all church, library and senior center listings, all pictures and – last but certainly not least – all letters to the editor must be submitted by Tuesday at noon.

No exceptions can be made.

Like I said, this policy has been in effect since April, and the majority of you have abided by it. But, perhaps due to political season starting to heat up, I'm getting letter writers and news submitters who haven't written in a while and don't seem to be aware of the change. So now seems as good a time as any to remind people.

And while we're on the subject of gentle reminders: the word limit for letters to the editor is 300 words. This change has been in effect since last fall, but I still get letters each week that are substantially over the limit. This limit is strictly enforced; as anyone who's read the letters pages can tell you, we receive a bunch of them each week. I think 300 words still gives people ample space to get their point across. Remember, you're writing a letter, not a novella.

Speaking of letters, the majority of the letters this week are politically-themed, most dealing with judge of probate races, others with races for state representative. With the primaries not until Aug. 10, there will probably be substantially more political letters in next week's *Rivereast*, and there will likely continue to be many until Election Day in November.

So, how's about a simple suggestion. If you're writing a letter dealing with one of the regional or state elections, and you're, say, the chairman of the Republican Town Committee or on a town board like the Board of Selectmen, how about identifying yourself as such? In the interest of full disclosure, it just seems like the thing to do. And if you're just speaking as an individual and not on behalf of the board you're on, you can indicate that. I would just put it as a note after your name at the end of your letter. Oh, and in case you're worried about the word count, those little identifier notes at the end of letters (and there are a few of them in this week) never count towards your word count. The word count simply applies to the body of the letter.

* * *

Okay, now that the lesson is out of the way, onto a lighter subject. Specifically: clowns. Did you know next week is International Clown Week? It's true. And you'll never guess who made the declaration. Nope, not an executive with Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey. None other than the President of the United States.

In 1971, Richard M. Nixon signed into law a bill proclaiming the first week of August to be International Clown Week, and credited clowns with "generally helping to lift the spirits and boost the morale of our people."

There are many different ways International Clown Week is celebrated across the country. Locally, in Hebron there will be a special "clown blessing" at the 5 p.m. Mass next Saturday, Aug. 7, at Church of the Holy Family. The event will feature clowns from all over New England, who will serve as greeters, musicians and lecturers, and who will lead children in a special Liturgy of the Word.

Church of the Holy Family's involvement with clowns is nothing new. Some of you may recall a story Lindsay Fetzner wrote in January about the Clown Ministry at the church. A group of clowns led by "Nic-Nac," – a.k.a. Nicole Bernier – go around to area hospitals and nursing homes just to put smiles on the faces of those who could really use a lift. It's a good cause.

While they've never bothered me, I know clowns aren't for everyone; some people are downright scared of them. In fact, according to the website www.internationalclownweek.org, there's even a name for such a fear: coulrophobia, or, quite simply, the fear of clowns. According to the site, coulrophobes seem to agree "that the most fear-inducing aspect of clowns is the heavy makeup which, accompanied by the bulbous nose and weird color of hair, that completely conceal the wearer's identity."

Well, if you happen to *not* be a coulrophobe, a drive out to Hebron next Saturday may be in order. That special "clown blessing" sounds kinda neat.

* * *

But that's next weekend, which will also be the first full weekend in August. It's hard to believe it's July 30 already. (This summer, like most summers, has just gone by too darn fast.) I recently learned of July 30's place in this nation's history, and it's a rather important one. It seems some pretty interesting things have happened on this date over the years.

It was on this date in 1619 the first legislative assembly in (English-speaking) North America was held, in Jamestown, VA. The phrase "In God We Trust" was adopted as the U.S. national motto on this date in 1956 (though it has been used on coins since 1864). And it was on this date in 1965 President Lyndon Johnson signed the Medicare bill into law.

But perhaps most important (and yes, folks, I'm being sarcastic): It was on this date in 1948 that professional wrestling appeared on prime-time network television for the very first time.

* * *

See you next week.